

from “Randolph’s Manumitted Slaves” *The Emancipator* (London), August 5, 1846, p. 60.

*This article from an English abolitionist paper illustrates the international interest taken in the story of the ‘Randolph Negroes.’*

Our heart sickens at the cold-blooded cruelties which this REFINED and CHRISTIAN people can inflict without remorse on their *innocent* fellow men!— We cannot find language to express our pain and disgust at such heartless depravity.

“There is no flesh in man’s obdurate heart.”

Talk not of the cruelties of the savage, the Arab, and the Turk. The cruelty of our *refined feelings*—prejudice against African color—seeks in vain for a parallel among them. The inflictions of the savage can show a far better reason, and one infinitely more becoming the dignity of a man, than that unprovoked hate with which we persecute the unoffending negro. Our pretensions to humanity! on what are they based? The half-civilized Turk and Algerine may well point the finger of scorn at them.

What have these persons done or what do they threaten to do, that they should be made the victims of such unfeeling treatment? Virginia casts them out—Ohio casts them out—the provision of their late master, and the care of his faithful executor, are unavailing to procure them a resting place in our country. An exile to the frozen regions of Canada, or the tropical malaria of Africa, or a return to hopeless slavery is the only condition on which we will permit them to breathe the vital air which God has provided for them.

If the feelings which thus persecutes [sic] them were confined to the vicious rabble, whose hate is steeped in potations of the doggery, it would appear less appalling. But alas! it finds too much countenance in the higher classes of the community. We have been exceedingly pained at the unfeeling and contemptuous tone of the press among us, on this subject, calculated to proscribe these poor creatures from the pale of humanity. Would to God that we could awaken the benevolent sensibilities of the Christian community to an apprehension of the cruel consequences which grow out of their oft-expressed feelings of prejudice against the negro! When we witness the legitimate fruit of this cherished prejudice, as in the present instance, we

cannot but remonstrate against it, and repent before God that our own hearts have ever participated in it.

We are aware, however, that remonstrance against the cause of the evil, comes now too late for the relief of these persecuted outcasts. We may awaken the compassion of our readers in their behalf, but it will be powerless. The arm of a cruel law and the popular hate that enacted it, is too strong for the feeble remonstrance of humanity. All our compassion can do for them, is to invoke the interposition of the stronger arm of the Almighty. This we can do, and with the assurance too, that there is both mercy and power there which prayer can move. We feel assured, brethren, that the God of the oppressed, the Father of these outcast children, will interpose and provide them a resting place on the earth which he has made for their use, and in hearts which his grace can open for them, if you will earnestly supplicate this mercy at his hand. We trust your prayers will not be wanting in this case,