

That, as the success of this cause depends, under God, in a great measure upon the dissemination of our principles and plans of operation through the medium of the press, it is therefore the duty of our friends *personally*, to make *immediate* and *persevering* efforts to secure the reading of at least one Anti-Slavery periodical in every family in the land.

He remarked as follows: This resolution brings before us a subject of duty which has not heretofore received that attention which its importance demands, viz. that of making PERSONAL efforts to spread LIGHT on this subject through the medium of the press.

"The success of this cause depends in a great measure," &c. Sir, it depends *mainly* upon the press. Take away the aid, assistance and power of the *press*, and we might about as well fold up our hands. The question is often asked, what has your press done? *Done?* Why sir, it has done almost every thing which has been done in this cause. It has scattered anti-slavery papers all over the land—aroused the mind of this nation from a deathlike apathy, and set not only this nation but the civilized world discussing the question of American slavery.—The press sir, has probably made seven-eighths of all the abolitionists in this country.

I will give a brief history of the publication department of the American Anti-Slavery Society. At the anniversary of that Society held in New York in May, 1835, a resolution was passed to raise \$30,000 to be expended in promoting the

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cause before the next annual meeting of the Society.

On the strength of that resolution, the Executive Committee greatly enlarged their plan of operations. They commenced an issue of fifty-thousand papers per week, and showered them down upon all parts of the United States. They were not sent to slaves as was alleged by our enemies, but to Governors, Judges, Lawyers, members of Congress and of the State Legislatures, Clergymen, Postmasters and Editors—men whose names are found in the public annals of the day. If the slaves have got them, they have got them through the hands of their masters.

The south began to think the fountains of abolition were broken loose, and were all coming down upon them at once. Something must be done.— And what did they do, sir? In the first place they broke open the post office at Charleston, S.C. seized two or three bags of our papers, and *Lynched them*. Yes, sir, those papers suffered martyrdom. But “they being dead yet speak.” They have spoken in tones of thunder, which have been heard the world over. The pro-slavery journals of the South not only published this astounding fact to the world, but they advertised our papers published extracts from them, and in one or two instances copied whole columns of advertisements of Anti-Slavery, &c., and sent them throughout the length and breadth of the slave States. The effect of this course was to set the public mind in commotion in the South, and awaken a curiosity

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in the minds of all who can read their ABC to see the incendiary prints. Within one year from the time of the Charleston outrage, *fifteen thousand copies* of the society's publications were taken up by voluntary cash subscribers—a thing unheard of in the history of any other Moral Reform publication ever started in this country. For many of these subscribers we were, no doubt, greatly indebted to the gratuitous advertisements of the pro slavery press. Our opposers took the wrong course to accomplish their object. Instead of putting us *down*, they put us and our principles *up* before the world—just where we wanted to be.

The Society published regularly through the past year from 75 to 80,000 Nos. of these periodical publications per month, most of which were distributed gratuitously by the friends of the cause in various parts of the United States. The effects of this distribution upon those who read has been most favorable. In vain do they look for seditious and incendiary doctrines, and they almost invariably express their astonishment that the South should bring such charges against them.

This is the effect produced on Southern minds who candidly examine for themselves.

Again—our papers alone have been the means of forming large and respectable Anti-Slavery Societies. Many facts like the following have come to our knowledge.

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lition. One individual read it—liked it He circulated it among his neighbors—they liked it. They ordered a quantity, and circulated them throughout the whole town. Soon an Anti-Slavery Society formed, embracing 40 males, besides females.

Through the agents of this Society we shall probably receive a thousand dollars or more. So much for one No. of Human Rights, which cost only 5 mills. Again—the question is often asked, “Do any of your publications go South. Many of them go there—some hundreds go there regularly by mail to subscribers and exchange papers. Two or three thousand of Miss Grimke’s appeal have recently been sent there, and but very few of them returned. Many of our publications are purchased by Southerners at the office in New York. Not long since a North Carolina slaveholder paid over sixty dollars for Anti-Slavery publications, which he distributed in the Slave States. A few days since a President of a college in a Slave State paid about nine dollars for a set of our books, pamphlets, &c. Southern governors, members of Congress, and other gentlemen of standing and influence in the Slave States, often send for whole sets of Anti-Slavery books, pamphlets, tracts and prints. They are anxious to see our publications and know what we are doing. We are credibly informed, that most of our publications which have been destroyed in the slave States have been carefully persued. It is a fact that many of the publications preten—

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ded to have been destroyed in Charleston were carefully preserved and read. So the leaven of abolition is working at the South.

Besides, Sir, multitudes of the South rush to the North every season, and many of them call at the Anti-Slavery offices in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Providence, and other places, and ask for our publications. Those who will not call for them, find more or less of them on [board] steam-[boats,] in public houses, and in hundreds of country and city parlors.

[I do] see by these statements and facts, how we are [operating] upon the South [through the medium of the press.] The cause advances—darkness, prejudice and [error recede,] just as fast as the true *light* blazes out from the *press*.

Now, Sir, shall the press cease to thunder in the [ears of] the slaveholder his duty, and plead the cause of the [suffering] millions? Shall it be crippled for want of the means? Let every abolitionist answer for himself, by making personal efforts to sustain it[.]

After what I have said, it requires no [argument] to [prove] “that it is the duty of Abolitionists [*personally*] to make immediate and *persevering* efforts to secure the reading of at least one Anti-Slavery periodical in every [family in the] land.” In this way, every one can do something *effectually* to promote the good cause.

The low price of our periodicals brings them within the reach of all. Those who cannot afford to pay two [dollars] for the *Emancipator*, can pay one dollar for the [Quarterly] Magazine, or twenty-five cents for a copy of *Human Rights*. Five dollars will furnish forty-families with a copy of the *Human rights* a year. Ten dollars will furnish one hundred families with the same. Thirty dollars will [furnish]

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twenty families with a copy of the Emancipator weekly, provided they are ordered at one time, and all sent to [one] Post-office. Five dollars will pay for six copies of the Quarterly Magazine. Here is a field into which every friend of the slave should enter. A little [money expended] in this way will do great good. If every paper does [not] form an anti-slavery Society, it will probably make at least one convert to the cause, who would give his money and convert others.

The executive committee have recently commissioned a large number of lecturers, and their present means will not allow them to distribute their publications gratuitously [as] heretofore. They have already curtailed their gratuitous distribution, and unless the friends of the cause come promptly to their assistance and [furnish] the means, they will be obliged to curtail farther. A much larger quantity has been circulated in this State gratuitously, in proportion to its size and population, than in any other state in the Union. Within fifteen months past, the Parent Society, have [sent] more than one hundred thousand papers into this State at an expense of more than \$1500. Now, sir, we call upon the abolitionists of Rhode-Island to come forward and subscribe liberally to all our publications. Let the [money] you give—your personal efforts, and your prayers—tell how much feel for two and a half millions of your brethren in bondage.

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