

FELLOW-CITIZENS: The Committee of *Thirteen* have again felt it their duty to assemble you together to consider the following statements of facts, viz: That owing to the passage of the fugitive slave-law, enacted by the United States Congress, in September, 1850, and approved by President Fillmore, which gives to the slave-hunter and officers of the United States Government power to arrest coloured men, women and children, claimed to owe service or labour in the slave States, several peaceful, unoffending colored citizens have been seized with force of arms, and in some cases decoyed into the hands of the man-hunter under false pretences, charged with committing criminal offences, so as to avoid the excitement of indignant citizens, who as a mass are opposed to the whole system of human Slavery. These unfortunates have been in almost every case doomed to be the slaves of whoever claimed their souls and bodies as owing service. In our own city we have witnessed the sudden seizure, return into Slavery, and liberation of the martyr, *James Hamlet*; the sending back of *Henry Long* and *John Bolding*; the arrest and brutal assault on the person of the slave *Daniel*, his delivery up to his master, his liberation by Judge Conkling under writ of *habeas corpus*; the arrest of *Jerry* at Syracuse, the rescue, re-arrest, and final rescue and liberation by the indignant populace; the romantic adventures of the heroic *Crafts*, their miraculous escape from Georgia to the old Bay State, and subsequently compulsion to seek refuge under the British flag; the arrest and rescue of *Shadrach*, and sending into Slavery of *Sims*. In Philadelphia, the arrest, sending into Slavery, and restoration to liberty of the *freeman* Gibson; the refusal of the claimant to receive the alleged fugitive, instead of his slave *Emery*; the

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interesting trial of the free woman *Mahala Williams*, together with a large family of children, claimed as slaves, and subsequently declared free.

The outrages committed in various States of the Union, and particularly in the State of Pennsylvania, by armed bands of desperate, lawless slave-hunters, breaking into the houses of peaceful coloured citizens at midnight—the dragging into Slavery of free men, women and children, without even the farce of a commission trial, and, finally, the recent awful Christiana tragedy! the death of the slaveholder, and wounding of several of his party!! the arrest and indictment of the brave men for high treason who defended their lives and liberties when assailed by an armed band of kidnappers and murderers. Such, fellow-citizens, are a few of the many outrages committed upon American citizens, we have chronicled, since the passage of the iniquitous Fugitive Slave-catching Law, the illegitimate fruits of American Republicanism. In that bloody code, and its hell-concocted provisions, the United States Government, of twenty millions of people, has declared war against the five hundred thousand free coloured population.

Fellow-Citizens, we have called you together to ask you to give your *aid* and *comfort* to the Kossuths, Garribaldis and Mitchells of Christiana. The charge of Judge Kane implicates all who sympathize with with these noble patriots. Will you be deterred by vindictive threats, coming either from the North or the South, from the East or the West, from the judicial bench or the anathemas of the pulpit, from the press or the supreme government? Will you down at the bidding of the Slave Power? Will you listen to the cooings

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of a time-serving, lick-spittle priesthood, join in the cry of our enemies, and brand these noble Christiana patriots as 'reckless disorganizers' and unworthy of your sympathies?

What will you do? Will you give us money (the right kind of sympathy) to defend these brave men now charged with high treason, to aid their distressed wives and children in the absence of their imprisoned husbands and fathers, or will you take sides with the United States Government, and withhold your aid and comfort, your sympathy and money, your very lives and sacred honour? Much, very much, depends upon your action to-night; the cause of human liberty in its progress needs an impetus such only as you can give, and such as may be expected from you as a people 'of one blood,' one God, and one common humanity.

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