

The Rev. ALEXANDER CRUMMELL (a coloured clergyman of the Episcopal Church of the United States), moved the next resolution:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Abolitionists of this and other countries have a great personal as well as collective duty to perform towards the suffering and oppressed millions of mankind, now in bondage, in abstaining, as far as practicable, from the use of slave-labour produce, and in the encouragement of that alone which is grown and manufactured by the compensated labour of freemen; they would, therefore, earnestly recommend all the opponents of slavery to set a worthy example themselves, and also to encourage and sustain every well-directed effort to induce the public at large to adopt similar views and practice, as one great and powerful means for securing the universal abolition of slavery.

He spoke to the following effect:—The Report which has been read presents you with the deplorable fact, that notwithstanding all the efforts and sacrifice that have been made, multitudes of our brethren yet remain in cruel bondage, in this age of wide-spread civilization and Christianity. It is matter of congratulation that in this matter your reputation is secure—that nothing can rob you of the honour of what you have done as a nation. Every one knows something of slavery, but no one has a full knowledge of it but the slave. One of its peculiarities is, that wherever it exists, it produces a demand for slaves—a slave-trade; a fact not seen till recently in this country, and perhaps it was important in the discipline of the national mind, that it should not be known. But now it is seen that to put down the slave-trade, you must abolish slavery—that the whole system must be destroyed. There are many means by which it is hoped to effect this—by the course pursued by societies like this; by the operation of missionary

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agencies, and by a system that has been recently devised—that of abstinence from slave produce. I spoke of this as a new principle; but it is rather an old one revived. At the time that this country was shaken to its centre by the slavery question, 300,000 Englishmen resolved, as an expression of their abhorrence of slavery, to abstain from the use of slave-grown sugar. It is the reproduction of this system to which I now wish to call your attention, and would endeavour to enforce. The simple fact is, that Great Britain is still the great supporter of slavery by her immense consumption of slave-grown produce. You use two-thirds of the whole American cotton crops. Let your Lancashire mills stop working—let your Manchester factory people be standing still—and the effect on the American cotton-growers is wonderful. But let your markets be active—let the price of cotton rise here—and immediately it is known across the Atlantic, the price of slaves rises—droves of human beings are sent up to our slave-markets—men in their strength, women in their prime, are sold and separated, and sent to Baltimore or Kentucky. Tell the planters that you will no longer, by buying the produce of their slaves, suffer them to get rich by the sweat, and agony, and blood of your fellow-creatures—that you will reduce them from affluence to poverty and bankruptcy—and immediately the system will come to an end. The sugar of Brazil and Cuba is also chiefly used in Great Britain. You have extensive possessions for the production of those commodities; and thus you could benefit

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May 23, 1849  
Crummell, Alexander  
*Non Conformist*

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