

The undersigned after mature deliberation feel themselves constrained by a sense of duty to God & man to make the following expression of opinion.

We believe 1. that Slavery in our land is a great & threatening evil.
2, that it is a great & crying national sin

3. that every man, whether he live at the North, South, East or West, is personally responsible & has his personal duties to discharge in respect to it.

4. that every man who adopts any opinions or pursues any practices, which adopted & pursued by all others would go to perpetuate this sin, does thereby become personally guilty in respect to it.

5. We believe that slavery is an evil & a sin which ought to be abolished as soon as the nature of the case admits

6. that the nature of the case admits the possibility & therefore imposes the obligation of immediate abolition.

7. that the power of immediate abolition does not rest with non-slaveholders but with slaveholders.

8. that ~~it~~ immediate abolition is both the duty & the interest of slaveholders.

9 that non-slaveholders have no right or power to interfere with the system of slavery or its abolition, in the way of state legislation or physical force, but

10. that they have a right, & that it is their solemn duty, to do what they can by "light & love" to enlighten the public mind, arouse the public conscience, & elevate the tone of public sentiment on the subject in every section of the land.

And finally, we believe that the grand obstacle to the abolition of this sin, lies in the will of the slaveholder - that this will being changed there would of necessity be a change in the various laws & other obstacles which have grown out of it & that this will is to be changed 1. by the force of public opinion among non slaveholders & 2. by means of kind, candid & thorough christian discussion with slave holders themselves.

In respect to the scheme of colonization which at the North professes to be a scheme for gradual & ultimate abolition & we feel constrained to say

1. that however great the merits of this scheme may be, still it can never be a complete & adequate remedy for the evil in question.

2. that however much good it may have done in time past, the time has now come when the friends of God & man ought to take a higher stand & adopt & act on principles which will lay the axe directly at the root of the tree.

David T. Kimball,
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Jacob Ide
Jonathan Curtis. -

Amos A. Phelps

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Twinning - Lowell

Original Drafts
of
Declaration

[Aug. 1833]