

Convention in behalf of Bible Missions.

To the Friends of Bible Missions in the State of New York,
in the State of New York —

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Brethren,

The undersigned are the friends of freedom & of Missions. In former times we have acted in support of the cause of Missions through the American Board, & kindred associations. Some of us still do so. Our interest in & affection for these Agencies has been sincere & strong. We are not their enemies now. If, after long forbearance & patient waiting, we call attention to their errors & reprobate & resist their delinquencies, it is not that we love them ~~the~~ less, but the cause ~~the~~ more.

We need not inform you, that lately strange things have come to light. ~~Something of these matters~~ Not to speak of other things, Slaveholders are in churches planted & sustained by the American Board, as regular & approved members. They have been welcomed, & are continued in them, without question, without reproof, without discipline. This has been done for twenty five years, though the public has but recently been apprized of it. And this proceeding, those who direct the affairs of the Board excuse, justify, & declare to be apostolic & scriptural. The Missionaries, who have done & are doing it, are commended as faithful, & are told, in terms, that they cannot be advised, much less required, to change their course. For aught that appears, the gospel we are to propagate is to enslave, baptise, sanctify, & welcome slavery to the bosom of the Church, wherever it meets it, in all the earth. Caste, polygamy, & other social vices are to have a like allowance & admission. And

they who would have it otherwise are assured, both individually & officially, that they transcend God's methods & have not learned their wisdom from the Bible.

As friends of freedom & of Missions, we accept the issue. We must do it. We are glad to do it. It is the great question in the whole work of modern Missions. To be silent in respect to it as now maintained, ~~is to confess judgment against~~ is to confess judgment against the Cause of freedom - to admit that the bible is not the charter of human liberty, & Christianity not the gospel of deliverance to them that are bruised, having promise of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come. Plainly, the time has come to deliberate, to pray, to speak, to act. Why have modern Missions been so lean, both of persecutions & of triumphs? Whence comes it, that with human nature unchanged & the forms of religious superstition & social evil still the same, they have neither the conflicts, nor the sacrifices, nor the successes of an apostolic gospel, propagated in apostolic methods? Let the Bible be our appeal. We ask no other.

Brethren, ~~the~~ the undersigned invite all the friends of freedom & of Missions, who have heretofore cooperated with the American Board & kindred associations, or who now do so, to meet in convention at _____ on the _____ of _____ next, for the purpose of considering generally, the whole subject of the bible methods of propagating the gospel; & particularly, for the purpose of putting forth such a remonstrance against the practice referred to of the Mission churches & the positions taken in justification of it as the cause of bible missions demands, with the consideration of such practical measures as may seem best to give practical effect to the same.

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