

Aug., 1833

Proposals  
for  
Publishing a weekly periodical in Washington City, to be entitled  
the  
Public Liberator,  
and  
Journal of the Times.

The primary object of this publication will be the abolition of slavery, and the moral and intellectual elevation of ~~our~~ colored population. The Capital of our Union is obviously the most eligible spot whereon to build this mighty enterprise:—first, because (through Congress and the Supreme Court) it is the head of the body politic, and the soul of the national system; and secondly, because the District of Columbia is the first citadel to be carried.

On this subject, I imagine my views and feelings are too well known to render an elaborate exposition necessary. In its investigation, I shall use great plainness of speech—believing, that truth can never conduce to mischief, and is best discovered by plain words. I shall assume, as self-evident truths, that the liberty of a people is the gift of God and nature:—That liberty consists in an independency upon the will of another:—That by the name of slave, we understand a man who can neither dispose of his person or goods, but enjoys all at the will of his master:—That no man can have a right over others, unless it be by them granted to him:—That virtue only gives a natural preference of one man above another, or why one should be chosen rather than another:—That the creature having nothing, and being nothing but what the Creator makes him, must owe all to him, and nothing to any one from whom he has received nothing:—That that which is not just, is not law; and that which is not law, ought not to be in force:—That he who oppugns the public liberty, verthrows his own, and is guilty of the most brutish of all follies, whilst he arrogates to himself that which he denies to all

men:—That whosoever grounds his pretensions of right upon usurpation and tyranny, declares himself to be an usurper and a tyrant—that is, an enemy to God and man—and to have no right at all:—That that which was unjust in its beginning, can of itself never change its nature:—That he who persists in doing injustice, aggravates it, and takes upon himself all the guilt of his predecessors:—That there is no safety where there is no strength, no strength without union, no union without justice, no justice where faith and truth are wanting:—That the right to be free is a truth planted in the hearts of men, and acknowledged so to be by all that have hearkened to the voice of nature, and disproved by none but such as through wickedness, stupidity, or baseness of spirit, seem to have degenerated into the worst of beasts, and to have retained nothing of men but the outward shape, or the ability of doing those mischiefs which they have learnt from their master the devil.—Vide Algernon Sidney's Discourses on Government—the Declaration of American Independence—the Constitutions and Bills of Rights of the several States, &c. &c.

I shall spare no efforts to delineate the withering influence of slavery upon our national prosperity and happiness, its awful impiety, its rapid extension, and its inevitable consequences if it be suffered to exist without hindrance. It will also be my purpose to point out the path of safety, and a remedy for the disease.

The cause of Peace and the promotion of Temperance, being equally dear to my heart, will obtain my zealous and unequivocal support. My creed, as already published to the world, is as follows:—That war is fruitful in crime, misery, revenge, murder, and every thing abominable and bloody; ~~consequently, that no~~ and, whether offensive or defensive, contrary to the precepts and example of Jesus Christ, and to the heavenly spirit of the gospel; consequently, that no professor of christianity should march to the battle-field, or murder of any of his brethren for the glory of his country:—That intemper-

rance is a filthy habit and an awful scourge, wholly produced by the moderate, occasional and fashionable use of alcoholic liquors; consequently, that it is sinful to distil, to import, to sell, to drink, or to offer such liquors to our friends or laborers, and that entire abstinence is the duty of every individual.

I shall exercise a strict supervision over the proceedings of Congress, and the characters of its members. The representatives of a moral and religious people should walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise men, lest they be brought to public shame. The Public Liberator shall be a terror to evil doers, but a praise to them that do well.

In politics, no man can doubt my republicanism. I go for the people—the whole people—whatever be their bodily dimensions, temporal conditions, or shades of color. As a man of peace, I am not an admirer of military men; as a friend to good government, I deprecate their elevation to offices of civil trust. The proscriptive measures of the present administration have been such as no people, who do not possess the abject servility of slaves, can sanction or tolerate. I shall give a dignified support to Henry Clay and the American System.

The Public Liberator will contain a fair proportion of literary and miscellaneous matter—all important foreign and domestic news—and a copious summary of Congressional transactions.

I now appeal to the American people—to philanthropists and patriots, to moralists and christians—for adequate patronage. I believe that a paper of the foregoing character is specially needed at this momentous crisis: I am equally confident that it will receive the approbation of all sober, reflecting, honest, humane men. Its columns shall be open to all temperate and intelligent communications on the subject of slavery, politics or morals. Whatever savors of bigotry or proscription shall gain no admittance. I am opposed to bondage, under its every aspect—whether spiritual, civil, political, mental or physical. "Implicit faith belongs to fools; and truth is comprehended by examining principles." My country is the world;

my countrymen are mankind.

The first number of the Public Liberator will be issued as soon as subscriptions thereto may authorize the attempt. Postmasters are authorized to act as Agents, until further arrangements can be made.

Editors of newspapers, who will give this Prospect two or three gratuitous insertions in their columns, shall receive my thanks, and a reciprocation of <sup>the</sup> favor if it be in my power hereafter.

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Conditions.

The Public Liberator will be published every Friday morning, printed on a large imperial sheet and beautiful type at \$3<sup>00</sup> per annum, payable in advance.

No subscription will be received for a less term than six months.

Agents will be entitled to every copy, gratis.