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Record
of
George W^m. Gordon
Boston, 1856.





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THE
RECORD

OF

GEORGE WM. GORDON.

THE SLAVE TRADE AT RIO DE JANEIRO—SEIZURE OF SLAVE
VESSELS—CONVICTION OF SLAVE DEALERS,

PERSONAL LIBERATION OF SLAVES, &C.

PRACTICE AGAINST THEORY.

LOVERS OF FREEDOM,
READ! READ!! READ!!!

AND VOTE FOR THE BEST MAN.

An American party man state ...

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED AT THE AMERICAN HEAD-QUARTERS.

1856
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The State Executive Committee of the National American Party, in Massachusetts, submit the following brief memoir of GEORGE WM. GORDON, Esq, the candidate of the party for the office of Governor of this Commonwealth. It may be relied on as authentic, it having been compiled from official documents and other reliable evidence, under the supervision of the members of the Committee.

American Head-Quarters, 100 Washington Street, Boston.

THE RECORD.

It is well known that the great American Party in this Commonwealth—the party which nominated Millard Fillmore for President, and Andrew J. Donelson for Vice President, of the United States have also nominated GEORGE WILLIAM GORDON, of Boston, for the high and honorable office of Governor of Massachusetts. Who is George William Gordon? This question is asked by young men of the present day who are not familiar with the position he formerly held in this community, and who, in consequence of his absence during a series of years from his native country, while exercising the duties of an important and responsible public trust, have forgotten the public services he once rendered, and the space he once filled among us, and also that he possesses qualifications of a nature eminently calculated to secure the confidence and support of the patriotic American citizens of old Massachusetts.

Mr. Gordon was born in Exeter, New Hampshire. His father, Mr. John Gordon, was a thriving farmer of that town, honored and respected by his fellow-townsmen for his probity and worth. The first members of the Gordon family, in this country, were four brothers, who came over from Scotland nearly two hundred years ago, three of whom settled in New England, and one in Virginia. The farm, in Exeter, on which is now visible the cellar of the first house erected by the Gordons in America, is still in possession of the family.

The youthful days of George William Gordon, the subject of our sketch, were

devoted to the usual labors of a farmer's son in New England. But his early promise was such as to determine his parents to forego his assistance on the farm, for the purpose of giving him a liberal education; and he accordingly entered upon his studies at "Phillips' Exeter Academy," under the tuition of the celebrated Dr. Abbott. But the congenial occupation of study was too tempting an allure-ment for the young scholar, and, under the sedentary habits of a student, his early robust health, matured as it had been by active and laborious exercise, gave way, and at the close of a successful academic career, he was reluctantly obliged to relinquish the prospective honors which awaited his entrance into a professional life, and bidding farewell to the coveted pursuits of literature, he left his native town and came to Boston with the design of here engaging in mercantile pursuits. He was graduated at the Academy with the highest honors, having assigned to him, without rivalry, the valedictory address; and, with two other students, he received one of the first three diplomas ever awarded by that institution.

Such is the story of his youth. As years of manhood came, the traits which won the successes of the school-boy, developed into those noble qualities which combine to make the upright and honorable merchant and the sterling man.

Upon his arrival in Boston, Mr. Gordon engaged in the employment of Daniel Denny, Esq., now the partner of the present Governor of the Commonwealth.—

But soon his health again failed him, and for its restoration he visited the South, and passed the greater part of a year in the milder climates of Virginia and the Carolinas. At length, his health becoming again restored, he returned to Boston, and, in 1830, engaged in the importing business as a member of the firm of Gordon & Stoddard, a firm well known and much respected during the next succeeding nine years. While at the head of this firm in the furtherance of his business, he passed a season in Europe.— During these nine years he held several important public offices. For five successive years, from 1831 to 1836, he was a member of the City Council of Boston, and for five years subsequently, he was connected as director with one of the city institutions. In the year 1832 his attention was directed to the disastrous effects of the lottery system, as it then existed, by which thousands of individuals of scanty means had been reduced to poverty and want; and in March of the succeeding year, he prepared his celebrated lecture upon the subject; a lecture remarkable for power and originality of thought, and which, after being delivered by him several times in Boston and the neighboring towns, was published and circulated by thousands throughout New England, and received a highly complimentary notice from the North American Review. This lecture exposed the pernicious effects of the system, and led to the enactment, by the Legislature then in session, of existing laws upon the subject, under the salutary influence of which the lottery business in this State has been suppressed.

The firm of Gordon & Stoddard, was one of the many houses that suffered by the disastrous financial season of 1836 and 1837, and sad havoc was made with the successful accumulations of Mr. Gordon. Yet such was his honor and integrity, that on the dissolution of his firm in 1839, he gave his obligations for \$8,500 over and above all his remaining property, to be paid by him thereafter, when his future earnings should enable him, to do so, in consideration that all the debts of his late firm should be fully paid by his successors. This obligation has long since

been paid and cancelled; and to this fact so honorable to him, many of the merchants now doing business in Boston will bear willing testimony.

Under the belief that his fortune had been sacrificed mainly by the mal-administration of the general government, Mr. Gordon, although still continuing in business, under a new firm, engaged somewhat in political affairs, and in 1840 was strongly and prominently enlisted with the friends of General Harrison. After the conclusion of that exciting political campaign, which resulted in the election of General Harrison to the Presidency, without expecting or desiring office, it was suggested to him by the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, that the citizens of Boston would be glad to have him receive the appointment of Postmaster of their city. After consultation with his friends, he consented to become a candidate for that office, and a paper, of which the following is a copy, was immediately circulated for signatures.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. STATES.

The undersigned, citizens of Boston, respectfully recommend Mr. George William Gordon for the office of Postmaster, of this city. Mr. Gordon is a merchant of integrity, a gentleman of unblemished reputation, and of acknowledged public and private moral worth. Such is the estimation in which he is held by his friends and neighbors, that we have good reason to believe he will have no competitor who will so generally command the approval of the community.

Boston, February, 1841.

To the great gratification of Mr. Gordon and his friends, this highly commendatory paper immediately received the signatures of about nine hundred of the most distinguished citizens of Boston, embracing all professions and classes.— We would gladly refer more particularly to some of the many distinguished names upon it, did the limits of our sketch permit. It must suffice to say that the paper combined the strength and influence of the city; and almost immediately after the inauguration of General Harrison.— Mr. Gordon was appointed to the office he sought. Every Boston man who can look back fifteen years in the history of our city, remembers how ably the affairs of the post-office were conducted during his

administration. He discharged his duties to the entire acceptance of the community for nearly three years, when Mr. Tyler, who had succeeded to the Presidency upon the death of General Harrison, thought it necessary, for political reasons alone, to reappoint Mr. Nathaniel Green, the predecessor of Mr. Gordon, to the office.— For the purpose of making the place vacant, Mr. Gordon was offered the consulship either at Lyons in France, or at Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, the latter being an office of higher grade and larger emoluments. He, however, declined both appointments, and he was then offered the position of a Charge d' Affaires to Portugal. The Charge ship also he declined, and he was asked to resign. This also, he refused to do, although the request was coupled with assurances of great consideration on the part of the government.

Mr. Gordon then placed his case in the hands of Hon. Daniel Webster, who was Secretary of State at the time, and by whom he was held in high esteem; and just before Mr. Webster returned from the Cabinet, in the latter part of 1843, and through his influence, aided by that of Governor Wickliffe, of Kentucky, then Postmaster General, the offer of the consulship at Rio de Janeiro was again tendered to him, and accepted.

Upon the receipt of this new appointment, Mr. Gordon immediately repaired to Brazil, being sent out by the government in the frigate *Raritan*, commanded by Commodore Gregory.

It was, perhaps, during the two following years of Mr. Gordon's residence at Rio, that the most important of all the many servicable acts of his public life, were discharged. We regret that in this brief historical notice of the services of the candidate of the American party for the office of Governor of Massachusetts, our restricted limits preclude us from doing justice to the subject. We can only allude to a few of the most prominent incidents of his career, necessarily omitting many important events and actions which redounded to the advantage of his country and the honor of himself.

Upon his arrival in Rio de Janeiro, the attention of Mr. Gordon was at once attracted to the alarming character and ex-

tent of the African slave trade, as pursued by American vessels, under the protection of the American flag; and his voluminous correspondence with the Department of State, comprised, besides a vast amount of commercial information of the highest importance, full details of the extent and manner in which American vessels are employed in this trade, especially between both the east and west coasts of Africa and Brazil. In the year 1846, this correspondence, being called for by the Hon. John Quincy Adams, was communicated to the national House of Representatives; but a motion made by him for printing it, was lost, through the opposition of the Southern members. But while his despatches to the Department of State were refused a publication by the Congress of his own country, several of them, which upon solicitation were furnished to the British Minister at Rio de Janeiro, were published by the British Parliament.

We have recently been permitted to examine a portion of this correspondence, addressed partly to the Hon. John C. Calhoun, and partly to the Hon. James Buchanan, when each held the office of Secretary of State, and it discloses many facts that ought to be in possession of the people. Under date of Sept. 25, 1845, Mr. Gordon states that, "Since the beginning of the year 1840, sixty four American vessels had been sold at the port of Rio de Janeiro, amounting in the aggregate to 10,418 tons, of which thirty four vessels, amounting to 6,206 tons, are reported to have been subsequently employed in the Slave trade, and that during the same period there had departed from the port of Rio de Janeiro for the coast of Africa, fifty six American vessels; and forty American vessels had arrived at that port from the coast; in all, ninety six American vessels, amounting in the aggregate to 20,295 tons, employed during that period, between Rio de Janeiro and the African continent."

So efficient and judicious were the efforts of Mr. Gordon, in suppressing this nefarious traffic, that excepting the first two months of his consulship, before he had obtained the necessary information to

act advisedly in the matter, there were a larger number of American vessels cleared from Brazil for the coast of Africa, engaged directly and indirectly in the slave trade during the three months next prior to his arrival at Rio de Janeiro and also during the three months next subsequent to his recall, than there were during the whole term of his administration of that consulship.

A few months after his arrival at Brazil, he arrested and sent to the United States for trial, upon the charge of piracy in being engaged in the foreign slave trade, Capt. J. S. Pendleton, master of the American brig "Montevideo," together with his officers and crew, consisting altogether of twelve persons. This vessel had been fitted at the little port of Victoria, near Cape Frio, in Brazil, with spare deck and other fixtures for the trade, had taken on board a cargo suitable to the voyage, and had been delivered in that condition by the master to the Portuguese slave dealers upon the coast of Africa. The master and his ship's company were arrested by order of Mr. Gordon, on their return to Rio de Janeiro, when applying to the consul to discharge the crew and cancel the register. Pendleton was tried and convicted in Baltimore; but was subsequently pardoned by President Polk.

At about the same time, the officers of three other American vessels, which had been delivered on the coast of Africa to the slave dealers, who had returned to Rio Janeiro on their way home, fled from the place before Mr. Gordon could obtain the necessary evidence to warrant their arrest. In one case, however, that of Capt. Hiram Gray, of the brig Agnes, the evidence was collected and forwarded to the Department of State, and Capt. Gray was subsequently tried at Wilmington, Delaware. But at the time of trial, the witnesses had become so dispersed that all of them could not be found, and he escaped conviction. Information as to the guilt of several other American citizens was also communicated by Mr. Gordon to the Government, but either the parties or witnesses could not be found, or the government was indifferent respecting the cases, and the trials were not proceeded with.

Early in the year 1846 there arrived in Rio de Janeiro, from the east coast of

Africa, the American brig "Porpoise," belonging, according to her register, to George F. Richardson, of Brunswick, Maine, and commanded by Cyrus Libby, of Scarborough, Maine, having on board, as passengers, a large company of Brazilian or Portuguese slave dealers, returned from the scene of their depredations in Africa; also the master, (Capt. George H. Douglass, belonging to Philadelphia,) the officers and the crew, twelve in number, of the American brig Kentucky, of New York, and *three Negro slave boys*. On this arrival, and before the passengers were, by the regulations of the port, permitted to go on shore, one of the crew of the Kentucky contrived, by throwing a letter addressed to the Consul, into the boat belonging to the American squadron, which went alongside of her to inquire whence she came, to give information that there were slaves on board. Mr. Gordon immediately, with characteristic promptness, repaired on board the vessel, and, by permission of the Guarda Mor, or officer of the port, who happened also to be on board, took charge of the *three slave boys*, and placed them on board the United States frigate Raritan, then lying in that port. On this information being communicated to the Brazilian authorities, they took possession of the vessel, her officers, crew, and all the passengers, except the *THREE SLAVE BOYS*, whom Mr. Gordon refused to surrender. After a prolonged examination, however, the prisoners were all discharged, and the vessel released. As soon as the result of this examination was made known, Mr. Gordon demanded the vessel which had meantime been abandoned by her consignees, of the Brazilian authorities, and obtaining possession of her, placed her in charge of Commodore Turner, then commanding the American squadron on the Brazilian station, who subsequently sent her to Boston. Captain Libby, through the interference of the local authorities, who refused to arrest him on the pretence that he had once been tried, escaped, and returned to the United States of his own accord; but on information communicated by Mr. Gordon to the Marshal of Massachusetts, by the same vessel, on board of which the Capt.

had returned, he was afterwards arrested in Maine, and tried before Justice Woodbury, but escaped conviction, in consequence of the extreme difficulty of proving, upon persons tried in the United States, crimes committed in Africa, or upon the high seas. The vessel, however, was libelled upon her arrival in Boston, sold by the United States Marshal, and the proceeds paid into Court. But the case, upon various pleas made by the defendant, was delayed until the last year, when, in the month of July, 1855, it was tried in the United States Court, sitting in Boston, before Justice Curtis, and the vessel condemned, upon the evidence placed in possession of the government by Mr. Gordon, although ten years had elapsed since her seizure.

With the outward cargoes of this vessel, (the Porpoise,) and of the American brig, Kentucky, which, after being discharged on the coast, was delivered to the slave dealers, there were purchased at different places on De Lagoa Bay, about 2500 human beings all of whom were consigned to slavery; from which number four vessels were freighted on their return voyages to Brazil—to wit: the brig Kentucky, with 530 slaves; Garafelia, with about 300 slaves; "The 17th of March," with about 400 slaves, and the Laguna, with 500; making altogether upwards of seventeen hundred thus conveyed to the land of their servitude, the remainder were shipped by other vessels.

While dwelling upon the energetic and praiseworthy course pursued by Mr. Gordon, in relation to the slave trade, during the period of his consulship at Rio, a course which few other men would have had the courage and independence to follow, we cannot resist the temptation to extract from the evidence taken by him in the case of the brig Porpoise, the following thrilling revelation of the horrors of that dreadful traffic which he labored so earnestly to suppress. It is a passage from the testimony of a man named Edward Page, who had served as a sailor on board the brig Kentucky, on her outward voyage, but who on account of some difficulty with the Captain, was discharged in Africa, and in order to return home, was obliged to ship on board the Kentucky, with her cargo of slaves.

"And deponent further said, that on the next day after the vessel crossed the bar, on leaving Inhambane, as aforesaid, the negroes rose upon the officers and crew. A majority of the men, all of whom had been in irons, got their irons off—broke through the bulkhead into the females' apartment, and likewise through into the fore-castle. Upon this the captain armed the crew with cutlasses and got out all the muskets and pistols and loaded them, and the crew were firing down amongst the slaves for half an hour or more. In the mean time deponent was nailing down the hatches, and used no musket or pistol, and there was no occasion as the Brazilian sailors seemed to like the sport. In about half an hour they were subdued, and became quiet again. The slaves were then brought up on deck, eight or ten at a time, and ironed afresh—they were all re-ironed that afternoon and put below, excepting about seven, who remained on deck. None were killed on this occasion, and but eight or ten more or less wounded. They fired with balls in the pistols and shot in the muskets. Supposes the reason none were killed is that they had to fire through the grate of the hatches, and the slaves got out of the way as much as they could. On the next day, they were brought up on deck, two or three dozen at a time, all being well ironed and TRIED by Capt. Fowceca and officers, and within two or three days after forty-six men and one woman were hung and shot and thrown overboard. They were ironed or chained two together—and when they were hung, a rope was put round their necks and they were drawn up to the yard arm, clear of the rail—this did not kill them but only choked or strangled them—they were then shot in the breast and the bodies thrown overboard. If only one of the two that were chained together was to be hung, a rope was put round his neck, and he was drawn up clear of the deck, beside of the bulwarks, and his leg laid across the rail and chopped off to save the irons and release him from his companion, who at the same time lifted up his leg till the other's was chopped off, as aforesaid, and he released, the bleeding negro was then drawn up, shot in the breast and thrown overboard as aforesaid.

“The legs of about a dozen were chopped off in this way. When the feet fell on deck, they were picked up by the Brazilian crew and thrown overboard, and sometimes at the body while it still hung living, and all kind of sport was made of the business. When two that were chained together were to be hung, they were hung up together by their necks, shot, and thrown overboard, irons and all. When the woman was hung up and shot, the ball did not take effect, and she was thrown overboard living, and was seen to struggle some time in the water before she sunk.

“And deponent further said, that after this was over, they brought up and flogged about 20 men and 6 women. When they were flogged, they were laid flat upon the deck, and their hands tied and secured to one ring bolt, and their feet to another. They were then whipped by two men at a time; by the one with a stick about two feet long, with five or six strands of raw-hide secured to the end of it—the hide was dry and hard and about two feet long; and by the other with a piece of the hide of a sea-horse—this was a strip about four feet long—from half an inch to an inch wide, thicker than one’s finger, and hard as whalebone, but more flexible. The flogging was very severe.

“Deponent and another Englishman on board, named Edward Blake, were obliged to assist in the flogging, as the Brazilians got tired. Deponent flogged four, but he got clear of the hanging and shooting business. All the women that were flogged at this time died, but none of the men. Many of them, however, were sick all the passage, and were obliged to lay on their bellies during the remainder of the voyage, and some of them could hardly get on shore, on arrival at Cape Frio. The flesh of some of them, where they were flogged, (which was not generally on their backs, but on their posteriors,) putrified and came off in some places 6 or 8 inches in diameter, and in places half an inch deep. Their wounds were dressed and filled up by the Contra Mestre, with Farinha and Cachaça made into a poultice, and sometimes with a salve made on board. When the Farinha and Cachaça

were applied, the poor creatures would shiver and tremble for half an hour, and groan and sob with the most intense agony. They were a shocking and horrible sight during the whole passage.”

It would be interesting to the reader, by showing the varied horrors of this nefarious traffic, if further extracts were made from the testimony taken by Mr. Gordon in these cases; but our space forbids. We hazard no contradiction in saying, that no person in the United States has done more—we know of none who have done as much—to expose the wickedness of this traffic, and the manner in which it is conducted by American vessels under the American flag, than did Mr. Gordon, during his short residence of a little more than two years, in Brazil. In that period, he caused to be arrested, and sent to the United States for trial, four American shipmasters, with their officers, and a part of their crews, amounting altogether to thirty persons, on the charge of having engaged in the foreign slave trade. If all consuls of the United States, resident in Brazil and the West Indies, would discharge their duties in this regard with the same energy and fidelity, (and if they were sustained in their course by the Government at home,) the connection of Americans and American vessels with this trade would soon be brought to an end, to the great honor of our Government and the Nation.

The three slave boys rescued from the brig “Porpoise,” and freed from slavery by Mr. Gordon, were sent by him in the “Porpoise” to Boston, and became free. One of them was the servant of Captain Libby. He afterwards adopted the seafaring profession, and is now absent at sea. The other two, by name Pedro and Guilherme, had been servants on board of the “Porpoise” to the slave dealers. One of them is now in the employ of Virgil D. Paris, Esq., of Paris, Me. The other is in Milton, Massachusetts, pursuing the occupation of a barber, and both are respected and thriving members of the communities in which they dwell.

But these were not the only slaves that Mr. Gordon rescued from the bondage of slavery. Besides the three African boys,

he delivered two others of our race from the cruel fetters of the slave. They were a mother and child—the mother a native of Africa, brought to Brazil in a slave ship, many years before, and the daughter, an interesting little girl of about nine years. While still slaves, both mother and daughter were hired as servants in the family of Mr. Gordon, and as the mother was faithful, and the child obedient, they soon won the hearts of their employers. While in this pleasant situation, they were informed by their owner that, unless previously disposed of at private sale, he intended to sell them at auction on a certain day. This sad intelligence occasioned the greatest distress. The dread of a new master, and the fear of being purchased for field service, rendered the mother almost a maniac. Mr. Gordon's kindly heart was not proof against the appeals of sorrow, and with that noble generosity which through life has formed a distinguishing trait of his character, he at once paid the sum demanded for them, being twelve hundred MIL REIS—which is equivalent to a little more than six hundred dollars—and gave to both their freedom.

No greater happiness or delight was ever manifested by human beings than these poor slaves appeared to experience when presented with their free papers, and no services more faithful were ever rendered by servants than were subsequently rendered by that African mother and her child. In the family of Mr. Gordon, they continued during the remaining year of his residence in Brazil. When the time of his departure drew near, the mother was placed in the family of Mr. Todd, the American Minister, and the daughter accompanied the family of Mr. Gordon to the United States, and still continues with them, a valued and faithful free servant.

Thus Mr. Gordon has been directly instrumental in freeing from the unnatural bondage of slavery several human beings. Who of us can boast of more praiseworthy acts? Who can show a more brilliant record, with living witnesses to sustain it? And to whom is greater honor due? These were good deeds done, not for the homage and applause of men, but the spontaneous outpourings of a humane and generous heart.

In his exertions for the suppression of the Slave Trade, Mr. Gordon expended money freely from his own private resources, and he has, at the present time, a claim upon government for several thousand dollars expended in this cause, and for the reimbursement of which there is but little prospect. But the consciousness of a good action brings, of all rewards, the best, and he is satisfied to know that it was money well bestowed.

When Mr. Gordon returned to the United States, in 1846, he again engaged in mercantile pursuits, in Boston, having determined to have no further connection with public affairs or politics. But in 1849, after the election of General Taylor to the Presidency, he was prevailed upon by a Committee representing the merchants of our principal cities and the northern manufacturers, and, in compliance with their urgent request and at the solicitation of the Hon. William M. Meredith, then Secretary of the Treasury, consented to go to Washington, to furnish facts and data for the annual report of the latter to Congress. All the facts pertaining to manufactures and commerce, and the tariff contained in the appendix to that report, were collected and furnished by him; and so useful were his services in that department, that he was continued in Washington from the middle of October, 1849, through the whole of the then ensuing long Session of Congress, which adjourned at the close of September following; his expenses and per diem pay being defrayed by the Committee who had engaged his services.

During this period, as he had been for years before, Mr. Gordon was on terms of intimate relations with the Hon. Daniel Webster and the Hon. Millard Fillmore, President of the United States. He was also upon terms of acquaintance with most of the members both of the Senate and House, and, indeed, with all of the distinguished men in Washington, being brought into direct intercourse with them by the duties he was there to discharge.

Upon the admission of California into the Union as a State, he was offered, by Mr. Webster, the post of Naval Officer at San Francisco, an office of great responsi-

bility and large emoluments, drawing a salary at this time of eight thousand dollars per annum. But the education of his children precluded their departure from the Atlantic States, and the place was not accepted. Near the close of the long Session of Congress, however, of that year, and by the action of the Senate, the office of Postmaster of Boston was suddenly made vacant, and without solicitation on his part, and altogether unexpectedly to him until the very evening on which the nomination was made, he was, at the instance of Mr. Webster, re-appointed by President Fillmore, with the unanimous consent of the Senate, to fill that vacancy; and he continued to hold that office to the entire approbation of his fellow-citizens until the period of his resignation, at the request of President Pierce, in the Autumn of 1853.

Mr. Gordon's long experience in public affairs, his acquaintance with public men, and his faithful and able discharge of the various duties that have devolved upon him, both as a public man and as a private citizen, all commend him to the highest respect and confidence of the community.

When the American party was first organized, he was in Brazil, and Mr. Webster's great speech on the Naturalization Laws, delivered in Faneuil Hall, in 1844, reached him while he resided there. He coincided then, as he coincides now, with the views which Mr. Webster expressed. His doctrine has long been that "AMERICANS SHOULD RULE AMERICA!" But, until the decease of that distinguished Statesman and the disbandment of the Whig party, he voted with the Whigs. Since that period, without abandoning one iota of his Whig principles, he has voted mainly with the American party, without, however, having attached himself to their organization until the past year. With the old Whigs he can truly say, that he has no principles to change—nor has he found occasion to change any. Now, as ever, he belongs to the great conservative party of the Union, believing that the Union of the States is the greatest blessing that each and all of them can enjoy.

Upon the subject of Slavery, Mr. Gordon entertains the great conservative views of the whole North. He holds to the doctrine that the great sectional compromises that were deliberately entered into by the Government, and acquiesced in year after year, by the entire country, for the sake of preserving the Union inviolate, amid the storms of political contention, should be held inviolate, and that not one inch more of territory once consecrated to Freedom, should be yielded up to Slavery. He deprecates, in common with all other fair-minded, conservative men, the outrages that have been perpetrated upon the virgin soil of Kansas, and holds that the people there, as elsewhere, should be protected in the bestowal of their suffrages. He believes that freedom can exist only where the laws rule, and where the people are parties to making the laws. Secure to the people of Kansas their rights, and he entertains no fears but that Kansas will become a free State.

In religious belief, Mr. Gordon is thoroughly protestant. Brought up from his mother's knees in the belief and under the influence of orthodox doctrines, he has seen no reason to change that belief. Yet he is without bigotry; and while he would zealously guard our institutions from all combinations of priestcraft and Roman dictation, he would still grant to all the largest liberty in religious opinions.

Mr. Gordon is emphatically a self-made man. The history of his life is a record of industry and enterprise. His character exhibits the unusual combination of great moral worth, united with remarkable business talents and rare administrative powers. Of pure mind and spotless integrity, he is, at the same time, clear-sighted and prudent. The natural impulses of a so bounteous heart are tempered by the curb of reason. Through life, Mr. Gordon has adorned and honored every post of public and private duty to which he has been called; and should he, by the voice of the people, be summoned to guide the car of government, in our State, we may confidently anticipate a wise, vigorous and eminently efficient administration.

DEPOSITIONS OF PEDRO AND GUILHERME, TWO SLAVE BOYS,

Rescued by George Wm. Gordon, from the Slave Brig "Porpoise," at Rio de Janeiro, against the influence of the Brazilian Government, and by him sent to this country, where they are now in the enjoyment of freedom and prosperity.

Examination of Pedro and Guilherme, two African boys, who were brought from the east coast of Africa, to the port of Rio de Janeiro, in the United States merchant Brig, Porpoise, Cyrus Libby, master, in January 1845, before Geo. Wm. Gordon, Consul of the United States, on board of the U. S. Frigate "Raritan," February 1st, 1845. The questions propounded in the English language by the Consul, and the answers made in the Portuguese language by the said boys, the former being translated into the Portuguese language when put, and the latter into the English language when made, by the undersigned, Sworn Public Translator at the Imperial Court of Brazil and Interpreter of the Nation.

• L. S. JOHN HENRY KAGEL.

Before being interrogated the boys were asked, if they knew that there was a God. Their answers only indicated great confusion of mind upon the subject. They were asked if they knew the nature of an oath. They said that they did not. The proper explanations were then impressively made to them. When they said, that if they told the truth they should be happy, but if they told a lie, they would go to a bad place.

Interrogations, and answers to the same by Pedro, one of the boys aforesaid.

1st Question. What is your name, and how old are you?

Answer. My name is Pedro, I am 15 years old.

2nd Q. Where were your born?

A. In Lourenzo Marquez, in the interior of the country.

3d Q. Were you a free boy or a slave when you arrived in this port?

A. Was a slave.

4th Q. How were you made a slave, and when?

A. When our Nation was in war with another Nation I was taken prisoner, and was sold when I was a child.

5th Q. What was your master's name who bought you?

A. Was called Sebastian.

6th Q. Did Sebastian afterwards sell you? and if so, to whom?

A. He sold me to Captain Paulo.

7th Q. How much did Captain Paulo give for you?

A. I don't know, Sebastian sent me to Capt.

Paulo's factory, at Lourenzo Marquez, and Captain Paulo told me that I was sold to him.

8th Q. What did Captain Paulo then do with you?

A. I was the boy to serve at table.

9th Q. Did Captain Paulo ever whip or otherwise punish you at any time?

A. He never struck me or anything of that kind.

10th Q. How long did you stay at the factory at Lourenzo Marquez?

A. I don't know how to tell it.

11th Q. When you left the factory, where were you taken to?

A. I was embarked at the factory on board the Brig schooner and went to Imyack, (pointing at the same time at the Brig "Porpoise," which was lying near by.)

12th Q. Where did you go then from Imyack?

A. I came here in the same vessel, (again pointing at the Porpoise.)

13th Q. Did Captain Paulo ever tell you that you were free?

A. Never, but that I was a slave.

14th Q. Did Captain Paulo ever tell you to say that you were free, in case any one should ask you?

A. Yes. He told me if any person should ask me, to answer that I was free.

15th Q. Did you or did you not expect to be a slave to Captain Paulo here in Brazil?

A. I expected always to be a slave to Captain Paulo, when I arrived here.

16th Q. Were you ever branded with a hot iron as a slave? If so, when, and by whom?

A. I was branded by Sebastian, on the breast, (which mark he showed), but I was not branded by Captain Paulo, as I was to serve on board the vessel; but the other slaves which went on board the Brazilian vessel "Garafilia," were all branded at the factory.

17th Q. Have you any brothers and sisters? If so, how many of each, and what are their names?

A. I have three brothers, but no sisters. My brothers are called Luiz, Manuel, and Antonio.

18th Q. Do you know where they are; or either of them?

A. They were all brought by Captain Paulo, as he brought me, and all three are on board the "Garafilia."

19th Q. What are their ages?

A. I don't know their ages. But Manuel and Antonio are larger than I am, but Luiz is smaller.

20th *Q.* Were your brothers branded by Captain Paulo? If so, where?

A. They were all branded at the factory, on the arm, with the mark P.

21st *Q.* Did either of your brothers go with you in the Brig "Porpoise" from the factory?— If so, which, and where?

A. My brother Luiz, only, embarked with me on board the Brig "Porpoise" at the factory at Lourenzo Marquez and went to Imyack, and then he was sent on board the "Garafilia."

22d *Q.* Do you now wish to go with Captain Paulo again?

A. No. I have no such desire, at all.

23d *Q.* Where do you wish to go?

A. I desire to be a freeman and go to the United States.

Then Pedro made solemn declaration that what he had said as aforesaid was true.

Attest,



JOHN HENRY KAGEL,
Sworn Public Translator at the
Imperial Court of Brazil and Inter-
preter of the Nation.

Interrogatories and answers to the same, by Guilherme one of the boys aforesaid.

1st *Question.* What is your name, and how old are you.

Answer. My name is Guilherme. I don't know how old I am. I was taken when I was a little boy.

2d *Q.* Where were you born?

A. In the country near Inhambane.

3d *Q.* Were you a free boy or a slave when you arrived in this port?

A. Was a slave.

4th *Q.* How were you made a slave? and where?

A. Was made a slave in war, and carried to Inhambane, when a child.

5th *Q.* What was your master's name, who bought you?

A. His name was Manuel Henrique.

6th *Q.* Did Manuel Henrique afterwards sell you? If so, to whom?

A. Manuel Henrique sold me to an overseer named Almeida, who sold me to Capt. Paulo.

7th *Q.* How much did Captain Paulo give for you?

A. I don't know how much. The overseer put in his pocket some yellow money which Captain Paulo gave him, who said I was his slave. [Guilherme was at this time shown some silver dollars, a doubloon, a half and a quarter doubloon, and some copper, two vintem pieces, and was asked if any of the same was the kind of money Captain Paulo paid for him. He immediately pointed out the gold pieces, saying *os amarellas*, the

yellow ones. He was then asked which of them? When he pointed to the half doubloon and said *este*, this, and then added, counting his fingers at the same time, *cinco dinheiros*, five pieces.]

8th *Q.* What did Captain Paulo then do with you?

A. I went to attend upon the captain and take care of his things aboard of the vessel.

9th *Q.* Did Captain Paulo ever whip or punish you at any time.

A. He said that he would whip me when I arrived at Rio de Janeiro if I did not tell the English on board of the vessel, that I was free.

10th *Q.* How long did you stay at the factory at Inhambane?

A. About two months.

11th *Q.* When you left the factory where were you taken to?

A. Was embarked on board the Brig schooner "*Americano*," and went to Quillimane, with the passengers, and to Lourenzo Marquez, and then to Imyack, where the slaves were embarked on board the "Garafilia."

12th *Q.* Where did you go then, from Imyack?

A. Came on board of the same vessel to Rio de Janeiro.

13th *Q.* Did Captain Paulo ever tell you that you were free?

A. He said that I was his slave, but that I must tell the English on board of the vessel that I was free, or he would whip me when I arrived at Rio de Janeiro.

14th *Q.* Did you or did you not expect to be a slave to Captain Paulo here in Brazil?

A. I expected to be a slave to Captain Paulo in Rio de Janeiro?

15th *Q.* Were you ever branded with a hot iron as a slave? If so, where, and by whom?

A. Was branded by Manuel Henrique, but not by Captain Paulo, nor in the American vessel.

16th *Q.* Have you any brothers or sisters? If so, how many of each, and what are their names?

A. I have no brothers or sisters. My brothers were killed in the war, and my father and mother died when I was a little boy.

17th *Q.* Do you wish to go with Captain Paulo again?

A. No. Not willingly.

18th *Q.* Where do you wish to go?

A. I would like to go back to Africa, but am afraid I should be made a slave another time, and I very much desire, in this very vessel, to go to the United States.

Then Guilherme made solemn declaration that what he had said as aforesaid was true.

Attest,



JOHN HENRY KAGEL,
Sworn Public Translator at the
Imperial Court of Brazil and Inter-
preter of the Nation.

For the benefit of those fastidious gentlemen who have made sundry frivolous objections to our candidate for Governor, George William Gordon, Esq., the Committee have been at the pains to procure the following endorsement of his worth and character from the Department at Washington, and we commend it to the earnest attention of our readers, Whigs, as well as Americans:—

To the President of the United States :

The undersigned, Citizens of Boston, respectfully recommend Mr. George William Gordon for the office of Postmaster of this city. Mr. Gordon is a Merchant of integrity; a gentleman of unblemished reputation, and of acknowledged public and private moral worth. Such is the estimation in which he is held by his friends and neighbors, that we have good reason to believe he will have no competitor, who will so generally command the approval of the community.

Boston, Feb. 1841,

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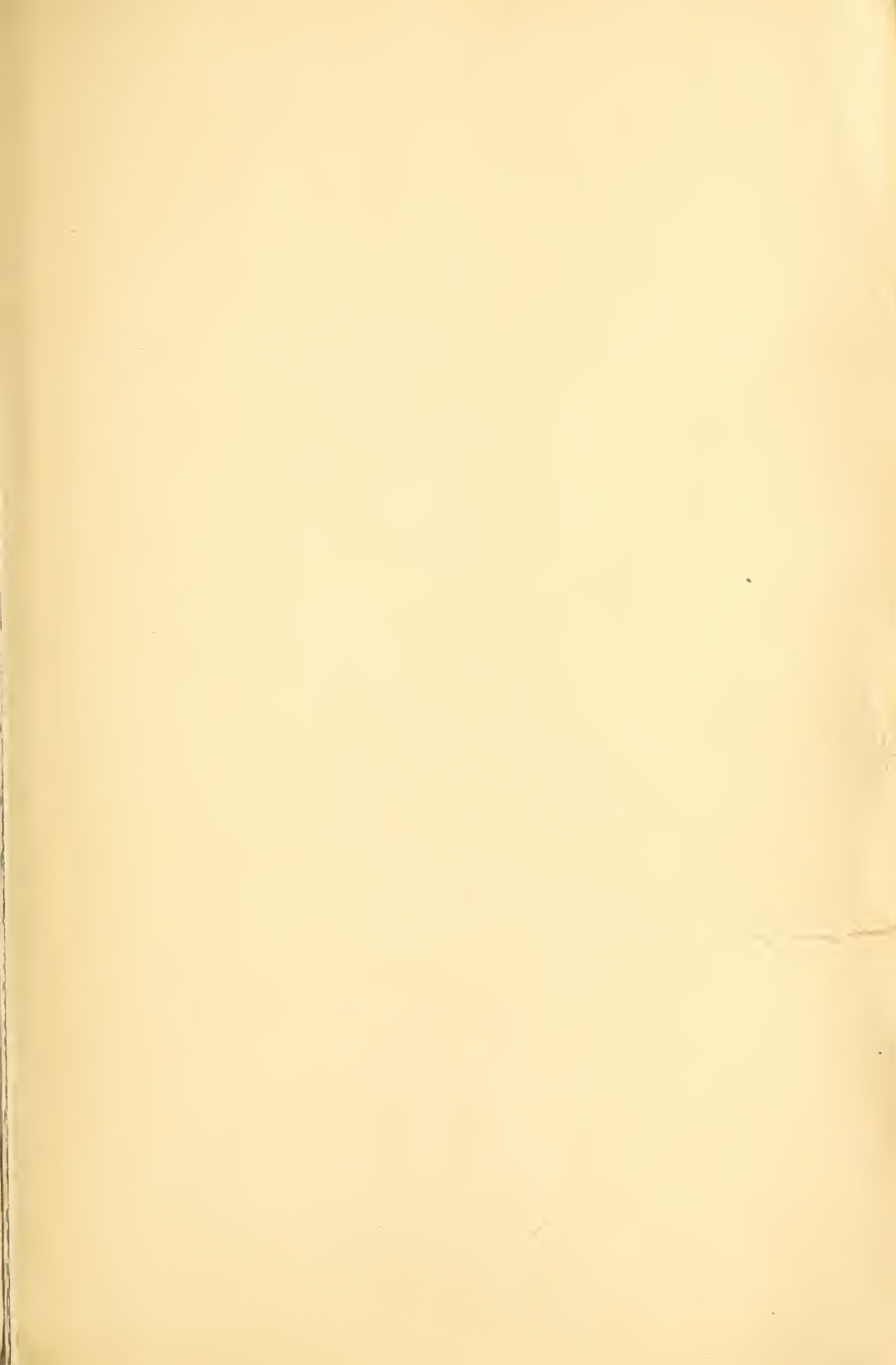
MR. GORDON AND THE BEDINI AFFAIR.

Immediately on the nomination of Mr. Gordon for the office of Governor of Massachusetts, an attack was made upon him by the opposition press, based upon the fact of his having entertained Mons. Bedini at his house, at the time of his visit to Boston. It is due to Mr. Gordon that the public should be made acquainted with the real circumstances of the case.

While Mr. Gordon was Consul of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, a few years since, it chanced that Bedini was his next door neighbor, and, as a matter of course, an acquaintance sprang up between them. M. Bedini visited the house of Mr. Gordon, became acquainted with his family, and extended to him many civilities due to the rank he held as the representative of the greatest nation on the earth.

The consequence of this was, that when Bedini visited this country, he sought out Mr. Gordon and his family, and was by them invited to pass an evening at their house as an act, merely, of reciprocity. This was the sum total of all the hospitalities extended to Bedini by Mr. Gordon during his visit to this city, and no man, who is a gentleman, will say that this act could have been decently withheld. It was, in fact, what any other American would have done, under similar circumstances, and Mr. Gordon would have laid himself open to public censure, had he done otherwise.

We now appeal to every American to rally to the support of Mr. Gordon, as a pure, staunch and consistent American; one who has proved himself such by all the acts of his political life for years past. As for the proof of his attachment to the principles of our party, we invite the careful and candid perusal of his truly patriotic and American letter of acceptance which shows that he is willing to be known and recognized as a supporter and defender of our principles.







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