Proceedings of the General Anti-Slavery Convention, called by the committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and held in London from Tuesday June 13th to Tuesday June 20th, 1843

Johnson J F
ANDY AND SAM'S TRICK.

"The mettlesome creature bounded from the earth with a sudden spring, that threw his master sprawling on the soft, dry turf. Sam made a dive at the reins, but was overturned. Then he and Andy ran and shouted—dogs barked here and there—and Mike, Mose, Mandy, Fanny, and all the smaller specimens on the place, both male and female, raced, clapped hands, whooped and shouted with outrageous officiousness and untiring zeal."

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE GENERAL

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION,

CALLED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,

AND

HELD IN LONDON,

FROM

TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH, 1843.

BY J. F. JOHNSON,
SHORT-HAND WRITER.

LONDON: JOHN SNOW, 33, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
AND TO BE HAD AT THE OFFICE OF THE
BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,
27, NEW BROAD STREET.
DEFINITION OF SLAVERY.

"Enslaving men is reducing them to articles of property—making free agents chattels—converting persons into things. A slave is one held in this condition: in law, 'he owns nothing, and can acquire nothing.' His right to himself is abrogated. If he say my hands, my body, my mind, MYself; they are figures of speech. To use himself for his own good, is a crime. To keep what he earns is stealing. To take his body into his own keeping, is insurrection. In a word, the profit of his master is made the end of his being, and he, a mere means to that end—a mere means to an end into which his interests do not enter, of which they constitute no portion.

"Man, sunk to a thing! the intrinsic element, the principle of slavery;—men, bartered, leased, mortgaged, bequeathed, invoiced, shipped in cargoes, stored as goods, taken on executions, and knocked off at public outcry! Their rights, another's conveniences; their interests, wares on sale; their personal, inalienable ownership, a serviceable article or a plaything; their deathless nature, conscience, social affections, sympathies, hopes,—marketable commodities!"

"This is slavery. The eternal distinction between a person and a thing trampled under foot—the crowning distinction of all others—alike the source, the test, and the measure of their value, the rational immortal principle, consecrated by God to universal homage in a baptism of glory and honour, by the gift of his Son, his Spirit, his word, his presence, providence, and power; his shield, and staff, and sheltering wing; his opening heavens, and angels ministering; and a great voice in heaven proclaiming eternal sanctions, and confirming the word with signs following."—Weld.
PREFACE.

It is stated by the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in their Report of the proceedings consequent on the last Convention, that, "The idea of holding a Convention of the philanthropists of various countries for the purpose of promoting the universal Abolition of Slavery and the Slave-Trade, was a novel and a bold one." A second experiment having been made, the novelty has passed away, and the response with which the call of the Committee met on both occasions, proved that the "bold idea" had only to be clothed in language, in order to call forth the sympathies of the brightest ornaments of humanity.

But however august may be such an assembly,—however sublime the object at which it aims,—however benevolent its designs,—however judicious the plans devised,—however eloquent the addresses delivered,—however servid the zeal enkindled,—and however deep the impressions produced, it is manifest that no lasting benefits would be secured without an accurate and a permanent record of its transactions. To secure such benefits to the cause of humanity, is the motive in committing to the press the following pages.

While the sentiments therein contained demonstrate that the cupidity of the slave-owner, and the relentless cruelties of the slave-dealer remain unabated, they nevertheless prove that time, talents, energy, and property, consecrated to the rescue of the oppressed, have not been disregarded by Him who hath "made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth;" and who has enjoined upon each to "do unto others as he would that they should do unto him."

It will be seen that since the first Convention was held,Great Britain has consummated her act of justice to the African race, inhabiting her West India colonies, by extending the blessings of freedom likewise to the subjects of her Eastern dependencies. In America there has been a growing feeling, that a country, boasting of the popularity of a constitution, the fundamental principles of which are, "That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and yet retaining in bondage nearly three millions of the human family, tends to excite the contempt of the civilized world. The exposure of the iniquities connected with the internal slave-trade, and the detestable means by which it is
sustained, has aroused many of the churches of that country to a
sense of the enormities inseparable from slavery, and induced them
not only to pass, but rigidly to enforce resolutions, excluding from
Christian fellowship all who participate in the crime. Cuba and
Brazil, by whom the African Slave Trade is principally fostered and
perpetuated, are suffering the punishments of a retributive Providence;
and the unrighteous means adopted for amassing wealth are threatening
to involve those Islands in commercial ruin. European Nations,
desirous of emulating Great Britain in power and wealth, are sensible
that her philanthropy places her so immeasurably above them in the
scale of humanity, that they cannot approximate to her greatness until
they have imitated her example and released the bondsman from his
chains. Even Africa herself has sympathised in the general move-
ment; and one of her princes has emancipated his slaves and abolished
the slave market, to quote his own emphatic words, “For the glory of
mankind to distinguish them from the brute creation.”

These animating results are to be ascribed instrumentally; in no
small degree, to the plans evolved by the Convention of 1840, and the
vigorouos and judicious mode in which they have been worked out by
the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, to
whom their execution was confided. Abundant testimony to this fact
will be found to have been borne by the Delegates from America and
other countries. It may safely be affirmed that the advances made
towards the overthrow of slavery, and the establishment of universal
freedom, during the last three years, have been unrivalled in any former
period of the Anti-Slavery enterprise. With equal certainty, it may be
predicated that the ensuing three years will not be less auspicious than
the past in their influence upon the destinies of the still enslaved
portions of mankind.

With regard to the work itself, the utmost pains have been taken to
ensure accuracy; and the commendations bestowed upon the report of
the proceedings of 1840, it is confidently hoped, will be found equally
due to this volume. To those Gentlemen who have revised their
speeches, and to the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-
Slavery Society, by whom the official documents have been supplied,
and under whose sanction the work is published, the warmest thanks
are tendered.

JOHN FLUDE JOHNSON.

2, Charles-square, City-road,
Dec. 16, 1843.
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