

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION

Worcut March 7 1837

Sister

I send you a copy for a
State convention which we wish you
would have circulated and sent
back to me in time to forward to
Hartford by the 20 - the cause is going
ahead stark is now at 175 and rising
notwithstanding the Bureau - I send
you one extra which I wish you to
send into Stonington to some friend
of the cause

Yours truly
G. H. Chapman

R. Whelan

Norwich March 7 1837

Dear Sir:

I send you a call for a State convention which we wish you would have circulated and sent back to me in time to forward to Hartford by the 20 - the cause is going ahead north (?) is now up to 175 and rising notwithstanding Van Buren - I send you one extra which I wish you to send into Stonington to some friend of the cause.

Yours truly

E.N.Mansfield

R.Wheeler, esq.

Verso addressed to Russell Wheeler, North Stonington

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION.

THE undersigned invite all the citizens of Connecticut friendly to the immediate emancipation of the slaves of our country, to send delegates to a Convention to be held at Hartford, on the last Wednesday of April, 1837, in order to form a State Anti-Slavery Society. Individuals in this State, and from other States, holding the principles of Anti-Slavery Societies, are also invited to attend the Convention.

We propose the formation of a State Society, that our influence may be more efficient, and that the great cause in which we are engaged, may be carried on with more energy.

We believe we have a *right*, and that it is our *duty*, to do all that we can, consistently with the Constitution and Laws, to abolish slavery in our land: We entertain no Utopian project of "letting loose" all the slaves: but we propose to have them placed under equal and just laws; to deliver them from the yoke of oppression, and give them liberty.

We believe the system of slavery in our country *ought* to be abolished, because it is fraught with evil to the slave and the slave-holder: and we believe it *can* be done, because it has been done in other countries, not only without injury, but with positive good to all parties: we believe it *ought* to be done because it is *wrong* in itself; contrary to human rights; and contrary to the spirit of the Bible.

We believe that a state of things which forbids the reading of the Bible; which deprives men of property in themselves; which does not recognize the institution of marriage; which is continually rending asunder the most tender ties; and the habitual tendency of which is to degrade men to the condition of brutes, *ought* to be changed immediately.

We know that we have no power, and no right to abrogate the laws of the slave-holding States; and we disclaim it. We do not propose to the slave, to arise, and vindicate his rights: but we propose the only course which will prevent it.

The only means we wish to use are a *moral influence*; a concentration of public opinion; a diffusion of light and knowledge on the subject; which shall convince and persuade our Southern brethren that it is not only *right* for them to free the slaves, but that the best interests of our country *require* it.

