

(Circular.) British and foreign anti-slavery society for the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade throughout the world. 27 New Broad Street, London, June 13, 1842.

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BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

For the Abolition of Slavery and the Slave-trade throughout the World.

27, New Broad Street, London, June 13, 1842.

To the Friends of the Anti-slavery Cause.

At the close of the General Anti-slavery Convention, held in London, on the 12th, and continued by adjournment to the 23rd inclusive, of June, 1840, it was unanimously resolved—

“That it be left to the discretion of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society to decide, after consulting with the friends of the cause of abolition, the time and place of holding the said next convention.”

In conformity with this resolution, and after having maturely weighed the great importance and probable beneficial influence of the step on the universal abolition of slavery and the slave-trade; after having also consulted with, and obtained the full concurrence of, friends of the Anti-slavery cause on both sides of the Atlantic, the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society have fixed the period for calling the Second General Convention of Abolitionists from all parts of the world, on Tuesday, the 13th of June, 1843, in London.

In transmitting this intimation, the Committee feel it to be their duty gratefully to record the success which attended the deliberations and suggestions of the first Convention, and would earnestly press the necessity and importance of a personal attendance of the friends of the cause at the second.

The Committee beg to remind all who may attend, that the principles to be strictly adhered to, as laid down in the proceedings of the first Convention, are—

“That, so long as slavery exists, there is no reasonable prospect of the annihilation of the slave-trade, and of extinguishing the sale and barter of human beings—that the extinction of slavery and the slave-trade will be attained most effectually by the employment of those means which are of a *moral, religious, and pacific character*; and that no measures be resorted to by this Society in the prosecution of these objects but such as are in entire accordance with these principles.”

Where societies exist for the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade, or bodies, though not bearing that name, uniting in these great objects, the Committee trust that an effort will be made to secure, by specific appointment, the attendance of one or more gentlemen, as their representatives; and express provision will be made for the admission of gentlemen uniting in the objects and principles of this Society from foreign countries, where, from any circumstances, such associations do not exist.

Such gentlemen are, therefore, cordially invited to meet the representatives of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and those of kindred institutions in Great Britain and Ireland, on this important occasion.

As the Committee have not yet been able to prepare any document for the purpose of eliciting information in detail on the various topics that will be brought before the Convention, permit them, by way of anticipating it, to request that all the friends to the cause, will, as far as they can, collect facts and arrange information—on the extent and character of slavery and the slave-trade, in British India, and the settlements of this country in the east, in Egypt, the United States, and Texas, in Brazil, in the Spanish, French, Dutch, Danish and Swedish colonies, and in such of the South American republics as may still retain it, and the state of public opinion, and feeling relative thereto—on the results of emancipation in the several British colonies in the West Indies, South America, Africa, and the Indian ocean, in the free states of the American Union, Mexico, and such of the South American Republics as have finally terminated it—on the comparative cost of free and slave-labour—on the state of civilization, morals, and religion, in the countries where slavery exists—and on the nature and extent of the efforts which are now being made in any of these countries for its abolition, and the nature of the difficulties to be encountered and overcome.

The Committee feel great satisfaction in forwarding this invitation. The existence of slavery in any form, or however sanctioned, is abhorrent to the principles of justice, a daring outrage on our common humanity, and in direct violation of the sacred claims of religion; and as such will be reprobated by all who feel interested in the welfare and happiness of the human race, the establishment of freedom throughout the world, and the progress of righteousness and peace among the great family of mankind.

Signed in the name and on behalf of the Committee, William Allen, Chairman.

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