

Memorial of Nathaniel Wheaton et al
against abolitionists
H. of Rep. Feb. 3, 1835 [1836]

The undersigned, Americans, citizens of Providence, would respectfully represent to the Hon. General Assembly of Rhode Island, that there is now in session in this city a convention, composed of delegates from the several Anti-Slavery Societies of this state, and admitted delegates from neighboring states and foreign countries, for the avowed purpose of uniting the several societies in a “Rhode Island State Society,” &, by concert of action, thereby to further the cause and doctrines of immediate abolition:- and against which the undersigned feel it a duty on all fitting occasions to remonstrate.

The events, and certainly not groundless fears of the South, that have called forth the resolutions of the grave legislatures of Virginia, South Carolina & Georgia, which have been officially communicated to your Hon. body, and are now lying on your table, it is deemed, sufficiently evidence the extent of the evils already produced by the ultra measures of immediate-abolitionists. The permitting this Convention to hold their session and promulgate their doctrines, unnoticed and unrebuked, in the present junction of things, in the opinion of, the undersigned, is most directly calculated to increase their excitement and jealousy of the people of the South against the people of the North in general, and this community in particular. Therefore, we the undersigned, deem it our imperative duty respectfully to request—and urge, as a measure we deem vitally important, at the present time, to the peace and harmony of this Country and the

safety of the Union—that this Hon. General Assembly
pays such acts and resolutions of disapprobation of the
popular doctrines of immediate-abolitionists as shall
emphatically express what is believed to be the sense
of a very great majority of the citizens of Rhode Island.

Providence, February 3, 1836.