

vilification. We were now, in the more mature and deliberate form of the indictment, arraigned before our country as the authors of 'treasonable' libels, 'conspirators against the peace, safety, rights and lives of the whole white population of the slaveholding States,' and 'enemies for which no punishment could be too severe,' &c.

The consideration of these extraordinary and alarming denunciations of dangerous offenders was postponed from February until the session of the Assembly in May last, when a large number of memorials, numerously subscribed, were presented by Abolitionists throughout the State, remonstrating against the sanctioning of the said false and defamatory charges by the General Assembly, and likewise against the passage of a penal law, which had been proposed to punish us for free discussion, and for the use of the liberty of the press.

Upon these memorials, the General Assembly and their committee to whom the same was referred, came to the resolution and vote, which were published generally in the newspapers of the State, in the words following, viz.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

At the May Session of the General Assembly, 1836, held at Newport, the following resolutions were passed:

'Resolved, That Messrs. B. Hazard, Dorr, Gavitt, Hazard of Kent, and Blake, be a committee to consider and report upon the memorials of divers citizens of the State, relating to the subject of Free Discussion and the Liberty of the Press: and that said committee be directed to hear such testimony as may be submitted to them by, or in behalf of the petitioners.

'Resolved, That all documents concerning the subject of the Abolition of Slavery, transmitted to the Governor of this State, and all other papers on the same subject now on the files of the House, be referred to said committee.'

It was subsequently voted by the Committee, that a meeting of the same be held at Newport on Wednesday Evening, June 22d, at 7 o'clock, in the Chamber of the House of Representatives; and that PUBLIC NOTICE be given to the memorialists, and all other persons interested in the subject of the aforesaid Resolutions, to appear, if they shall see fit, at the time and place appointed, and be heard in the premises. For the Committee,

THOMAS W. DORR, *Chairman.*

Agreeably to this notice, we repaired with much expense to the place aforesaid, at the time aforesaid, to confront our accusers; but, to our astonishment, we found neither committee nor accusers, and were casually informed that none would be there, and that the whole subject, on the motion of the original mover, had been given the go-by, for the very purpose of suppressing the defence, which we had been thus solemnly invited to present, in answer to the gross and groundless libels so long pending and so often repeated.

We were further informed that the author of all these proceedings, and their leading and most active promoter in all stages of them, in the very act of manoeuvring to preclude us from a hearing, took a final occasion to reiterate and aggravate the atrocious charges against us, thus darting at us his poisoned arrows as he fled from a fair field of encounter.

Aware that the State House, the common property of the people, erected with their money for their common use and convenience, had been the scene of the proceedings of said citizens of Newport, and the Southern slaveholders residing and spending their money among them, we forthwith prepared and presented to the General Assembly a Memorial, fully admitted by members in the subsequent debate, to be respectfully signed, praying that we might be permitted to use a suitable Hall of that House, during a recess of the Assembly, in offering to our fellow-citizens a vindication of our views, motives and measures, so long and so falsely aspersed. A motion was immediately made by Benjamin Hazard, Esq. a member from said Newport, to lay our Memorial on the table, equivalent to a rejection of the prayer thereof, and on this motion, after an animated discussion, the Yeas and Nays were taken as follows:

YEAS.	NAYS.
S. Y. Atwell,	Gorton W. Arnold,
Joseph M. Blake,	James G. Bowen,
James Bowen,	Elisha Brown,
John Brayton,	Nathan A. Brown,
Stephen Browning, Jr.,	William T. Browning,
William Browning,	George Curtis,
Henry Y. Craunston,	Nathaniel Church,
Hazard K. Carpenter,	Thomas W. Dorr,
Daniel Clarke,	Nelson S. Eddy,
Gideon H. Durfee,	James A. Fenner,
George Field,	Stephen Farum,
Pardon T. Greene,	George W. Gavett, 2d,
Robert Gray,	Slocum Godfrey,
Benjamin Hazard,	John L. Hughes,
Thomas T. Hazard,	Zurriel Potter,
Thomas J. Hazard,	Thomas G. Rogers,
Sylvester Hathaway,	Gideon Spencer,
John Horswell,	Jedediah Shaw,
John James,	James F. Simmons,
George G. King,	Joseph L. Tillinghast,
Caleb Kinyon,	Joseph Thomas,
Josiah Kinnicutt,	Jonah Titus,
Henry W. Luther,	Benjamin B. Thurston,
William Manchester,	William Warner,
Jeremiah Mowry,	Silas Weaver,
Andrew K. Potter,	Isaac Wilkinson,
Richard K. Randolph,	Asa Winsor,
Thomas Remington, (S. B.)	Jeremiah Whipple,
Borden Slocum,	(23)
Hale M. Sisson,	
James G. Sisson,	
Clark Sanders,	
Isaac N. Sprague,	
John Wallen, Jr.,	
Stephen Wilmarth,	
B. Wood.	(36)

TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND.

As fellow citizens, deeply interested in common with you all in guarding our common liberties from every encroachment, a number of Abolitionists assembled at Newport, and there organized in meeting, ask leave to lay before you the following facts.

In the month of September last, citizens of the above mentioned place assembled in town-meeting, and adopted sundry false and calumnious charges against the advocates of Human Rights and foes of American Slavery.

Among the great and wanton misrepresentations contained in the proceedings on that occasion, it is sufficient for the present to specify the following, viz.

That the Abolitionists 'not only employ themselves in propagating the most pernicious doctrines, but in practices incompatible with the peace and safety of the community; that their 'humanity' is 'feigned' and 'professions insincere; that they are guilty of 'attempts to render the slaves of the South discontented with their lot, and to influence them with hatred and revenge against their masters, and thus excite insurrection, with all its train of horrors; that they have put forth and distributed in a clandestine manner, and under false pretences, 'numberless inflammatory and seditious articles in their own periodicals, purporting on the front of them to be published by the American Anti-Slavery Society; that they 'instruct colored servants in language of insolence towards their masters; and that these publications, fraught with such matters, are sent by us to free colored men in the slave States, to distributors who travel in the characters of itinerant doctors, pedlars and preachers, and to slaves, but not to their masters.

These passionate and unjust accusations, agreeably to a vote of said meeting, were carried by a Representative of said town to the General Assembly of the State, and formally preferred against us before the highest and formally known to the laws; and there, by the same mind which gave them birth, they were embellished with new epithets and phrases of reproach and

ple, the rights and reputation of no man nor set of men can hereafter be deemed safe.

PELEG CLARKE, *Chairman.*

WM. P. NEWELL, *Secretary.*

Read before the Executive Committee of the Rhode Island State Anti-Slavery Society, and approved.

JOSIAH CADY, *President.*

WILLIAM DROWN, *Rec. Secretary.*

Providence, June 24, 1836.