

To the Hon. General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island:

The undersigned Memorialists, Citizens of said State, respectfully represent: That a large portion of their fellow-citizens are by virtue of different statutes heretofore enacted by the General Assembly of this State, subjected to certain hereditary disabilities, and thereby excluded from obtaining and enjoying valuable rights and privileges, to which all other citizens have access—and that their disabilities are imposed not by reason of any criminal conduct or natural incapacity, but are incurred solely by birth and inheritance.

Your Petitioners have ever regarded it as one of the fundamental principles of our government, that "all men are created equal," and as such are naturally entitled to an equal access to all social and civil privileges, and that all hereditary distinctions of rank, are foreign to the genius of our republican institutions. How carefully we have avoided the establishment of hereditary honors, need not be mentioned; but the establishment of hereditary disabilities and disgrace is certainly as inconsistent with our principles, more unjust in itself, and far more cruel in its operation.

Wherefore your Petitioners, believing that a constant recurrence to first principles is indispensably necessary for the preservation of our political institutions, pray this Hon. Assembly to take those laws recognizing hereditary disability into consideration, and to repeal all laws whereby any of our fellow-citizens are debarred from the common rights of citizens in consequence of their hereditary complexion or descent. And further, your Petitioners most earnestly remonstrate against the continued existence of any laws in this State giving any countenance or protection, direct or indirect, to the Slavery of men within this State, and most respectfully pray that all such laws may be repealed.

128 Signers.

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| Stephen S. Moulton F.H. | W. Robinson | John Clemmons |
| Abraham H. Sillwell F.H. | Walter Hobart | J. J. Gladding |
| Isaac Micox F.H. | James W. Paine F.H. | Chas. J. Torrey |
| Henry J. Bayell | Thos. C. Gladding | E. M. Billings |
| Mr. James Foley | Chas. Greene | B. C. Timmer |
| Gilbert Richmond | John W. Cole | Stephen R. Weedon |
| Stephen Wardwell F.H. | McLay | James P. Ham |
| Christopher Burr F.H. | Henry Watt | Conle Carter |
| Josephus Peabody | Geo. L. Bone | John Minson |
| Josiah Gady | Clement O'Neal | Chertu Pratt |
| William Brown F.H. | Jethro prim | James W. Foster |
| Isa. Fairbanks F.H. | Francis B. Hood | C. D. Horn |
| Tom B. Payton | Levi Salisbury | Asa B. Curran |
| David Andrews F.H. | J. S. Williams | William H. Smith |
| Henry D. Cornett | John C. Gady | J. C. Gladding |
| Benj. Brown | Thomas Norland | Abot Pabodie |
| Alphonso R. Jones | Benj. Gddy | Samuel Athley |
| Hiram Brooks | Thomas Brown Jr. | Edward Parry |
| Thomas C. S. | Joseph D. Bennett | Calb greens |
| | George Burr | Henry C. Potter |
| | | Chas. W. Phillips |

Petition of the Kent County
Young men's anti Slavery
Society relative to the
resolution of Congress

H. R. Jan'y. 16. 1838
to Wm G Brown, Barber
& Randall No. 13-1

E. H. Clark