TO THE ABOLITIONIST ELECTORS OF **OSWEGO COUNTY**

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We could forgive all that has been done gainst immortantity l'Ane small bill law against the image of God's Alas, beeth. In serious above a line, printed or written too base and ignoble for men of honor ren important as we deem right views on these subjects, they dwindle into insig. In these subjects, they dwindle into insig. In these subjects, they dwindle into insig. In the subject is the succession of great names, and subjects in which he advocates the made public, in which he advocates the succession of great names. The subject is the subject of immediate emancipation to and would be Presidents bow down and the subject is the subject of the subject wais along the sky, crying aloud in our We venture to say No. The other genour Governors, and our Senators and our cars as freemen, not to forget the fact themen say that they ware opposed to sla. Congressmen rally, ready to do battle in when we go to the polls, that man is revery, and are abolitionists;" and so does its behalf. But, brethren, the day has and ours, and every man's vote is needed that he "is a most excellent, judicious, pru- teth a nation," and that the kingdom or

political parties of this district to nomi. obnoxious to the abolitionists of this dis. endangered by advocating his claims; if course our friends in Oncida county will nate men for the legislative offices in the tried and true matters not how loud his professions are, to say that Charles P. Kirkland, and Date in the first test of the word of the matters not how loud his professions are, to say that Charles P. Kirkland, and Date in the first test of the matters not how loud his professions are, to say that Charles P. Kirkland, and Date in flatteries, or awed by their threats. friends of the cause of freedom and of the how nobly he boasts of his love for the vid l'. Brewster, and John G. Floyd, are or their sneers, or their representation poor slave. In accordance with this view slave: actions in this case are louder not abolitionists. We feel that no good Do any ask, for whom we shall vote as long since as July we made an appli- than words, and mero assertion is like reason can be assigned why one of these we suggest that we are not so solicitous should not east our suffrage, other than years, and has not dared to own it for county have fought too hard against the God's and may God e for the good of our beloved country.— fear of public sentiment, it clearly settles subtle, wicked, powerful principle of exwith abundant success. ship" was an evil not minor in its consid. His claims to our suffrages are on a par to us personally, but to labor to induce eration to that of dollars and cents. Dol. with those which DAVID P. BREWSTER us to sacrifice our good and holy causelars and cents, against souls ? The Sub. and John G. Flore can prefer. We have to appeal to our fears and then to our Treasury or the United States Bank a. Mr. Kirkland's assertion that he is an ab. Lopes—to cause us to desert our princigainst immortality ? The small bill law olitionist, and that is all. Can one of ples for the sake of expediency—is a sin the human race. The voice of blood all the slaves in these United States.- render willing homage; and at its call, duced to a level with the brute in this every man who travels up and down these come when the political parties should "land of light and law," and that yours streets declare, and most sacredly affirm, remember that it is "righteousness exalto "uncreate the chattel and recreate the dent, expedient abolitionist." But, breth- people that will not follow her monitions,

man." Every effort has been made by ren, if to say and not do-if to have It seems good unto us to write unto us that openness, or nobleness, or maniyou, who with us have borne the burden ness of conduct, could warrant to induce love liberty, and to refuse to worship at

Assembly. Are they not in the same and heat of the grand battle, which for them to nominate candidates for legisla. her shrine, save at midnight-if to be the the last four years we have fought in this tive offices who are abolitionists-but complete slave of public sentiment, and county for the poor, despised, suffering they have utterly disregarded us...(True: act as "the sattellite of its shifting vaga-slave. With us you have toiled, with us the whigs have nominated Henry Frz. ries," constitutes an abolitionist, then are slave. With us you have toiled, with us you have we part afthe thought that in these tends to the other. United States, "the land of the free, and and Edwaxe B. Jussoy, for assembly, hand, if to open once mouth for the dumb the home of the brave," man was made a chattel. Day by day have we labored to impress the mind of the community grounds, and not as a measure of concil. wailings of despair issue from his laps; when the fact that American Slavery was added to the strength of the party have ever if to feel for the bound as though we were a concluded substitution. an enormous an, which would bring consulted or listened to the abolitionists bound with them; if to go from our high down the vengeance of Almighty God, if of this county and district in order to proposition as men, and seat ourselves by his not speedily put away. By our unwearied efforts to give light and abuse have been poured upon us from self deeply into his soul; if to keep an our beloved country—let us all rememand truth free circulation among the com- all quarters, and not withstanding our eye single to the great principle of the munity, the opinions of many men have earnest appeals as members of the parties Declaration of Independence, and see that been changed, and in the estimation of and our strong remonstrances to the con- its blessings fall equally upon the poor the friends of the cause generally, the trary they have nominated men who have ing for "be dumb clearly come when a respectative and a some favorite political scheme may be designed to mislead us with regard to the white scheme may be designed to mislead us with regard to the The Whigs have nominated a man as some favorite political scheme may be designed to mislead us with regard to the

shall perish.

And what shall we say, brethren, et condemnation ! Let the friends of humanity answer-

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Brethren, let us be true to the principle of liberty-let us be true to the poor slave-let us be true to each other and to ber that every effort which the wit or the ingenuity of man can devise, will be made to convince us that these men are our

Anti-Slavery Committee Rooms, Oswego, October 26, 1838.

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In a letter written on October 26, 1838, the Oswego County Anti-Slavery Committee share concerns for an upcoming election.

TO THE

Abolitionist Electors

Of OSWEGO COUNTY

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:

It seems good unto us to write unto you, who with us have borne the burden and heat of the grand battle, which for the last four years we have fought in this county for the poor, despised, suffering slave. With us you have toiled, with us you have wept at the thought that in these United States, "the land of the free, and the home of the brave," man was made a chattel. Day by day have we labored to impress the mind of the community with the fact that American Slavery was an enormous sin, which would bring down the vengeance of Almighty God, if not speedily put away.

By our unwearied efforts to give light and truth free circulation among the community, the opinions of many men have been changed, and in the estimation of the friends of the cause generally, the time had clearly come when a respectful solicitation should be made to the political parties of this district to nominate men for the legislative offices in the gift of the people of this county and this district who were the tried and true friends of the cause of freedom and of the poor slave. In accordance with this view as long since as July we made an application, telling them that as freemen, we felt that our votes must be cast for "Truth and Right and suffering Man" -- and to this end,

guided by duty, we should not cast our suffrage, other than for the good of our beloved country.-- We asked for the nomination of men who felt that the reduction of "Men to chattelship" was an evil not minor in its consideration to that of dollars and cents. Dollars and cents against souls? The Sub-Treasury or the United States Bank against immorality? The small bill law against the image of God! Alas, brethren important as we deem right views on these subjects, they dwindle into insignificance in comparison with the enslavement of two and a half millions of the human race. The voice of blood wails along the sky, crying aloud in our ears as freemen, not to forget the fact when we go to the polls, that man is reduced to a level with the brute in this "land of light and law," and that yours and ours, and every man's vote is needed to "uncreate the chattel and recreate the "man." Every effort has been made by us that openness, or nobleness, or manliness of conduct, could warrant to induce them to nominate candidates for legislative offices who are abolitionists -- but they have utterly disregarded us. -- (True: the whigs have nominated HENRY FITZHUGH, of this village, for Congress, and EDWARD B. JUDSON, for assembly, who will cast their influence with us. -- But they were nominated on party grounds, and not as a measure of conciliation with us. Neither party have ever consulted or listened to the abolitionists of this county and district in order to promote peace and harmony, but vilification and abuse have been poured upon us from all quarters, and notwithstanding our earnest appeals as members of the parties and our strong remonstrances to the contrary they have nominated men who have always gene against us.

The Whigs have nominated a man as obnoxious to the abolitionists of this district as they well could find in Oneida county -- CHARLES P. KIRKLAND. It matters not how loud his professions are, how nobly he boasts of his love for the slave: actions in this case are louder than words, and mere assertion is like "sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." Mr. Kirkland is destitute for love to the slave, PRACTICALLY EXHIBITED. If he has loved the slave and his defenders for years, and has not dared to own it for fear of *public sentiment*, it

clearly settles the question in our mind, that he would bow before its behests at Washington. -- His claims to our suffrages are on a par with those which DAVID P. BREWSTER AND JOHN G. FLOYD can prefer. We have Mr. Kirkland's assertion that he is an abolitionist, and that is all. Can one of his friends show a line, printed or written prior to the fifteenth of September last, by Mr. Kirkland, which has ever been made public, in which he advocates the doctrine of immediate emancipation to all the slaves in these United States. We venture to say No. The other gentlemen say that they "are opposed to slavery, and are abolitionists;" and so does every man who travels up and down these streets declare, and most sacredly affirm, that he "is a most excellent judicious, prudent, expedient abolitionist." But brethren, if to say and not do-- if to have principles and not live them out -- if to love liberty, and to refuse to worship at her shrine, save at midnight -- if to be the complete slave of public sentiment, and act as "the sattellite (sic) of its shifting vagaries," constitutes an abolitionist, then are these men abolitionists. On the other hand, if to open one's mouth for the dumb and plead his cause; if to watch in spirit over his lonely hovel, and hear the wailings of despair issue from his lips; if to feel for the bound as though we were bound with them; if to go from our high position as men, and seat ourselves by his side, and behold the iron as it pushes itself deeply into his soul; if to keep an eye single to the great principle of the Declaration of Independence, and see that its blessings fall equally upon the poor and the rich; if to refuse to stop pleading for the dumb because the propriety of some favorite political scheme may be endangered by advocating his claims; if to do these things constitutes and abolitionist, then, gentlemen, we hesitate not to say that Charles P. Kirkland, and Davide P. Brewster, and John G. Floyd, are not abolitionists. We feel that no good reason can be assigned why one of these men should receive our votes and the others be rejected, so far as this great question is concerned, save such as originates in expediency. The abolitionists of this county have fought too hard against the subtle, wicked, powerful principle of expediency, to ally with it at this late day. We could forgive all that has been done to us personally, but to labor to induce us to sacrifice our good and holy cause -- to appeal to our tears and then to our hopes -- to cause us to desert our principles for the sake of expediency -- is a sin too base and ignoble for men of honor and integrity. For the deed, we admit, there is the sanction of great names. -- Before its mighty mandate, Presidents and would-be Presidents bow down and render willing homage: and at its call, our Governors, and our Senators, and our Congressmen rally, ready to do battle in its behalf. But, brethren, the day has come when the political parties should remember that will not follow her monitions, shall perish.

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Questions:

- 1. Using census data and city directories, who are the people who signed this letter?
- 2. Can you find any documentation about the men who signed this letter, newspapers, speeches, etc?
- 3. Who are the Whigs?
- 4. What was happening in New York State government in 1838?
- 5. What was happening in United States government in 1838?
- 6. What would happen to fugitive slaves in 1838?
- 7. Explain how are the authors appealing to humanity in this letter to get more people to accept abolition of slavery.
- 8. What was the result of the 1838 election in New York state?
- 9. Did these newly elected officials have any impact during their political service?