

Abolitionists of Ontario



Fugitives and Freemen

Voice of the Fugitive, July 2 1851, page 1

In What Country Shall We Settle?

The following letter from our friend Washington is in part a repetition of the arguments which were used by our oppressors in 1776, but which is appropriate for us now.

Ann Arbor, Mich., June 18th, 1851.

To the Editor of the *Voice of the Fugitive*.

As the subject of Canadian Colonization has been somewhat agitated of late, allow me to say, that in my opinion, it is the only way in which the colored population of the States can become truly independent and free from the liability of being taken into perpetual slavery at any moment.

I have but one light by which my feet are guided, and that is, the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past. I wish to know what has been done in the United States for the last forty years for the advantage of the colored people? Sir, what scheme shall we find which has not been already exhausted?

Let us not, I beseech you sir, deceive ourselves any longer. We have done every thing that could be done to avert the storm which is impending over our race. We have petitioned - we

have remonstrated - we have supplicated - we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored the hand of the Almighty to sever the chains and remove the disabilities which have ground us to dust.

What is it Gentlemen want? Is life so dear or peace so sweet, as to be purchased by chains and slavery? forbid it Almighty God; I know not what course others may take; give me liberty or give me death.

Our brethren have been labouring for the last hundred and fifty one years, and I know not any other way but to break a compromise and give them the whole entire South. We have earned it long ago. Who is it that has maintained the South for the last hundred and fifty one years? The white man has done the bossing, and the colored people have done the work.

I have no more to say at present, but I bid you God speed in pleading the case of human Rights in the most enlarged and best sense, as is held by our abolition friends throughout the Northern States! May the Voice of the Fugitive continue to sound till its peeling notes arrest the hand of the rulers of this nation.

Yours truly

G. Washington.

"Self-reliance is the True Road to Independence"

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