Lesson 9, Worksheet 1
Abolitionist Propaganda

Document #1

"The Desperation of a Mother." *The Anti-Slavery Record. Ramson* G. Williams. 1835. Slavery pamphlet collection. PAMP Anti-1. Brooklyn Historical Society.

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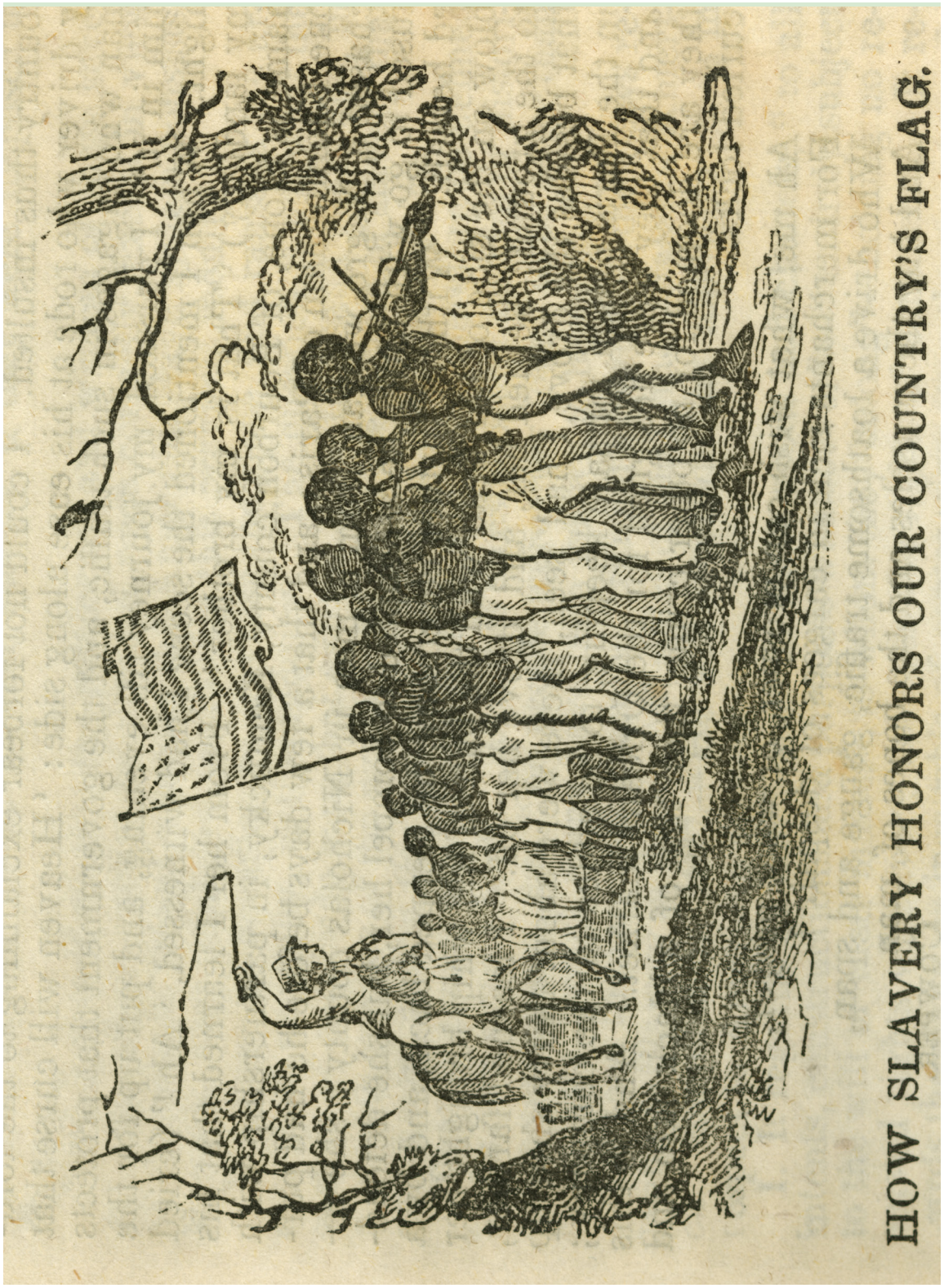
Document #2



"How Slavery Honors our Country's Flag." *The Anti-Slavery Record. Ranson* G. Williams. 1835. Slavery pamphlet collection. PAMP Anti-1. Brooklyn Historical Society.

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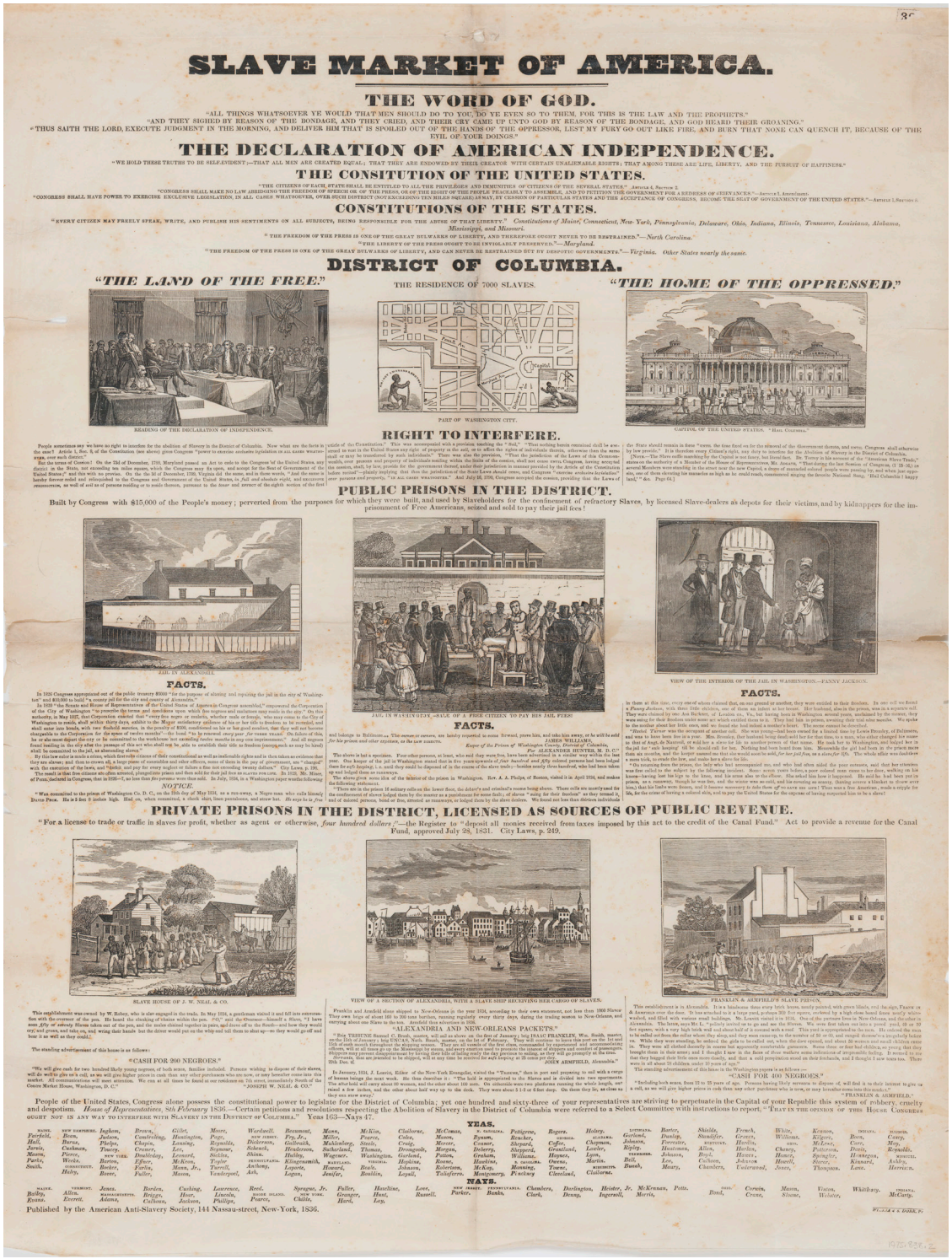
Document #3



SLAVE MARKET OF AMERICA.

THE WORD OF GOD.

"ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE EVEN SO TO THEM, FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS."
"AND THEY SIGHED BY REASON OF THE BONDAGE, AND THEY CRIED, AND THEIR CRY CAME UP UNTO GOD BY REASON OF THE BONDAGE, AND GOD HEARD THEIR GROANING."
"THUS SAITH THE LORD, EXECUTE JUDGMENT IN THE MORNING, AND DELIVER HIM THAT IS SPOILED OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE OPPRESSOR, LEST MY FURY GO OUT LIKE FIRE, AND BURN THAT NONE CAN QUENCH IT, BECAUSE OF THE EVIL OF YOUR DOINGS."

THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT;—THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL; THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS; THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

"THE CITIZENS OF EACH, STATE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ALL THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE SEVERAL STATES."—Article 4, Section 2.
"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH OR OF THE PRESS, OR OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES."—Article 1, Amendment.
"CONGRESS SHALL HAVE POWER TO EXERCISE EXCLUSIVE LEGISLATION, IN ALL CASES WHATSOEVER, OVER SUCH DISTRICT (NOT EXCEEDING TEN MILES SQUARE) AS MAY, BY CESSION OF PARTICULAR STATES AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONGRESS, BECOME THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES."—Article 1, Section 8.

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE STATES.

"EVERY CITIZEN MAY FREELY SPEAK, WRITE, AND PUBLISH HIS SENTIMENTS ON ALL SUBJECTS, BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABUSE OF THAT LIBERTY." *Constitutions of Maine, Connecticut, New-York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri.*
"THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS ONE OF THE GREAT BULWARKS OF LIBERTY, AND THEREFORE OUGHT NEVER TO BE RESTRAINED."—*North Carolina.*
"THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS OUGHT TO BE INVIOLABLY PRESERVED."—*Maryland.*
"THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS ONE OF THE GREAT BULWARKS OF LIBERTY, AND CAN NEVER BE RESTRAINED BUT BY DESPOTIC GOVERNMENTS."—*Virginia. Other States nearly the same.*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

"THE LAND OF THE FREE."

READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

THE RESIDENCE OF 7000 SLAVES.

PART OF WASHINGTON CITY.

"THE HOME OF THE OPPRESSED."

CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES. "HAIL COLUMBIA."

RIGHT TO INTERFERE.

PUBLIC PRISONS IN THE DISTRICT.

Built by Congress with $15,000 of the People's money; perverted from the purposes for which they were built, and used by Slaveholders for the confinement of refractory Slaves, by licensed Slave-dealers as depots for their victims, and by kidnappers for the imprisonment of Free Americans, seized and sold to pay their jail fees!

JAIL IN ALEXANDRIA.

JAIL IN WASHINGTON.—SALE OF A FREE CITIZEN TO PAY HIS JAIL FEES!

VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE JAIL IN WASHINGTON.—FANNY JACKSON.

FACTS.

FACTS.

FACTS.

PRIVATE PRISONS IN THE DISTRICT, LICENSED AS SOURCES OF PUBLIC REVENUE.

"For a license to trade or traffic in slaves for profit, whether as agent or otherwise, *four hundred dollars*."—the Register to "deposit all monies received from taxes imposed by this act to the credit of the Canal Fund." Act to provide a revenue for the Canal Fund, approved July 28, 1831. City Laws, p. 249.

SLAVE HOUSE OF J. W. NEAL & CO.

VIEW OF A SECTION OF ALEXANDRIA, WITH A SLAVE SHIP RECEIVING HER CARGO OF SLAVES.

FRANKLIN & ARMFIELD'S SLAVE PRISON.

"CASH FOR 200 NEGROES."

"CASH FOR 400 NEGROES."

People of the United States, Congress alone possess the constitutional power to legislate for the District of Columbia; yet one hundred and sixty-three of your representatives are striving to perpetuate in the Capital of your Republic this system of robbery, cruelty and despotism. *House of Representatives, 8th February* 1836.—Certain petitions and resolutions respecting the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia were referred to a Select Committee with instructions to report, "THAT IN THE OPINION OF THIS HOUSE CONGRESS OUGHT NOT IN ANY WAY TO INTERFERE WITH SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA." Yeas 163—Nays 47.

YEAS.

NAYS.

Published by the American Anti-Slavery Society, 144 Nassau-street, New-York, 1836.

Slave Market of America. 1836. M1975.838.1. Brooklyn Historical Society.

Abolitionists in Brooklyn and beyond fought hard to abolish slavery in Washington D.C. and created broadsides like the one above to persuade the public. They argued that the continuance of slavery in the nation's capital was an embarrassment in a land of liberty.

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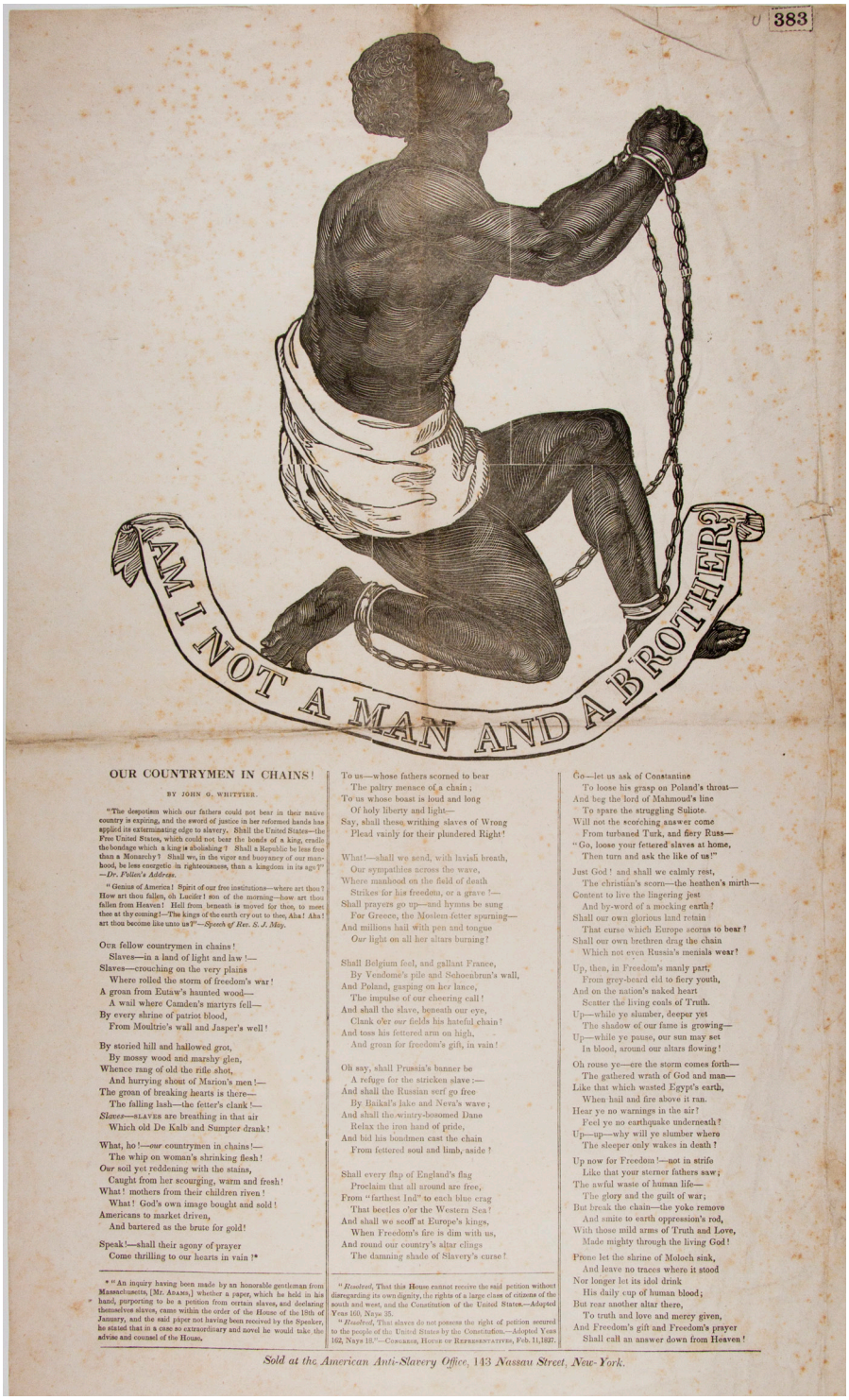

OUR COUNTRYMEN IN CHAINS!

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

"The despotism which our fathers could not bear in their native country is expiring, and the sword of justice in her reformed hands has applied its exterminating edge to slavery. Shall the United States—the Free United States, which could not bear the bonds of a king, cradle the bondage which a king is abolishing? Shall a Republic be less free than a Monarchy? Shall we, in the vigor and buoyancy of our manhood, be less energetic in righteousness, than a kingdom in its age?" —*Dr. Follen's Address.*

"Genius of America! Spirit of our free institutions—where art thou? How art thou fallen, oh Lucifer! son of the morning—how art thou fallen from Heaven! Hell from beneath is moved for thee, to meet thee at thy coming!—The kings of the earth cry out to thee, Aha! Aha! art thou become like unto us?"—*Speech of Rev. S. J. May.*

Our fellow countrymen in chains!
Slaves—in a land of light and law!—
Slaves—crouching on the very plains
Where rolled the storm of freedom's war!
A groan from Eutaw's haunted wood—
A wail where Camden's martyrs fell—
By every shrine of patriot blood,
From Moultrie's wall and Jasper's well!

By storied hill and hallowed grot,
By mossy wood and marshy glen,
Whence rang of old the rifle shot,
And hurrying shout of Marion's men!—
The groan of breaking hearts is there—
The falling lash—the fetter's clank!—
Slaves—SLAVES are breathing in that air
Which old De Kalb and Sumpter drank!

What, ho!—*our* countrymen in chains!—
The whip on woman's shrinking flesh!
Our soil yet reddening with the stains,
Caught from her scourging, warm and fresh!
What! mothers from their children riven!
What! God's own image bought and sold!
Americans to market driven,
And bartered as the brute for gold!

Speak!—shall their agony of prayer
Come thrilling to our hearts in vain!*

To us—whose fathers scorned to bear
The paltry menace of a chain;
To us whose boast is loud and long
Of holy liberty and light—
Say, shall these writhing slaves of Wrong
Plead vainly for their plundered Right!

What!—shall we send, with lavish breath,
Our sympathies across the wave,
Where manhood on the field of death
Strikes for his freedom, or a grave!—
Shall prayers go up—and hymns be sung
For Greece, the Moslem fetter spurning—
And millions hail with pen and tongue
Our light on all her altars burning?

Shall Belgium feel, and gallant France,
By Vendome's pile and Schoenbrun's wall,
And Poland, gasping on her lance,
The impulse of our cheering call!
And shall the slave, beneath our eye,
Clank o'er *our* fields his hateful chain!
And toss his fettered arm on high,
And groan for freedom's gift, in vain!

Oh say, shall Prussia's banner be
A refuge for the stricken slave:—
And shall the Russian serf go free
By Baikal's lake and Neva's wave;
And shall the wintry-bosomed Dane
Relax the iron hand of pride,
And bid his bondmen cast the chain
From fettered soul and limb, aside!

Shall every flap of England's flag
Proclaim that all around are free,
From "farthest Ind" to each blue crag
That beetles o'er the Western Sea!
And shall we scoff at Europe's kings,
When Freedom's fire is dim with us,
And round our country's altar clings
The damning shade of Slavery's curse!

Go—let us ask of Constantine
To loose his grasp on Poland's throat—
And beg the lord of Mahmoud's line
To spare the struggling Suliote.
Will not the scorching answer come
From turbaned Turk, and fiery Russ—
"Go, loose your fettered slaves at home,
Then turn and ask the like of us!"

Just God! and shall we calmly rest,
The christian's scorn—the heathen's mirth—
Content to live the lingering jest
And by-word of a mocking earth!
Shall our own glorious land retain
That curse which Europe scorns to bear!
Shall our own brethren drag the chain
Which not even Russia's menials wear!

Up, then, in Freedom's manly part,
From grey-beard eld to fiery youth,
And on the nation's naked heart
Scatter the living coals of Truth.
Up—while ye slumber, deeper yet
The shadow of our fame is growing—
Up—while ye pause, our sun may set
In blood, around our altars flowing!

Oh rouse ye—ere the storm comes forth—
The gathered wrath of God and man—
Like that which wasted Egypt's earth,
When hail and fire above it ran.
Hear ye no warnings in the air?
Feel ye no earthquake underneath?
Up—up—why will ye slumber where
The sleeper only wakes in death?

Up now for Freedom!—not in strife
Like that your sterner fathers saw;
The awful waste of human life—
The glory and the guilt of war;
But break the chain—the yoke remove
And smite to earth oppression's rod,
With those mild arms of Truth and Love,
Made mighty through the living God!

Prone let the shrine of Moloch sink,
And leave no traces where it stood
Nor longer let its idol drink
His daily cup of human blood;
But rear another altar there,
To truth and love and mercy given,
And Freedom's gift and Freedom's prayer
Shall call an answer down from Heaven!

* "An inquiry having been made by an honorable gentleman from Massachusetts, [Mr. ADAMS,] whether a paper, which he held in his hand, purporting to be a petition from certain slaves, and declaring themselves slaves, came within the order of the House of the 18th of January, and the said paper not having been received by the Speaker, he stated that in a case so extraordinary and novel he would take the advice and counsel of the House.

"*Resolved*, That this House cannot receive the said petition without disregarding its own dignity, the rights of a large class of citizens of the south and west, and the Constitution of the United States.—Adopted Yeas 160, Nays 35.

"*Resolved*, That slaves do not possess the right of petition secured to the people of the United States by the Constitution.—Adopted Yeas 162, Nays 18."—CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 11, 1837.

Sold at the American Anti-Slavery Office, 143 Nassau Street, New-York.

Our Countryman in Chains. 1837. M1975.383.1. Brooklyn Historical Society.

The image of the kneeling slave asking "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?" was a popular symbol in the British abolition movement which gained momentum in the 1790s. By 1807, Britain abolished the slave trade, and by 1833, slavery in the colonies. American abolitionists used the British anti-slavery movement to give credibility and justification to their cause.