

To The Speaker and House of Delegates in Virginia.

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants of various parts of this State.

Respectfully sheweth.

That your petitioners, from a full conviction that Slavery is not only a moral, but a political evil, which in all its forms, in all its degrees, is an outrageous violation, and an odious degradation of human Nature; tending to weaken the bands of Society, discourage trades and manufactures, endanger the peace, and obstruct the prosperity of the country. And commiserating the unhappy situation of a large proportion of people within this State, who by the laws now in force, are held as personal property, and they and their innocent offspring liable to be kept in perpetual bondage and ignorance, subject to the arbitrary will of those who hold them, as well in respect to inhuman treatment, as an unnatural separation from the most near and dear connections in life, without appeal, and without redress. They therefore conceive themselves in duty bound to remind this House, as the proper Guardians of every description of men within the State, of a subject so interesting, and which appears to them in a particular manner, to call the attention and require the interposition of the Legislature.

Your Petitioners regret, that several States within the American Union, where those unalienable Rights of human Nature, to life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, have been so clearly defined, and successfully asserted, should in contradiction thereto, and contrary to the divine command of, "doing to others, as they would they should do unto them", suffer under sanction of law, so large a number of fellow men, to remain in a state of abject Slavery; at a time too, when the burning spirit of liberty seems to be diffusing itself through the world.

Your Petitioners are aware of the objections that ~~may~~ probably would arise to a general, and immediate Emancipation, as well from interested motives, as the unsuitableness of individuals for freedom: They are not insensible that a people long destitute of the means of mental improvement, may in some instances, be sunk below the common standard of human Nature; accustomed to move at the will of a Master, or Overseer, reflection may in some degree be suspended, and Reason and conviction have but little influence on their conduct: They are also sensible of the effect of custom, and the prejudices arising from a habit of looking upon the African race, as an inferior species of mankind, and regarding them only as property. Believing nevertheless, that, "God is no respecter of Persons", that he "hath made of one blood all Nations of men, for to dwell on all the face of the Earth", and that, "his mercy is over all his works": Encouraged also by that gracious declaration of our Saviour, as an excitement to acts of humanity and benevolence, viz: "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," — Your Petitioners therefore in discharge of the duty they owe to the merciful Father of all the families of the Earth, compassion for the sufferers; and a desire to promote the true interest and prosperity of the country: And also to remove as much as may be, the objections which may arise from motives of present Interest, or the unsuitableness of individuals for freedom, and at the same time gradually abolish an evil of great Magnitude: They humbly propose, and pray, that a law may be declared the children of Slaves now born, or to be born after the passing of such Act, to be free, as they

ages; to give their instruction to read &c. and to invest them with suitable privileges, as an encouragement to
 to become useful Citizens; and also to restrain the holders from inhuman treatment of those who may remain
 in Bondage. Or that the House may grant such other relief as in its wisdom may seem meet.

David Meade	John Harvie	James Warrington	Sam ^c Tyler	Alexander Campbell	John Barret
Geo. Wythe	Charles W. Byrd	William DuVal	Anth ^y . Singletor	Henry Beth	Jaac Young husband
Edmund Jones	John Pleasant	John Stagg	Rob ^t . Pleasant ju ^r	James Rinford	Cha ^s . Copland
John Cringan	John Brew ju ^r	Geo. Clifton	John Marshall	Benj ^a . Lewis	Lain J. Johnson
Robert Turnbull	John M. Clurg	John Stewart	William Dabney	William Lawrence	Ro. Gamble
William Richardson	Frederick Angyle	Rob ^t . M. Cartney	Jackson Traylor	Joseph Butler	John Butler
Samuel Couch	J. Darmsdale	J. Pryor	Sam ^c . Parsons	Tho ^s . Nicholson	W ^m . Carter jun ^r
Augustine Davis	J. Heron	W ^m . Fontaine	Alex ^o . Buchanan	Adam Craig	Rob ^t . Langley
Joseph Harding	Tho ^s . Barnett	Alas Sharp	Ebenzar Maul	B. Rawlings	John Harris
Benj ^a . Ruffel	John Lynes	John Andrews	Daniel Butts	Tho ^s . Carnel	James Ferguson
Tho ^s . J. Bates	Arch ^d . Pleasant	Jo. Woodson	David Bullock	Matthew Woodson	Jonah Woodson
Joseph A. Myers	Hugh French	Thomas Wafford	W ^m . McKee	W ^m . Hughes	Thomas Harrison
Reuben Harrison	John Welch	Joseph Miller	Andrew Muirhead	Stephen Ruddle	John Claypool
James Wright	Ferdinand Lair	Frederick Honaker	Nickel Bachar	Nick ^s . Hughes	Paul Hauster
George Wells	Jacob Hauster	W ^m . Bryan	Cornelius Bryan	Morgan Bryan	Abner Wiseman
John Bryan	Israel Weinman	Joseph Lair	William Gray	Michael Waring	Rob ^t . Harrison
Andrew Franklin	Rob ^t . Rutherford	Elliot Rutherford	Arch ^d . Rutherford	William Dunnagan	Jo ^s . Doney
Frederick Sheltman	James Brown	Gordon Rogers	Josiah Shipman ju ^r	J. Shipman sen ^r	James Sprinks
Peter Kelly	John Deans	Enos Dennis	John Stephen	Jacob Myer	Josiah Moore
John Ferguson	Sam ^c . Myce	George Murray	John S. Woodcock	B. Selden	Hugh Henedy
Ja ^s . Moore	George Hix	John Robertson	Reuben Moore	John Vande	Hughak Bondam
Nicholas Walker	Shepherd Collins	Samuel Weeks	John Weeks	John Hickman	Jeph ^a . Vach
George Wymer	Charles Bodkin	Enos Fair	John Hickman	Sam ^c . Jenkins	Michael Humble
Joseph Pennell	James Pennell	Benj ^a . Pennell	Will ^m . Pennell	Ja ^s . Sam ^c . Wright	Reason Binton
Joseph Porter	William Gains	Richard Parks	Byron McGrath	Dan ^s . Fuld	Hercules Hawkins
Benj ^a . Wall	William Wright	John Att	Thomas Binton	John Thornhill	John Hartford
Reuben Fennell	Wm ^m . Hayes	David Robinson	Peter Harrison	Ja ^s . Robertson	Ja ^s . Haughter
James Moore	J. D. Harrieman	Esbridge Hall	Reuben Strother	Tho ^s . Maddox	Dan ^s . Carrol
Carr Walker	Lawrence Mansfield	John Steung	David Richardson ju ^r	Wm ^m . Thomas	Edward Tiffin
John Parrish	John Dickason	George Arnold	Edward Thowge	John West	Reck ^s . Johnson
Wm ^m . Rateliff	Mansfield B. Wood	John Saunders	John Popen	Richard Popen	Wm ^m . Armistead
Wm ^m . Shelburn	Richard Rie	Edmund Koles	Tho ^s . Cowles	John Gadhery	John Hochaday
Lewellin Spruwr	Benj ^a . Brown	Wm ^m . Ellis	John Pierce	Henry Cowles	Wm ^m . Wilkinson
Wm ^m . Weather	Ja ^s . Williams	Edward Wilkinson	James Hill	Walter Hopkins	John Christian
Charles Talley	Tho ^s . Greenhaw	Will ^m . Clayton	Wm ^m . Hables	Francis Sumner	Rob ^t . Drake
Sam ^c . Govr	Wm ^m . Mitchener	Joseph Smith	Francis Hague	Joseph Beale	Stephen Wilson
Parent Hough	Sam ^c . Murray	Joseph Juny	Mathon Juny	Isaac Harris	Benj ^a . Willett
Thomas Moore	Israel Thompson	Wm ^m . Barnes	Thomson Mason	Sam ^c . Haugh	Isaac Moore
Joseph Fisher	George Grigg	Isaac Siddal	John Hough	John Hirst	John Schooley
Antithin	Joseph Talbott	Thomas Smith	John Hollingsworth	Wm ^m . Hough	Benj ^a . Stur
Sanby	Jonas Potts	Samuel Thompson	Wm ^m . Anshy	Joseph Wood	James Herford
Cavan	James Hamblton	Sam ^c . Donchue	Liver Powell	Wm ^m . Hartshorn	John Littlejohn
				Abraham Gilpin	Benj ^a . Kree

Sundry Persons
Forⁿ 16th

1795
to whole on 31st June

John Devenport.
Sam. A. Harris
Tho. Owen
Charles Hewitt.
Jos. Dobby.
Geo. Hite
Lewis Duckwell
Philip Glover
Ambrose Clark
James Hedges
Thomas A. Mc
Presley Boydston
Mrs. Lemmer.
Jo. Franklin
Enoch Martin.
Benj. Welsh -
J. Sture
Wm. Heit
Moses Harlan
James Baley.
Richard Barrett
Rob. Haines
Rob. Evans

John Turner.
Elijah Phelps
Jh. Grantham
John Bond.
James Davidson
James Lawrence.
James Law.
Tho. Holladay
Stephen Harlan
Jessie Harlan.
Benj. Boydston
Ralph Potter.
Basil Croft.
Hezekiah Stephens
Nath. Mulliner
Edw. Thagatt
Evan Rogers.
Rich. Bridgway
Joseph Smith
John Gavigell
Isaac Smith
John Ellis
Samuel Pleasant.

Edward Tiffin.
James Lee
Henry Smith
Geo. Reed.
Trum.
Peter M. Mahan
Wm. Ambrose
Nichel Gray
Is. Bailey
Joshua Hedges.
John Welsh jr.
Lindsay Marshall
Wm. Lemon
John Murphy
George Manical
James Hood.
Jonathan Wright
Edward Beeson
Nathan White jr.
Wm. Lupton.
David Faulkner
John Witt.
James Wood

Thornton Fleming.
Robert Carter
Robert Lowe.
Tho. Taylor
Abner Gopet.
Aaron Dolly
Nicholas Stoun
Fred. Duckwell
John Butler
John Hite
Sam. Welsh
Michael Porter.
Tho. Currey.
Solomon Chaffin
Joseph Gue
Jonas Hodges jr.
Ja. Mindenhall.
Abraham Baanson
Joseph Bond
Isaac Brown.
Sam. Lupton
Robert Pleasants

John Stud.
William Hite
Geo. Bruce
Meneos Ellis
Jos. P. Butler
Jos. Fletcher
John Tassar
Charles Robinson
Wm. Mercer
Joseph Hedges
Joseph Johnson.
Rich. Swift
John Franklin.
Jacob Fletcher
Solomon Chaffin
Abel Walker.
Nath. White sen.
David Ross.
Nathan Haines
Stephen M. Bride
John M. Pherson
James Lowmes

Anthony Hall.
Joseph Hite
James Wall
Sam. Smith
James Crumley.
John Knott.
Joseph Duckwell
John Barlow
John Dougherty
John Vinnankeller
Tho. Boydston
Joseph Stone
Jo. Franklin jr.
Tho. Purkin
Christian Bloom
John Anttrim
Wm. M. Pherson
Dan. Brown.
Sam. Finch
Lewis Walker.
Joseph Lee jr.

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