The meeting of fugitives from Slavery and their friends held in Cazenovia, New York, 21st and 22d day of August, 1850, commenced by appointing Samuel J. May, as temporary Chairman, and Samuel Thomas, Jr., as temporary Secretary.

Samuel Wells, J. W. Loguen, Charles B. Ray were appointed a Committee to nominate offices for the Convention.

Gerrit Smith, Mary Springstead, James Baker, Fordyce Rice, Caroline Brown were appointed the Business Committee.

The following resolution, offered by James C. Jackson, was adopted.

"Whereas William L. Chaplin is, contrary to the laws of God and man, suffering imprisonment, and whereas the litigation, and various measures, which, we trust will result in his liberation, and in the establishment of principles, will require the expenditure of large sums of money; therefore, that this Convention proceed to appoint a Committee, to be called "The Chaplin Committee," whose business it shall be to adopt such measures as they shall judge fit to effect his liberation, and promote the principles of liberty and justice; and that, for the purpose of applying themselves with means for accomplishing these objects, we advise them to raise, within thirty days, twenty thousand dollars."

The following persons were appointed to nominate a "Chaplin Committee,

Joseph C. Hathaway, William R. Smith, Eleazer Seymour, James C. Jackson. Mrs. F. Rice, Phebe Hathaway, and Louisa Burnett were appointed to nominate a committee of females, whose duty it should be to obtain by contributions of ten cents each sufficient means to purchase a silver pitcher and a pair of silver goblets and a gold medal with appropriate inscriptions therein—to obtain the same, and to present them to William L. Chaplin, as a testimonial of the high regard of the friends of the slave for his distinguished services in the cause of humanity. (The names of the persons composing this Committee will appear in our next.)

The following persons, being nominated for the officers of the Convention, were appointed.

Frederick Douglass, President.
Joseph C. Hathaway, Francis Hawley, Chas. B. Ray, Chas. A. Wheaton, Vice Presidents.
Charles D. Miller, and Anne V. Adams, Secretaries.

Letters from S. E. Ward, Wm. Goodell, and Wm. H. Burleigh were read.

On motion of Mr. Loguen, a Committee were appointed to report an address or addresses from the fugitive slaves. This Committee consisted of J. W. Loguen, James Baker and E. L. Platt.

Joseph C. Hathaway gave a deeply interesting account of his and Miss Theodosia Gilbert's late interview with Mr. Chaplin. Mr. Chaplin was not armed, and had no suspicion, that the persons in his carriage were armed.
A Letter to the American Slaves from those who have fled from American Slavery

Afflicted and Beloved Brothers:—The meeting which sends you this letter, is a meeting of runaway slaves. We thought it well, that they, who had once suffered, as you still suffer, that they, who had once drunk of that bitter cup, should tell you the bitter capers, which you are now undergoing, and which you should come together for the purpose of making a communication to you.

The chief object of this meeting is, to tell you what circumstances we find you in, and how you should act, in view of it. It will slant off for itself. Heaven grant, that, soon, not to know, however the knowledge of it may affect you, and however much to the grief of any of us, will be found by your side, with the priests and politicians, the influence of most of whom is all for slavery. Some of us take part in the election of civil rulers. Indeed, we have no more desire to shoot an American slaveholder, than would a white American, for the sake of delivering his white brother, hesitate to shoot an Algerine slaveholder. The State motto of Virginia: “Death to tyrants!”—the blacks are in the hands of the black man's, as the white man's, for leather, and of regaling their cannibalism on his flesh, even such enormities seemed to be possible. But owing to the happy change in our circumstances, we are not as ignorant and credulous now, as we once were; and if we did not know it before, we know it now, that the slaveholders are as great liars, as they are great tyrants.

We urge upon you, our European brethren, to take part in the anti-abolition party, and to acknowledge the obligation of law, which they themselves interpret to be for slavery. Some of us take part in the election of civil rulers. Indeed, for the priests and politicians, the influence of most of whom is against us, our condition would be every way eligible. The priests and churches of the North, are almost all of them, members of the American Anti-Slavery Society, or of the Liberty Party. There are other abolitionists; but most of them are grossly inconsistent, and hence, not entirely trustworthy abolitionists. So inconsistent are they, as to vote for slavery, some of us are for the American Anti-Slavery Society, and some for the Liberty Party. Instead of one with, Christianity.

It deserves not to be trusted to the anti-sectarian name, in every slave-shop, and to the anti-sectarian name, in every slave-shop. The credit of this repudiation is due, in a great measure, to the American Anti-Slavery Society, to the Liberty Party, and to the American revolutionists, who set up as the standard of society, and whose followers are to be trusted to the extent of one with, Christianity. It deserves not to be trusted to the anti-sectarian name, in every slave-shop. The credit of this repudiation is due, in a great measure, to the American Anti-Slavery Society, to the Liberty Party, and to the American revolutionists, who set up as the standard of society, and whose followers are to be trusted to the extent of one with, Christianity.
except from all obligations to respect them. For you are prisoners of war, in an enemy’s country—of a war, too, that is unsuited for its injustice, cruelty, meanness—and therefore, by all the rules of war, you have the right to liberty to plunder, hurt, and kill, as you may have occasion to do, to promote your escape.

We regret to be obliged to say to you, that it is not everyone of the Free States, which within offers you an asylum. Even where the law is in favor of your escape, it is not always easy for you to perpetuate your emancipation. All colored slaves have been arrested in some of the Free States, and repatriated into slavery. But, make your way to New York or New England, and you will be safe. It is true, that even in New York and New England by your side, to help you, and make you known to the public, and give you the help of our rapidly swelling members. The law of God himself. Vote for no man for civil office, who makes your complexion a ground for exclusion.

But we will remain by your side, that you may be kept in ignorance. But we will remain by your side, that you may be kept in ignorance. We cannot deny their competency to fill the highest and best class of office, one brotherhood of man. A regenerated public sentiment has, forever, removed these States beyond the limits of the slaveholders’ hunting ground. But we can assure you, that as to the State of New York and the New England States, such efforts must prove fruitless. Against all such devils—against all kidnappers—the colored people of these States, will not stand against them. A regenerated public sentiment has, forever, removed these States beyond the limits of the slaveholders’ hunting ground. But we can assure you, that as to the State of New York and the New England States, such efforts must prove fruitless.

2d. Join no political party, which refuses to treat slaveholding as a crime. The fugitive slave acts, and which refuses to treat slaveholding as a crime, are doing all they can, and it is much to afford you a safe and a cheap passage from slavery to liberty. They do this however, not only at great expense of property, but at great peril of liberty and life. Thousand of you have heard, or this, that, within the last fortnight, the precious name of William L. Chaplin has been added to the list of those, who, in helping you gain your liberty, have lost their own. Here is a man, whose wisdom, cultivation, moral worth, bring him into the highest and best class of man; and, yet, he becomes a willing martyr for the poor, despised, forgotten slave’s sake. Your remembrance of one such fact is enough to shed light and hope upon your darkest and most desponding moments.

2. Join no political party, which refuses to treat slaveholding as a crime. Those are doing all they can, and it is much to afford you a safe and a cheap passage from slavery to liberty. They do this however, not only at great expense of property, but at great peril of liberty and life. Thousand of you have heard, or this, that, within the last fortnight, the precious name of William L. Chaplin has been added to the list of those, who, in helping you gain your liberty, have lost their own. Here is a man, whose wisdom, cultivation, moral worth, bring him into the highest and best class of man; and, yet, he becomes a willing martyr for the poor, despised, forgotten slave’s sake. Your remembrance of one such fact is enough to shed light and hope upon your darkest and most desponding moments.

Be prayerful—pray in every instance, as the fugitive slaves, who are assembled in Casenovia, N. Y. come to you with a very earnest petition. The Liberty Party, the Vigilance Committee of New York, 21 individuals, and companies of individuals in various parts of the country, are doing all they can, and it is much to afford you a safe and a cheap passage from slavery to liberty. They do this however, not only at great expense of property, but at great peril of liberty and life. Thousand of you have heard, or this, that, within the last fortnight, the precious name of William L. Chaplin has been added to the list of those, who, in helping you gain your liberty, have lost their own. Here is a man, whose wisdom, cultivation, moral worth, bring him into the highest and best class of man; and, yet, he becomes a willing martyr for the poor, despised, forgotten slave’s sake. Your remembrance of one such fact is enough to shed light and hope upon your darkest and most desponding moments.

2. Join no political party, which refuses to treat slaveholding as a crime. Those are doing all they can, and it is much to afford you a safe and a cheap passage from slavery to liberty. They do this however, not only at great expense of property, but at great peril of liberty and life. Thousand of you have heard, or this, that, within the last fortnight, the precious name of William L. Chaplin has been added to the list of those, who, in helping you gain your liberty, have lost their own. Here is a man, whose wisdom, cultivation, moral worth, bring him into the highest and best class of man; and, yet, he becomes a willing martyr for the poor, despised, forgotten slave’s sake. Your remembrance of one such fact is enough to shed light and hope upon your darkest and most desponding moments.

Be prayerful—pray in every instance, as the fugitive slaves, who are assembled in Casenovia, N. Y. come to you with a very earnest petition. The Liberty Party, the Vigilance Committee of New York, 21 individuals, and companies of individuals in various parts of the country, are doing all they can, and it is much to afford you a safe and a cheap passage from slavery to liberty. They do this however, not only at great expense of property, but at great peril of liberty and life. Thousand of you have heard, or this, that, within the last fortnight, the precious name of William L. Chaplin has been added to the list of those, who, in helping you gain your liberty, have lost their own. Here is a man, whose wisdom, cultivation, moral worth, bring him into the highest and best class of man; and, yet, he becomes a willing martyr for the poor, despised, forgotten slave’s sake. Your remembrance of one such fact is enough to shed light and hope upon your darkest and most desponding moments.
for President of the United States—say, where, in the whole length and breadth of this Nation, can a man be found more competent than William L. Chaplin to administer its Government? He is emphatically a scholar, a statesman, a philanthropist, a gentleman, and a Christian. He was the first to whom the question was put in the community, in which he now resides, whether he would accept the nomination for office, "I WAS FATHER TO THE POOR."—Beautiful, precious, indispensable qualification is this! and who has it more abundantly than William L. Chaplin.

But, we confess it is not because of Mr. Chaplin's ability to fill and adorn the office of President of the United States, that we ask you to nominate him. It is because he is a man, a freeman, and a prisoner for such a cause! It is true, that we would not, for this reason, ask for his nomination, were it not also, that he is fit for it. But, being fit for it, and the fact of his imprisonment, good men may consider, among all who have such fitness, should be singled out for the nomination.

In our esteem, however it may be in the esteem of others, who have not, like ourselves, had personal experience of the voices of the greatest of all the questions of human rights, which agitate this age, is Slavery. Now, to the just and merciful solution of this question, Mr. Chaplin has devoted himself, with an ability, a real, and a self-denial, which none of his fellow laborers and fellow sufferers have surpassed. And, whilst, in return for all this Heaven will reward, and does now reward, him with its love, men have deprived him of his personal liberty. Of all the men in this land, who are fit for President, he is the only one, who, for devotion's sake, is due to the cause of the slave, in suffering this severe deprivation. And is not his imprisonment, taking all the circumstances into account, a very clear and certain indication, that he is the man for it? And would not your nomination of him, besides being a merited tribute to his excellent worth, and a soothing and beautiful expression of your sympathy with him, endow your agitation in his behalf, being in your thus openly, and without shame identifying yourselves with his self-sacrificing but [illegible] principles, are most honored evidence of your magnanimity—would it not, also, be an unanswerable and effective acknowledgement, of the transcendent importance of the anti-slavery cause?

Distinguished, however, as is Mr. Chaplin [illegible], we could not have urged him in nomination for President of the United States, old he not, in order also to render more a regret and honor the principle of Liberty party. Your party is devoted to the cause of the landless, as well as to the cause of the enslaved. So is his. Free trade, [illegible] position to National Parks, and National debts and secret societies, are among your principles. So are they among his, also. By why need we go into these particulars? Mr. Chaplin is himself a member of the Liberty Party, and, if this movement should reach to Governor of the State of New York. Happy party in being thus honored with such a candidate! His new honors—the honors of his prison—are not confined to his own brow. The Party which put him in his prison has given its name in them and thus is it, the Party, that, in your thus openly, and without shame identifying yourselves with his self-sacrificing but [illegible] principles, are most honored evidence of your magnanimity—would it not, also, be an unanswerable and effective acknowledgement, of the transcendent importance of the anti-slavery cause?

Resolved, however, as is Mr. Chaplin [illegible], we could not have urged him in nomination for President of the United States, old he not, in order also to render more a regret and honor the principle of Liberty party. Your party is devoted to the cause of the landless, as well as to the cause of the enslaved. So is his. Free trade, [illegible] position to National Parks, and National debts and secret societies, are among your principles. So are they among his, also. By why need we go into these particulars? Mr. Chaplin is himself a member of the Liberty Party, and, if this movement should reach to Governor of the State of New York. Happy party in being thus honored with such a candidate! His new honors—the honors of his prison—are not confined to his own brow. The Party which put him in his prison has given its name in them and thus is it, the Party, that, in your thus openly, and without shame identifying yourselves with his self-sacrificing but [illegible] principles, are most honored evidence of your magnanimity—would it not, also, be an unanswerable and effective acknowledgement, of the transcendent importance of the anti-slavery cause?

Resolved, however, as is Mr. Chaplin [illegible], we could not have urged him in nomination for President of the United States, old he not, in order also to render more a regret and honor the principle of Liberty party. Your party is devoted to the cause of the landless, as well as to the cause of the enslaved. So is his. Free trade, [illegible] position to National Parks, and National debts and secret societies, are among your principles. So are they among his, also. By why need we go into these particulars? Mr. Chaplin is himself a member of the Liberty Party, and, if this movement should reach to Governor of the State of New York. Happy party in being thus honored with such a candidate! His new honors—the honors of his prison—are not confined to his own brow. The Party which put him in his prison has given its name in them and thus is it, the Party, that, in your thus openly, and without shame identifying yourselves with his self-sacrificing but [illegible] principles, are most honored evidence of your magnanimity—would it not, also, be an unanswerable and effective acknowledgement, of the transcendent importance of the anti-slavery cause?

Resolved, however, as is Mr. Chaplin [illegible], we could not have urged him in nomination for President of the United States, old he not, in order also to render more a regret and honor the principle of Liberty party. Your party is devoted to the cause of the landless, as well as to the cause of the enslaved. So is his. Free trade, [illegible] position to National Parks, and National debts and secret societies, are among your principles. So are they among his, also. By why need we go into these particulars? Mr. Chaplin is himself a member of the Liberty Party, and, if this movement should reach to Governor of the State of New York. Happy party in being thus honored with such a candidate! His new honors—the honors of his prison—are not confined to his own brow. The Party which put him in his prison has given its name in them and thus is it, the Party, that, in your thus openly, and without shame identifying yourselves with his self-sacrificing but [illegible] principles, are most honored evidence of your magnanimity—would it not, also, be an unanswerable and effective acknowledgement, of the transcendent importance of the anti-slavery cause?

Resolved, however, as is Mr. Chaplin [illegible], we could not have urged him in nomination for President of the United States, old he not, in order also to render more a regret and honor the principle of Liberty party. Your party is devoted to the cause of the landless, as well as to the cause of the enslaved. So is his. Free trade, [illegible] position to National Parks, and National debts and secret societies, are among your principles. So are they among his, also. By why need we go into these particulars? Mr. Chaplin is himself a member of the Liberty Party, and, if this movement should reach to Governor of the State of New York. Happy party in being thus honored with such a candidate! His new honors—the honors of his prison—are not confined to his own brow. The Party which put him in his prison has given its name in them and thus is it, the Party, that, in your thus openly, and without shame identifying yourselves with his self-sacrificing but [illegible] principles, are most honored evidence of your magnanimity—would it not, also, be an unanswerable and effective acknowledgement, of the transcendent importance of the anti-slavery cause?

Resolved, however, as is Mr. Chaplin [illegible], we could not have urged him in nomination for President of the United States, old he not, in order also to render more a regret and honor the principle of Liberty party. Your party is devoted to the cause of the landless, as well as to the cause of the enslaved. So is his. Free trade, [illegible] position to National Parks, and National debts and secret societies, are among your principles. So are they among his, also. By why need we go into these particulars? Mr. Chaplin is himself a member of the Liberty Party, and, if this movement should reach to Governor of the State of New York. Happy party in being thus honored with such a candidate! His new honors—the honors of his prison—are not confined to his own brow. The Party which put him in his prison has given its name in them and thus is it, the Party, that, in your thus openly, and without shame identifying yourselves with his self-sacrificing but [illegible] principles, are most honored evidence of your magnanimity—would it not, also, be an unanswerable and effective acknowledgement, of the transcendent importance of the anti-slavery cause?
it is too plain to require argument that whoever, whether slaves or freemen, be the fugitives from service and labor, referred to in the Constitution, they shall not be delivered from one State into another State.\(^2\)

10th. Resolved, That, such as the Free Soil Party\(^2\) has said of its purpose "to divorce the Federal Government from the support of Slavery," it is now, and has long been, abundantly demonstrated, that this purpose cannot be accomplished without either disbanding that Government or wielding it for the overthrow of Slavery in every part of the Nation.

11th. Resolved, That he dismounts both Republicanism and Christianity who acknowledge any law of Slavery, or who acknowledges that such an abominable as Slavery is capable of legalisation.

12th. Resolved, That slaveholders are the cruellest and meanest of all men, so that, instead of being fit to be civil rulers, an Government is just, which does not make them the subjects of its severest punishment.

13th. Resolved, That, in the arrest and imprisonment of William L. Chaplin, for no offence but that of loving his neighbor as himself, and of practically maintaining the confessedly self-evident and inalienable right of man to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," we see not only that the Federal District, which was placed by the Constitution under the "exclusive" control of Congress, in completely the hands of Congress, in completely the hands of Congress, but also, that the American people shall, in the future, have another illustration of the truth, that the struggle in this country between Slavery and Freedom involves the liberties of the free white citizens, as well as of the colored slave--that it is, in short, a life and death struggle, which must result in liberty to all, or in the liability of Slavery to all.

14th. Resolved, That, instead of going down into a Free Soil party, or any other sham abolition party, or of identifying ourselves with any scheme whatever of "Anti-Slavery made easy," abolitionists are summoned by the thunders of the Anti-Slavery battle, and the multiplying trials of their Anti-Slavery integrity--by the voice of Thomas L. Weld, and Adin Ballou, and of Chaplin, from his prison--to put forth more and more emphatic and self-denying evidences of the sincerity and depth of their sense of the inmeasurable and horrorousness of Slavery.

15th. Resolved, That among the evidences of our devotion to the cause of the slave should be,

I. No connection with, and no worshipping with, a church which has a negro-pew, or which is associated, directly or indirectly, closely or remotely, with churches, North or South, that have it.

2d. No voting for any man, for any civil office, who makes complexion a bar to either social or political equality; or who will admit that there is the least obligation to obey, or honor, any form or pretense of law, or any judicial decision, which is on the side of Slavery.

3d. No consuming, unless in cases of absolute necessity, any of the products of slave labor--any of the cotton, rice, sugar, which are wet with the tears and sweat, and red with the blood, and heavy with the groans, of the slave waver and degrade victims of this degradation.

16th. Resolved, That, in the names of God and Humanity, Religion and the Constitution, we demand the liberation, not only of Drayton and Sayre, and Harris and Chaplin, but of all the slaves of the District of Columbia; and that, in these names do we, also, demand that the American people shall regard the refusal to liberate these victims of the slave power as just cause for Revolution.

17th. Resolved, That we call on every man in the Free States, who shall go to the polls, at the approaching Elections, to go with this motto burning in his heart and bursting from his lips: "CHAPLIN'S RELEASE, OR CIVIL REVOLUTION."

The North Star, September 5, 1850; National Anti-Slavery Standard, September 5, 1850.

REFERENCE NOTES

1. Samuel Joseph May (1797-1871), noted antislavery figure of Syracuse, New York, was also famous for favoring women's rights and educational reform.

2. Gerrit Smith (1797-1874) was a well-known New York philanthropist, reformer and political abolitionist. His home at Peterboro, in upstate New York, became a mecca for men and women seeking financial support for their various reform causes. Perhaps his greatest benefaction was the establishment of the "Anti-Slavery Standard." He also published and edited the "American Anti-Slavery Society and the New England Anti-Slavery Conventions." He was a close friend of William Lloyd Garrison.

3. In August 1850, William L. Chaplin and others were arrested by Washington police, on Maryland soil, for taking part in the escape of two slaves, the property of Robert Toombs and Alexander H. Stephens. Chaplin was kept in jail at Rockville, Maryland, until December. He was subsequently held in the District of Columbia on a charge of assault with intent to kill, and in Maryland he was indicted on seven counts: three for assault with intent to kill, one for aiding slaves to escape, and three for aiding slaves. Bail was fixed at $6,000 in the District and $19,000 in Maryland.

4. With the aid of Gerrit Smith, Lewis Toppan, W. H. Seward, and others, Chaplin's bail was secured, and he was released from jail. Smith served as a member of Congress from 1853 to 1855. He helped, among others, to secure the establishment of the "American Anti-Slavery Society and the New England Anti-Slavery Conventions." He was a close friend of William Lloyd Garrison.

5. Joseph Comstock Hathaway (1810-1873) was an influential Quaker lawyer and abolitionist of Waterloo, New York.

6. Samuel Ringgold Ward (1817-c. 1866) was brought to New York at the age of three by his parents, who escaped from slavery in Maryland. Ward received an education, taught school, became a preacher and a leading anti-slavery agent.

7. James Caleb Jackson (1811-1899), a noted abolitionist and physician, ran a water-cure establishment at Glen Haven, New York. Along with Nathaniel P. Rogers, he edited the National Anti-Slavery Standard for a year beginning in 1840. In 1847, he joined with William Goodell in the formation of the Liberty Party, a fourth-party movement growing out of the abolitionist movement.

8. Gerrit Jackson (1798-1861), a prominent abolitionist, was a close friend and co-worker of William Lloyd Garrison throughout his career. In the District of Columbia on a charge of assault with intent to kill, and in Maryland he was indicted on seven counts: three for assault with intent to kill, one for aiding slaves to escape, and three for aiding slaves. Bail was fixed at $6,000 in the District and $19,000 in Maryland.

9. In 1847, he joined with William Goodell in the formation of the Liberty Party, a fourth-party movement growing out of the abolitionist movement.

10. In 1847, he joined with William Goodell in the formation of the Liberty Party, a fourth-party movement growing out of the abolitionist movement.

11. Edward W. Davis (1811-1887), a noted Pennsylvania abolitionist, was also an active participant in the non-resistance movement, for example, he paid for the publication of Adin Ballou's non-resistance pamphlet, "Christian Non-Resistance."
Davis married Maria, the daughter of Lucretia Mott, the famous women's rights advocate. Despite his Quaker antecedents and non-resistance proclivities, David was on an officer in the Union Army during the Civil War.

12. Charles C. Foote ran as the vice-presidential nominee of the Liberty Party in 1852.

13. George W. Julian (1817-1899), anti-slavery Whig from Indiana, became a leader of the radical wing of the Republican Party. Julian was a member of Congress in 1849-1859 and 1861-1871.

14. Daniel Webster (1812-1852), the noted American statesman and senator from Massachusetts, came out in support of the Compromise measures of 1850, which provided, in part, for the return of fugitive slaves. In his famous speech of March 7, 1850, he admitted that Northerners had not lived up to their obligations to return fugitive slaves and pledged his efforts to see that they did. Webster was highly praised by conservatives throughout the North, but was roundly condemned in anti-slavery circles.

15. Moses Stuart (1780-1852), a leading clergyman, scholar, and bibliographer in New England, upheld the constitutionalism of the Fugitive Slave Law.

16. Judge McLean was an associate justice of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. A man of determined bias and strong pro-slavery tendencies, he handed down several decisions upholding the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 and ordering the return of fugitives to slavery.

17. On December 28, 1848, the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour, commonly called the American Colonization Society, was organized. Its declared purpose was "to promote and execute a plan for colonizing with their consent the free people of color, residing in our country, in Africa, or such other place as Congress shall deem most expedient."

While the Society failed to win the financial backing of the federal government, it carried out its program, it did gain the support of many influential groups which sympathized with its objectives. Overall, however, the new Society was dominated by Southerners, for the president and eight of the thirteen vice-presidents were from the South.

From its inception, however, the Society angered the action of most free blacks in the United States. They were convinced that the colonization scheme was but a means of ridding the nation of the 'free Negro' in order to make slavery more secure. Then, too, came to be very much more secure. Then, too, came to be very much more secure.

18. The New York Vigilance Committee was founded in November 1835 by a group of white and Negro "Friends of Human Rights" to assist any colored person who might be arrested on pretense of being an escaped slave. But much of its work was to feed and clothe runaways and send them on to points of safety outside of New York with money and letters of introduction to friends. David Ruggles, who at one time had been a traveling agent for the Emancipator, a New York abolitionist newspaper, became secretary of the Committee. For a study of Ruggles, see Dorothy B. Porter, "David B. Ruggles, An Apostle for Human Freedom," Journal of Negro History, XXVIII (Jan. 1943), 23-55. Ruggles estimated that during the five years he was secretary of the Vigilance Committee, he aided over six-hundred slaves to escape.

19. Francis Julius LeMoyne (1798-1879) was a noted physician and abolitionist and the first prominent advocate of the process of emigration in the United States. His father, John Julius LeMoyne de Villiers, came to America with French colonists and settled at Galilipolis, Ohio. Later, he moved to Washington, Pennsylvania, where Francis was born. LeMoyne was a candidate of the Liberty Party for the vice-presidency of the United States in 1840, and in 1841, 1844, and 1847 was the candidate of the abolitionists for the governorship of Pennsylvania. His house at Washington, Pennsylvania, became one of the leading stations on the "Underground Railroad" to aid escaping slaves.

20. Charles T. Torrey (1813-1846) was a Boston abolitionist and clergyman. While unsuccessful as a minister and pastor, he soon found his calling as an abolitionist and organizer. An early supporter of William Lloyd Garrison, he later took exception to this man's unorthodox views on such issues regarding Sabbath observance, civil government and women's rights. He organized the conservative abolitionists of Massachusetts to a revolt against Garrison's leadership. Then, in the fall of 1838, the conservatives founded the Massachusetts Abolition Society, with Torrey as editor.

21. In the spring of 1848 the schooner Pearl, with seventy-seven slaves aboard, was captured at the mouth of the Potomac River and brought back to Washington. The slaves and their white rescuers, Daniel Drayton, Captain Sayres, and Chester English, were imprisoned. The Negroes were turned over to slave-dealers to be sold in the lower South, and the white men were brought to trial. During the excitement of this event, a mob attempted to destroy the office of the National Era in Washington and to force Dr. Bailey, its editor, to leave the district. Drayton and Sayres were found guilty of preserving slaves and were sentenced to life imprisonment. Exceptions were made to the judge's rulings and the Negroes were returned to their release, Drayton and Sayres were taken by night to Baltimore, and then sent to Harrisburg and Philadelphia. See Philip S. Foner, Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass (New York, 1950), I, 442; Benjamin Franklin, Black Abolitionists (New York, 1972) pp. 163, 168, 211.

22. After the decline of the Liberty Party, founded in 1840, Democrats and Whigs who opposed the extension of slavery in the territories met in Buffalo in the summer of 1844 and organized a new party with the proclaimed goals of free soil, free speech, free labor, and free men.