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AMERICAN SLAVERY:

A LETTER TO THE REV. DR. ROGERS, OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM THE LATE

REV. ABRAHAM BOOTH.

DEAR SIR,—your esteemed favour of Nov. 18, 1794, came safe to hand. I am very much obliged to you for the intelligence which it contains; part of which is pleasing, and part of it painful to the pious and benevolent heart. It is pleasing to be informed that sinners are converted, and that the cause of Christ prospers, in any part of the world, of which you have given me some instances. But it is extremely painful to hear that theatrical entertainments are sanctioned by your representative body, are more frequent than ever, and that scepticism and latitudinarian sentiments in religion, prevail. I fear, I greatly fear, that the luxury, the pernicious dissipation, and the infidelity of European states, will soon have a dreadful spread among you. May the Almighty Jesus interpose, by the dispersion of his gracious truth, and by the energy of his power, to check and eradicate those destructive evils! It is also painful, and even shocking, to hear, that the State of Kentucky has, in its recently formed civil constitution, provided for the accursed traffic in

man, and for the enslaving of millions, who have an equal claim to personal liberty with the framers of that constitution. Had moral justice, had unbiassed reason, had the principles of sound policy prevailed in their deliberation and resolves, they never could have admitted a principle into their constitution that is pregnant with such cruelty to mankind, and with such disgrace to themselves. Either the blacks are not men, or such legislators are not Christians. Most cordially do I pray, that Omnipotence may annul the provisions of that legislative body, with regard to this particular, and blast their nefarious designs on the children of Africa!

I know, my worthy friend, that you detest not only the execrable trade in man, but also that personal slavery which is practised in a majority of your States; otherwise, I should scarcely be able to refrain from severe animadversion on some expressions in your last and much esteemed favour. The expressions to which I advert are the following: "The United States know *no sub-*