

In 1837 and 1838 they and the rebellers tried a more cunning scheme, but failed. I say again, God would not let them take it, for God saw this accursed Fugitive Slave Bill at that day as plain as I see the paper I now write on.

Now, what does the Fugitive Slave Bill say—a law acknowledged by the great and the good to be an audacious violation of the first principles of civil liberty, the common law, the constitution of the United States and the law of God. Here are some of its provisions: 1. all must be man-catchers: it aims to compel every man and woman in the free States to become a slave-catcher, and, in consequence, an aider and abettor in promoting the cause of slavery, and reducing to servitude the free and happy, at the bidding of the most cruel and debased slave-driver. Every philanthropist and christian, every minister, every mechanic, is bound to assist in carrying into execution this infamous law. However long the fugitive may have resided among them, whether engaged in an honorable occupation or seated at his fireside, surrounded by an affectionate family, or worshipping God in the sanctuary, or partaking of the emblems of the body and blood of his Saviour, he may be seized, and his minister and fellow-christians be commanded to fasten the chains upon him, and drag him back to the degradation and horrors of Southern slavery.

2. This Bill subjects to a fine of one thousand dollars with imprisonment for six months, a person who harbors or conceals a fugitive, with the view of preventing his discovery or arrest.

3. Persons not fugitive slaves, are liable to be carried off under this Bill. A colored person, brought into a free State by his legal owner, and therefore free by the law of the free State; the children born of fugitives in a free State; a person once a slave, who has lost his free papers; all colored persons in the free States, wherever born; indeed, every colored person is liable to be seized, certificated, ironed, and carried with railroad speed into a slave State, on the perjured testimony of any two miscreants,