

called, being free, is Christ's slave. Ye are bought with a price, be ye not the slaves of men," (that is seek to be servants of Christ as well.) A service to man, doth not exempt you from, nor is it inconsistent with, the service of God, yea rather to serve God is more needful for slaves because the trying circumstances of their peculiar condition may be much alleviated by the hope of immortality. Nevertheless the Apostle advises, and this shows him to have been an abolitionist of the strictest kind, "If thou mayest be free use it rather." Stronger language, perhaps, might have defeated the spirit of the Gospel, which is love, joy and peace, by exciting slave insurrections in every age and country. "Therefore," says he, as though he had been too bold, in thus incidentally mentioning his real sentiments, "Therefore let every man wherein he is called therein abide with God."

This, my friends, is the true spirit of the Gospel. Christ Jesus came down from heaven to release us from the bondage of sin, to restore us to privileges greater than those we forfeited in Adam, to place us in a state of salvation, and finally if we be faithful to Him, after sanctifying us by His Spirit here, to admit us to mansions of glory hereafter. In the prophet's words He came "to let the oppressed go free and that ye break every yoke." Indeed my brethren this Redemption of His is a mighty fact, not the less important because it is so familiar, and shall we with grateful hearts, assemble year after year to record our sense of the temporal deliverance achieved for us, by a few earnest-minded fellow creatures. * "A victory, a bloodless victory gained without the sacrifice of a single life, and shall we record the honour of this good, and great and glorious deed, in contemporary literature, to the everlasting renown of Wilberforce, Canning, Clarkson, Macaulay, Buxton, Brougham, and others, rallying round the standard of liberty, commemorating this ever to be remembered event, and shewing that we possess the feelings of men in thus appreciating the advantages which truth and justice and liberty confer." Shall we, I say, profess such sentiments and feel such gratitude for a temporal deliverance and neglect or refuse to call to mind the Redemption which Jesus Christ achieved for us on the cross, pouring out His own most precious blood, giving Himself up to the mockery, the insults, the scourging, the crown of thorns and the cruel spear, *that we might be free*, that sin might not lord it any more over us, that our sins might not any more be required at our hand, in short *that we might be saved*. The deliverance which we commemorate to-day my friends, however important it may seem as a bodily deliverance, is but an unworthy and inadequate type of the Great Deliverance. Thirty years ago but dimly points to eighteen hundred and thirty years ago; the West Indies but little resemble Calvary, millions of pounds sterling should make us think of the infinitely more precious price, the blood of Christ; the bitter opposition, revilings, calumnies and ill-usage which abolitionists had to endure should bring to mind our Saviour's patient endurance of buffetings and mockery, the crown of thorns and the purple robe; the bodily comforts which you enjoy to-day should remind you that heaven is open to all believers, that the children of men may have fellowship with the Father and with His son Christ Jesus, that the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit are bountifully poured forth upon all the adopted sons of God.

* Quotation from the invitation, slightly altered.