

could not lawfully set them free, or retain them in bondage, being prohibited from holding them as property not only by the dictates of Conscience, but by an order of Society, this had then been the unpleasant condition for more than thirty Years, during this long term of time, and for six or seven Years after, our Yearly Meeting almost continually remonstrated, and petitioned the Legislature for liberty to set these people free, and for them to be protected by Law, as freeborn persons are: the Government instead of granting any relief, have manifested a disposition unfriendly to our Memorials, by drawing the cords of Slavery, rivetting the Fetters closer and increasing the weight of the Shackles, together with a train of evils, attendant on systems of oppression even forbidding by Law, their being learnt to read.

The Yearly Meeting under the advice of learned Law Council, appointed trustees to receive Assignments of transfer from individuals for the Society in its aggregate capacity, to hold those under friends care, so that when Parents departed this life, that their heirs being some of them disowned, should not claim these people of Colour as their property.

In the Year 1824 the number of Quaker free Negroes (as they are called) amounted to seven or eight hundred, many of whom were connected with Slaves, and free persons of Colour by Marriage. About this time the tide of emigration was up for removing those people of Colour to free governments, we could not separate families, and by

removing those under friends care, we had to remove many others they connected. The number removed to free Governments is near nine hundred, at an expense exceeding seventeen thousand Dollars. The tenure by which we hold the people of Colour, is daily becoming more precarious, inasmuch, that the great prejudice excited in the public Mind, seems to have an effect in the Trials of five Law Suits against the Trustees of the Yearly Meeting; Judgments have gone against them for about seven hundred Dollars, on account of having sent fourteen persons of Colour to free Governments. And about six thousand three hundred Dollars, for twenty seven held in detinue. Costs over one thousand dollars. Appeals are taken in all to the Supreme Court. Some new demands have been made by disowned heirs, who are waiting the issue of these Suits, before they commence others.

All this, added to the unwillingness in the Black people to quit their native soil, and seek repose in a foreign clime, seems to place the task of removal beyond our reach with many, yet there are several that express a willingness to leave Carolina if they could stay on this Continent, to cross the Ocean they will not consent. Some of the State Governments have shut their Gates against migration of Coloured people into them. Notwithstanding all the difficulties and troubles we have encountered, we feel very thankful that through divine mercy we have been instrumental in getting so many of our fellow