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of accept we now have to the slave holders, who know we oppose slavery upon conscientious grounds; that we have no selfish views in our opposition; that we are lovers of peace & friends both of the master and <sup>the</sup> slave; and are in no way associated with the modern abolition movement which in ~~our~~ <sup>their</sup> opinion has more connection with politics and fanaticism than with morality and religion. Because the period is unpropitious. The laws against the circulation of such pamphlets being very severe both in Maryland and Virginia and the difficulties of putting them into circulation being very great. If we send them through the post office they are burned. If we deliver them in person we render ourselves liable to prosecution and if convicted to fine and imprisonment in the penitentiary. Under a sense of Religious obligation and a hope of usefulness we might well incur such risks - certainly not else.

And now dear friends we are free to say that the cause of Emancipation is as dear to us and as near to our best feelings as ever it was: our prayers are for the oppressed and we desire to hasten the time of their deliverance as far as in us lies: but the

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subject is encompassed with difficulties - difficulties which we fear you cannot appreciate. Injudicious though well meant efforts may injure more than they promote the cause. That such has been the case we have no doubt. The poor Enslaved have been the sufferers from the intemperate zeal of some who advocate their rights. Be this as it may, our settled conviction is that it would be neither proper nor safe for us to take any action in the premises in a Society capacity on any other ground than that of a religious concern and the pointings of Truth. When we shall be thus qualified we trust we shall be faithful to the Divine requisition and not shrink from any duty or service to which He may be pleased to call us.

In conclusion it may be a satisfaction to you to know that we have been engaged on this occasion in the consideration of a memorial to the Legislature of Virginia asking for such change in their laws as will secure relief to a particular class of the free colored population from the oppression to which they are now subject under said laws.

With the salutation of love we remain your friends.

And then adjourned to the stated time in the 3<sup>d</sup> month next.