

Friends of Freedom:

The Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society

Primary Source

### **"The Ladies' Fair" from *The Liberator*, January 2, 1837.**

The proposed Anti-Slavery Fair was held on Thursday, the 22<sup>d</sup> of December....There was great variety in the articles, and many of them were very hand-some and tasteful. The ladies have ever regarded the pecuniary benefit derived from these sales as but *one* of several reasons in their favor. The main object is to keep the subject before the public eye, and by every innocent expedient to promote perpetual discussion. We wish to bring Truth and Falsehood in continual *juxtaposition*, for we know full well that truth never came off the worse in a fair and open encounter.'

To promote this favorite object, various mottoes and devices were stamped upon the articles offered for sale. Bunches of quills bore the label, 'Twenty-five Weapons for Abolitionists.' On wafer-boxes was written, 'The doom of Slavery is *sealed*.' On one side of the pen-wipers was inscribed, 'Wipe out the blot of Slavery;' on the other, 'Plead the cause with thy Pen.' On some needle-books was printed, 'May the use of our needles prick the consciences of slaveholders;' others were made in the form of small shoes, and on the soles was written, 'Trample not on the Oppressed.' Some watch-cases bore the inscription, 'The political economist counts time by *years*, the suffering slave reckons it by *minutes*;' on others was written, 'The greatest friend of Truth is Time, her greatest enemy is Prejudice.' Small silken bags of perfume for bureau drawers, bore the motto, 'The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a *woman* hid in three measures of meal, until the whole was leavened.' The iron-holders were marked, 'Anti-Slave-*Holder*.' Small hearts cut from a knot of white oak were called, 'Hearts of Oak for Abolitionists.' A cradle-quilt was made of patchwork in small stars; and on the central star was written with indelible ink:

'Mother! When around your child  
You clasp your arms in love,  
And when with grateful joy you raise  
Your eyes to God above-  
Think of the *negro*-mother,  
When her child is torn away-

Sold for a little slave-oh, then,  
For that poor mother pray!

Ornamental stands for alumets, to light candles, bore the motto, 'LIGHT, whether material or moral, is the best of all Reformers.' Book-marks of various colored ribbons were printed with sentences similar to the following: 'Speak the Truth in Love;' 'Remember those in Bonds.' There were some very handsome Contribution-boxes, of bronzed copper: they were surmounted by a kneeling slave; on one side was the open Bible, and the rays that emanated from it were melting the links of a chain; on the other side was inscribed the motto, 'God loveth a cheerful giver.' The candy, and various other articles of confectionary for children, were wrapped in paper, on which were printed the following verses:

Come, little ones! For the sweets ye see,  
Were made by the labor of the FREE;  
And freely to-day ye may partake,  
Even for the toil-worn bondsman sake;

For the price you pay perchance may save  
From the cruel scourge some tortured slave:-  
(Your friends will explain how a single cent  
May cause the steeled heart to relent.)

And year after year, as Christmas comes,  
With its papers of pleasant sugar plums,  
Ever be careful to enquire  
*Respecting the fact of the LABORER'S HIRE.*