

rights without 'exclusive action' on their part, where they had power so to act. . . . Would not the Americans still have remained under the sovereignty of Great Britain if they had not acted exclusively." It concluded by making this penetrating observation: "Our friends of the *Standard* are at fault: we cannot follow them through all their devious wanderings. They must either admit that there may be, under some circumstances necessity, for exclusive action, or else abandon their first position. If admitted, show us where and how the necessity may exist if it does not now. You would not have us remain passive 'dumb dogs' and open not our mouth when the iron enters our soul. You would have us speak with 'angels trumpet-tongued,' sound the alarm, cry aloud, and make our wrongs known. How are we to do it? How act? How speak? How call for redress? If we wait till Providence interposes we may wait till the 'crack of doom.' If we act with our white friends, as we said before, the words we utter will be considered theirs, or their echo. . . . We cannot in future waste our time in combatting shadows. The *Standard* must either abandon their first position, or explain what they mean by 'exclusive action.'" (See the *Colored American*, reprinted in the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, July 16, 1840.)

14. The form of each petition was as follows: "To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York: "We, the undersigned, colored citizens of the town of _____ Country of _____ and State of New York do most respectfully pray your honorable body to take measures for so amending the Constitution of the State, that the Elective Franchise may be extended to us on the same terms as enjoyed by other citizens." (See the *Colored American*, Dec. 5, 1840.)

15. Jermain W. Loguen (c. 1813-1872) was born near Mancoe's Creek in Davidson County, Tennessee, the natural son of a planter whose slave, named Cherry, was for many years his mistress and bore him several children. Tradition has it that Cherry, in turn, was a freeborn "pure" African, who had been kidnapped during her childhood in Ohio and sold into slavery.

Loguen escaped from slavery in 1834 and settled at first in Canada and later in Rochester, New York. In Rochester, he became a porter and was able to study at Oneida Institute, Whitesboro, where he received the only schooling he had. Settling finally in Syracuse, Loguen became active as an abolitionist and a leader of the Underground Railroad. When the Fugitive Slave Bill of 1850 was passed by Congress, Loguen militantly vowed that he would not obey it. A minister by profession, Loguen later became a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. See his autobiography, *The Reverend Jermain W. Loguen, as a Slave and as a Freeman: A Narrative of Real Life* (Syracuse, N. Y., 1859).

16. The proposed national convention had been sponsored by David Ruggles, leader of the New York Vigilance Committee. It drew sharp disapproval from such prominent blacks as William Whipper and Robert Purvis, leaders of the predominantly Negro, American Moral Reform Society because it was charged as being "exclusive in character." In other words, the gathering was to be a distinctly black convention. As noted above, the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* had criticized such meetings, and some blacks concurred in its reasoning, fearing that such separate meetings would serve only to reinforce discrimination and segregation against them. This attitude, however, was effectively rebutted by other blacks.

17. Lake Erie and Champlain were among the most important naval engagements of the War of 1812, the former having been fought in September 1813 and the latter in September 1814.

18. Oliver Hazard Perry (1785-1818) was the famed American naval officer whose ships, the *Niagra* and the *Lawrence*, figured in the decisive battle engagements with the British on Lake Erie in September 1813.

19. John Jay (1745-1829) was the first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. He was also author of the famous Jay Treaty with England in 1795. Upon leaving the high court, he served as governor of New York State (1795-1801). Throughout his career, Jay opposed slavery and as governor he signed New York's liberal Gradual Emancipation Act of 1799, which looked toward the eventual abolishment of slavery in the Empire State.