

*Immediately after the attempted rescue of William Dixon, activist and newspaper editor Samuel Cornish, issued a sharp condemnation of that particular form of politics, encouraging Black New Yorkers to allow the legal process to play out and hopefully operate in Dixon's favor.*

*Colored American, April 15, 1837*

To the Thoughtless part of our Colored Citizens.

Brethren, my heart is grieved at your conduct yesterday, and on all occasions of fugitive trials. - We have an intelligent and efficient Vigilance Committee, who have eminent lawyers in their employ, so that every thing that can be done, for those unhappy victims of our REPUBLICAN Slave system, will be faithfully attended to. We have perfect confidence in the men whose business it is to conduct these matters. And we must here enter our solemn protest, against your going to the Courts at all, or assembling in the Park, on the occasion of fugitive trials - you can do no good, but much harm. Your presence and conduct, take all respect and dignity from the lawyers, and from all engaged in behalf of the poor prisoner. - You also degrade yourselves, and all others in the least connected with you, or engaged in your advocacy in any way whatever; and if you do not desist, and conduct better, you will be forsaken by all your friends. Everlasting shame, and removes seize upon those females that so degraded themselves yesterday. We beg their husbands to keep them at home for the time to come, and find some better occupation for them.

In conclusion, we ask the pardon and clemency of our Municipal Authorities, and the Hon. Court, in behalf of the ignorant part of our colored citizens, who act so inconsiderately; and we assure them, that such doings are in opposition to the judgment, wishes, and feelings of all the intelligence and piety among us.

But for Budinot, Nash, and other petty officers and lawyers, who are engaged in Negro Catching, we have no respect. Shame on them, - at this enlightened age to debase themselves to the low character of Negro Catchers. The curse of God, and the contempt of the civilized world, (that is, if they be not so low, that contempt cannot reach them,) will ever abide upon them; and the grave worms will refuse to eat their rotten flesh. We know not who the lawyers are, that have given themselves up to the advocacy of Negro Catchers, nor have we even a place in our memory for such names.