

Printed notice to members of The Society of Friends in favour of the election of William Wilberforce as Member of Parliament for York 27 October 1806

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AS a new Election of Members of Parliament for the County of York, will soon commence, we take the liberty of recommending to the members of our society, who are entitled to vote on this occasion, to consider whether their late Representative, William Wilberforce, is not peculiarly entitled to their vote and interest. Independently of other considerations, the zeal, steadiness, and ability, with which he has long maintained the cause of the African race, and, on every proper occasion, urged the abolition of the slave-trade, give him a strong claim to the attachment and support of Friends.

We are sensible that, in general, it does not comport with the principles and practice of our society, to take a very active part in elections. But there are, doubtless, occasions which call for such exertions: and we conceive that the present is one of this nature; as it involves a subject, which has, for half a century, deeply engaged the sympathy and attention of the Society.

If the friends whom we now address, should view the subject in the same light as we do, they will probably deem it of importance to be present at the time of Nomination; as a seasonable and numerous attendance of the friends of William Wilberforce, may have a great influence in securing his election; and in preventing a contest, which would be attended with serious and distressful consequences. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that, in supporting their late representative, friends will see the propriety of bearing their own expenses, and putting the candidate to no charge whatever.

We trust that this application to the members of our society will not be thought, by any of them, an improper interference. We desire only to turn their attention seriously to the subject; and to induce them to reflect on the great importance of re-electing a person, whose labours have done so much towards abolishing the iniquitous trade in human beings; whose views, on this interesting subject, have so fully corresponded with our own; and whose continued exertions, in the present critical state of the question, would greatly contribute to a happy termination of the wrongs and sorrows of Africa.

WILLIAM TUKE.

THOMAS PRIESTMAN.

LINDLEY MURRAY.

YORK, 27th of 10th Month, 1806.

As a new branch of the Society of Friends for the City of New York will soon
 commence, we take the liberty of recommending to the members of our society who are entitled to vote
 on this subject, to consider whether their late Representative, William Westcott, is not peculiarly
 entitled to the vote and interest. Independence of other considerations, the moral, religious, and political
 views which he has manifested in the course of his African travels, and our proper respect for his
 the Society and the Association, give him a strong claim to the attention and support of Friends.
 We are aware that it is generally held that our support with the friends of the cause of our society
 to take a vote in this matter. But there are doubts as to whether such a vote is not
 and we are aware that the question is one of the nature; as it involves a subject which has been a con-
 siderable part of the proceedings of the Society.
 It is true, when we are asked to vote, the subject is not in the same light as we do, they will
 probably be asked to be present at the time of 11 o'clock, as a reasonable and necessary
 attendance at the Society of Friends will have a great influence in securing his election;
 and in paying a vote, which will be attended with various and distant consequences. It
 is scarcely necessary to say that in such a case, Friends will receive the
 full of the Society and our society, and that the vote will be no change whatever.
 We trust that this application to the members of our society will be made by some of them, as
 in regard to attendance. We do not wish to turn their attention away from the subject of the Society, but
 to effect of the great importance of the subject, which Friends have done so much to promote.
 In the light of the human being, whose views on this interesting subject have so fully con-
 responded with our own; and whose continued exertions in the present critical state of the question,
 would greatly contribute to a happy termination of the struggle, and a renewal of Africa.

WILLIAM TUCKER
 THOMAS PRIESTMAN
 LINDBY MURRAY

YORK, 27th of 10th Month, 1802.