

**RECEPTION OF
GEORGE THOMPSON
IN GREAT BRITAIN**

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Reception of George Thompson in Great Britain by Various

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VARIOUS

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GREAT BRITAIN.

[Compiled from various British Publications.]

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1836.



CONTENTS.

	Page.
Introduction,	5
Great Anti-Slavery Meeting at Birmingham, Oct. 14, 1835,	13
Soiree, in honor of Mr. Thompson, at Glasgow, Jan. 25, 1836,	33
Address presented to Mr. Thompson at An Entertainment given by the inhabitants of Edinburgh, Feb. 19, 1836,	58
Lecture at Edinburgh, Jan. 27, 1836,	64
“ “ Jan. 31, “	77
“ “ Feb. 8, “	85
“ at Glasgow,	96
Remarks at the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Peace Meeting,	108
Lecture at Glasgow, Jan. 29, 1836,	117
Address to Ministers,	141
Proceedings at the 2d Annual Meeting of the Glasgow Emancipation Society, March 1, 1836,	150
Meetings in London,	176

INTRODUCTION.

While Mr. Thompson remained in this country, it is well known that one of the favorite accusations of the pro-slavery press against him, was, that he came hither a fugitive from justice—that *obliged* to leave England, he visited America to avoid transportation to Botany Bay. To his persevering slanderers it signified nothing that he had the attestation of some of the best men of Great Britain, to the excellence of his character as a man and a Christian, and the incalculable value of his services in the cause of humanity; it mattered not that he came as the representative of a noble body of Philanthropists—including men illustrious for their talents and attainments, learned divines, able legislators, good and wise and pure-minded men—highly esteemed on both sides of the Atlantic, for their sterling worth, their ardent piety and active benevolence and devotion to every

good word and work. It mattered not that his own deportment here, was such as corroborated the favorable testimonials of his British friends—that he bore himself as a gentleman and a Christian—that he exhibited not only those qualities which dazzle and delight, and extort admiration, but those also which command respect and enchain affection. All this went for nothing. Enough was it for the enemies of impartial liberty—the apologists of legalized man-stealing, that Mr. Thompson's unrivalled eloquence was enlisted on the side of justice, truth, and the equal rights of man—enough that he was an enemy and a formidable enemy to that iniquitous system which they had set themselves to excuse and defend. By unwearied efforts in the work of calumny and abuse, by constant reiteration of gross falsehoods and inflammatory appeals to passion and prejudice and national jealousy, they at length succeeded in arraying against him a feeling of such bitter hostility that he could no longer, without exposing his life to imminent peril, continue to prosecute the purposes of his benevolent mission among us, and his friends here, though reluctant to part with him and relin-

quish the anticipated advantages of his co-operation, felt constrained to counsel his departure from our shores.

And whither did he fly? Why, verily—he returned directly to that land which his calumniators declare that he was forced to leave, that he might escape an ignominious punishment. And how was he received there?—Were the officers of justice standing ready to seize him, the instant he should again set foot on British soil? Was the convict ship waiting to receive him on board, and then hoist sail for New Holland? The answer may be gathered from the following pages, which describe the manner of his reception in his native country, and contain accounts of various meetings which he has attended, and reports, more or less full, of the speeches he has delivered, since his arrival there.

A more full refutation of the foul slander which represented him as ‘bankrupt in reputation’ in his own country, could not be desired, than is furnished by the warm and cordial—nay, the enthusiastic welcome which has met him in every part of the island which he has yet visited. Glasgow, Edinburgh Newcastle and London have given loud and