

The George Lawson letters to Judge Foote
Transcribed by Douglas H. Shepard, 2015

George **Lawson** of Utica NY sent two letters to Judge E. T. **Foote** of Jamestown NY. The first was dated 14 November 1844. **Lawson** signed, “Yours truly for **Jackson & Chaplin**,” presumably the publishing company which was circulating the book or pamphlet *Goodell’s View of American Constitutional Law*. The second letter was dated 17 November 1846, and **Lawson** then signed as the corresponding secretary of the New York State Antislavery Society. In the second letter, **Lawson** asked **Foote** to obtain a \$5 donation from each of 100 “friends of the slave.”

The first letter is transcribed as follows:

Utica Nov 14 1844

To the Hon Judge Foot

Dear Sir

You are aware that we have published an Edition of Goodells “View of American Constitutional Law” and we are exceedingly anxious to give it an extensive circulation, it is invaluable as a work vindicating triumphantly the Constitution from the false constructions placed by Slaveholders and their abettors upon it, as speaking the language of Slavery. Mr. Goodell has shewn most conclusively that it speaks the language of freedom to all. Judge Brewster says “it ought to be scattered through community like the leaves of Autumn; and eventually, it ought to be used as a School book that the rising generation may understand it.”

Now my dear Sir we have no way of getting it into general circulation but through the hands of our Anti Slavery friends, will you please to see the friends in your section and send on for a good supply. Our price is 31^c single copy \$3 per Dozen \$20 per hundred. Chautauque ought to take 3 or 400. We have had a hard fight during the Election but have come out of the struggle without our ranks being thinned; but O the Whigs, their wrath towards us is dreadfull [sic], never was we in better spirits, never was our righteous cause stronger than now

Yours truly for Jackson & Chaplin

George Lawson

The second letter is transcribed as follows:

Anti Slavery Office

Utica Nov 17 1846

Hon^{bl} Judge Foot

Dear Sir

The Executive Committee of the NYS A Slavery Society are doing a great work in thoroughly organizing this State so as to bring into efficient action the energies of every friend of the Slave. To accomplish this most desireable [sic] object the Committee call on the friends of the Slave for help. The Committee propose to raise the sum of \$2250 for this purpose \$500 of which they hope to obtain from 100 persons, who have the means and who are well known for their love of this cause. Your name is put down as one of the 100. We hope we are not taking too great a liberty in asking you to be one of the 100 , and that you will please to remit us the amount of \$5 to aid us to carry forward the good work we have begun.

The Committee make no apology for addressing a true friend with so much urgency.

by order of the Committee

yours truly

George Lawson Cor. Secy

PS Please to address the Treasurer A. H. Hunt or myself