

The Underground Railroad
And
The League of Gilzadites
In
Springfield, Massachusetts

March 25, 1857

To My Fellow Abolitionists:

On behalf of the Underground Railroad and the League of Gilzadites, we would like to comment on the decision of the *Dred Scott vs. Sanford* case. We think that the decision about this case was absurd and unjustified. We feel as though the Supreme Court has decided something unlawful. *Dred Scott* was taken to an area where slavery was illegal therefore that law also should have applied to him. Also the Supreme Court ruled that it was illegal for an African American to sue in a court because they were not considered citizens. Now even though I am a white descendant, I still think that what the court said was outrageous and uncalled for. Also the comment made by chief justice Roger Taney saying that Africans had no rights, was crossing the line between respect and prejudice.

The *Dred Scott* case was based more on prejudice instead of justice. Race divided the line of fairness and blinded the eyes of those who gave judgment. Because of this there wasn't a fair case or a fair judgment. *Dred Scott* was persecuted for his race and could not be judged fairly on what he believed in. Instead he was criticized and humiliated in the Supreme Court. The "facts" given to prove his case was that he was black and was not considered a citizen. Also it was said that Africans had no rights so therefore couldn't sue. These opinions are what made the case of *Dred Scott* fail. These opinions are what anger me because the "supreme judge" actually considered these opinions as evidence to take away a man's freedom and in this world freedom is considered a person's life.

My opinion has been swayed to think that the Supreme Court is actually an unfair and unjustified court. I thought a court was supposed to give people a chance to be heard no matter who it is and to make a fair judgment on those who would be rightfully condemned and punished for their actions. I see now that I was wrong. African Americans will now think that what they believe will not matter because of an opinion made by a prejudice chief of justice. This matter could cause more unnecessary killings of both black and white decent and could and probably would make African Americans more outraged and frustrated then they already are.

I think that this decision should be challenged and taken very seriously. If I were to challenge this, I would condemn those who choose prejudicially about this judgment. I would punish them for making these shrewd remarks and penalize them for their wrong doings. I would treat those white bastards like they do their slaves and whip them like there was no tomorrow to show them how it feels to be

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treated so harshly. If someone tried to stop me then death would befall on their shoulders. No one should ever have to go through such humiliation and I will see to it that this incident will never happen again to any other black slave seeking freedom.

We need to challenge these evildoers because if we don't they would think that they could do anything at that they have all the power. We need to show them who's in control. They do not have that high of a power to invoke whether or not a person has freedom and I for one will make sure that they never do. If we can overthrow them then we can change the world and their views on slavery.

Your Fellow Abolitionist,

John Brown

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