

Hampshire Gazette, 1844 April 30

The first

[Po]litical [Mee]ting

at the Community

[the popularity of the Hutchinson family singers]

announced on Sunday, by glaring handbills posted up, that Frederick Douglas [sic], a fugitive slave, would deliver an anti-slavery [address at] the Town Hall in the evening, and that the Hutchinsons would sing. A great number congregated, many more than could find seats, and a majority of them, undoubtedly, came to hear the singing. The Hutchinsons, in their beautiful tones, sung Cowper's admirable ballad, the 'Negro's Complaint,' and then Mr. Douglas [sic] commenced his address. He adverted to the present state of the anti-slavery enterprise, as compared with its history when combatted at every step by the 'mobocracy,' and to the obstacles now in its way. He had come to the conclusion, that the greatest enemy of the anti slavery cause is the *Church*. This is the *bulwark of slavery*. Henry Clay came in for a share of his maledictions, and in the course of the evening, we are informed – for we did not stay a great while – that Van Buren and Calhoun also came under his ban. Our Senators, also, Messrs. Bates and Choate, were taken off with the best of his powers of mimickry and burlesque. He also attempted to imitate the preaching of a methodist minister, in addressing a congregation of slaves, and gave a very ludicrous account of the *conversion* of his master, all of which produced much merriment. Such things must have been very interesting to the professedly religious part of the audience. And in addition to this, we understand that he politely informed his audience that they were a set of hypocrites. Some were inclined to make disturbance ; but we say, if people wish to hear such stuff, let them hear it. We regret, however, that the Hutchinsons should have suffered themselves to be used in such a manner.

For the Hampshire Gazette.