where Presbyterianism has suffered a blow from which it will not easily recover, if ever, I would advise you to get some of the Belfast papers in Baltimore that will certainly go by this conveyance, it will be worth your while to send for them,

I am still very feeble on my limbs, of course not able to use much exercise, I could not walk a mile if it were to save my life, my wife is waxing old and both past approaching to our latter end, we have only our youngest Daughter with us now, if I had her fixed to my mind, I would be more at ease but I have nothing to leave her,

I beg to be kindly remembered to Mr Burne and all your family who has any recollection of me, always believe me

My dear Birnie

Your faithful friend

John Shaw

Orangeism in this Country is not yet quashed, notwithstanding, their Grand Master (the Duke of Cumberland Brother to the King) issued his mandate that no procession should be allowed, followed by all the lick spittles, a Band of these Orange Ruffians, paraded the Streets of Belfast, with 37 Stand of Colours, putting at defiance the Governor of the [illegible] Longcall, and all the Magistrates of this flourishing town, however, I understand this morning, every thing has past in quietness during the night, so far as I have learned, the Country accounts have not reached Belfast yet, certainly a malicious and vendictive spirit is abroad. If something can not be done by the Government to control these Ruffians, Catholic Emancipation goes for nought, so far as respects this province, indeed, it is broadly hinted at, that ever will divide the People, will be winked at by our rulers, if this really be the case, poor Ireland will soon return to its black age, a continental war will then be its only hope, but the country is in too great poverty to embark in that,

It appears the brave Jackson is going on well, may every success attend him, he is sweeping out the old rubbage I understand, by appointing men of honour and abilities in their place, well done old Hickory,

Our Presbyterian Synod of Ulster has just closed their proceedings at Lurgan, a most stormy meeting it has been, it is really disgraceful to think of Men professing to be Christians should have so far forgot themselves, I am

Some have thought, indeed, that it would be more prudent to wait awhile, before petitioning again. But this appears to us to be a great mistake, for the following reasons:

1. No great moral evil ever becomes less by letting it alone; and this is pre-eminently true of Sabbath-breaking.

2. The longer this evil continues, the more strongly will the precedent be pleaded.

3. No reformation of this kind ever was, or ever will be, accomplished without a struggle.

4. If petitions should not be successful for many years, yet a constant repetition of Memorials will awaken many to the value of the Sabbath, and keep them from profaning it; so that the good accomplished will, in any event, be very great.

5. Petitioning is a constant testimony against a national sin, and a continued act of fidelity to God our Creator and Redeemer. It may be that this very testimony is indispensable to avert the wrath of God from our land.

Let it be settled, then, that it is the duty of all friends of good order, and of human happiness, to prepare and forward petitions to the next Congress.

II. *The manner of preparing these petitions.*

Unless we are altogether deceived, this is a cause which demands the best exertions which can be made in its behalf. Let us request, then, Dear Sir, that immediately after receiving this letter, you lay it before some of your most judicious friends—men who are the intelligent and decided advocates of religion and civil liberty; and that you agree upon the fittest man of your number to draw up a petition, which, when approved, shall be offered for signature. Let it not be said, that the form of a petition is of no consequence; and that a short one of ten lines is as good as the most elaborate one that can be drawn. Would you petition for the life of a child in a careless, hasty manner? Every religious man should consider the Sabbath as dear to him as the lives of his children, and should plead for it with as much importunity as he would plead for their lives or his own. Though petitions are not always read to Congress, yet they are filed in the Committee-rooms, where they are accessible to members, and whence may be derived excellent materials by those members who may wish to quote the very words of their constituents. Such friends will be found in both Houses. Besides, after a petition is sent to Congress, it can be published with perfect propriety in the newspaper most read by the signers. Thus the voice of the community will be made known.

III. *The manner of presenting petitions for signature.*

1. When a petition is prepared, it should be transcribed in a good hand, and on firm paper. The whole appearance should be handsome, and such as becomes a dignified and important subject.

2. The petitions should be first offered for signature to the most respectable men in your neighborhood. It will also be well, if among the first signers there be persons of different denominations, who stand well in the estimation of all their acquaintance.

3. Let as many signers as possible be obtained. It is to be understood, that no improper means be used to gain signers, and that men only be invited to subscribe.

4. It is desirable that there should be a separate petition for each town, in the Northern and Middle and some of the Western States; and for each county, and all the principal towns in the Southern States. The same form, however, may answer for several neighboring towns; and in many places it may be expedient to print a form for the neighborhood.

5. This whole business should be conducted in the manner least calculated to give offence. If opposition should exist, the temper and manner of the petitioners should be mild and conciliating; while firm and decided in the performance of their duty, they should avoid all unnecessary collision with those who differ from them in opinion.

6. Though there should be no concealment as to the design and object, yet public meetings should be avoided in any case where contention might be expected.

IV. *Time and manner of presenting the petitions to Congress.*

1. They should all be prepared in the months of October and November, if possible;—but, if there should be unavoidable delay, or even culpable remissness, the petitioning should be resumed; and this duty should not be omitted altogether, merely because it is begun rather late.

2. The obtaining of signatures should commence immediately after the members of Congress shall have set out for Washington. One, two, three and four weeks, according to circumstances, will be sufficient to get all the signers that can be obtained. In order to this, it should be made a great business, and a sufficient number of vigorous Committees should be engaged in it.

3. When the petition is enclosed to a member of Congress, the Committee by whom it is forwarded may properly request him to write them information as to the day when it is presented.

These suggestions are made, Dear Sir, with sentiments of respect and affection, and with earnest prayers that our exertions for the common good may receive the blessing of Heaven.

RICHARD VARICK,
JONAS PLATT,
JOSEPH SMITH,
JOHN STEARNS,
JOHN D. KEESE,
THOMAS STOKES,
* PETER HAWES,
ARTHUR TAPPAN,
ELIJAH PIERSON.

Committee of Petitioners in the City of New-York.

* Mr. Hawes died between the signing of this letter, and its publication. It may therefore be considered his dying counsel to his countrymen.