

**The following letter by Susan Paul
about a Juvenile Choir appearance
was printed in *The Liberator* in 1834.**

Dear Mr. Garrison, The last "Liberator" contained your lengthy account of the recent New England Anti-Slavery Association meeting in Salem, Massachusetts. As you noted, the stirring occasion included the appearance of the juvenile choir of Boston, a choir made up of students from the city's segregated public school Number 6. On this, our third public performance, the choir sang several abolitionist hymns for the vast concourse of spectators and the overflowing house at the Second Baptist Church. We were encouraged by the repeated bursts of applause from the assembled masses that suggested their deep gratification.

Your report on this momentous antislavery meeting, ... also included direct remarks about the uncivil treatment that [the choir and I] received from the drivers of the coaches provided to carry us to Salem. * ... as soon as the drivers discovered that the children were somewhat darker in complexion than themselves, they got into a rage, and profanely declared that . . . they (would not) carry a load of [Negroes] in the best coaches of Boston . . .

(continued)

I thought it might be gratifying to our friends to know that others were afterwards procured, who were very accommodating. We were not surprised at our treatment from these persons This is but a faint picture of that spirit which persecutes us on account of our color—that cruel prejudice which deprives us of every privilege whereby we might elevate ourselves—and then absurdly condemns us because we are not more refined and intelligent.

(There are) several (children in our school) who have been slaves, and we try to make them as happy as we can. We wish you could see how they try to learn and how much love they (show to me as their) teacher. We should be glad if all the [children who are] slaves were in our school.

There is, surely, sufficient [evidence] to convince all who are candid, that the moral and intellectual powers of colored children are inferior to the power of others, *only as their advantages are inferior*. Let [us] do something towards breaking down that unholy prejudice which exists against color. These children of our brethren have too long been neglected. There is among them many a gem, and whose is the guilt that they are not brought out from among the rubbish and polished?

Susan Paul