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OFFICES.—432 Pennsylvania Av., U.S. CAPITOL, and Willard's Hotel, Washington, D.C.

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E. S. SANFORD, Pres't.
CAMILLE LIVINGSTON, Sec'y.

145 BROADWAY, N.Y.

16 Dated May 8th, 1861.

Ret'd, Washington, May 8th, 1861, o'clock, min. M.

To: Tom Calei, P. Smith

I have convicted the Slave Capt, Gordon

E. Delafield Smith

11/56

Pr
To the President of the United States.

The undersigned, citizens of Portland, in the State of Maine, respectfully ask leave to present this petition in behalf of their late townsman, Nathaniel Gordon, now under sentence of death by judgment of the Circuit Court for the Southern District of New York, and humbly pray that he may receive from the Executive clemency a commutation of his sentence to imprisonment for life.

Your petitioners do not attempt to extenuate the offence of which he has been convicted, nor to question the justice of the proceedings, which have resulted in his condemnation.

But they respectfully represent that the ends of the public justice may be adequately accomplished, and due warning and restraint may be secured against other violations of the law, if his life is spared, under the rigors of perpetual imprisonment.

They are deeply moved by a painful sympathy for the aged and venerable mother of the convict, for his wife and only child, and for his other near relatives, and earnestly supplicate your merciful consideration to spare them the anguish of his capital execution.

Your petitioners pray also that you will permit them, most respectfully, to bring to your attention that wide-spread modification of the criminal law, which in this State, and in many other States, has in effect, substituted life-imprisonment for the penalty of death, and to represent that in their belief, the public conscience and the general sentiment of the community will approve a similar mitigation of a capital sentence under the laws of the United States.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Portland, Maine, Dec. 1861.

Thomas Amory Deblois.
Nathan Fillmore.
Charles E. Mellen.
H. H. Chapin.
Joseph Howard.
L. W. Henry.

Geo. Evans.
Samuel Shaw.
A. M. Shurtleff.
Philip A. Olerup.
Colas W. Norton.
Edwin Keck.

J.W. Wiseley.
J.H. Doane.
Geo. Evans.
E. B. Hale.
E. T. Williams.
A. L. Furnivall.

Gardiner Verplanck.