

1843, April 21
Toronto, [Canada West]

Abbott, W[ilson] R.; et. al. to His Honor the Mayor,
the Aldermen and Councilmen of the City of
Toronto

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Toronto April 21. 1843
To His Honor the Mayor,
the Aldermen and Councilmen,
of the City of Toronto.

We the undersigned colored subjects, residents of the
City of Toronto, having found by reference to an act passed
in 1834 that your honorable body have the right to license
or refuse the request for the exhibition of shows &c. in this
City - and we also find that your body have the power to make
such laws, as will tend to the peace, welfare, and safety, of
the inhabitants of this City, and as the season for the ex-
hibition of plays, shows, &c. is now approaching, we anticipate
that our City, will as usual be visited by such persons, and
as certain acts, and songs, such as Jim Crow and what
they call other Negro Characters, performed by them has heretofore
been productive of many broils and suits between the white and
colored inhabitants of this City. We your humble petitioners

says that your honorable body will act as have been
 done by the authorities of Kingston, to wit, refuse to dis-
 cuss such exhibitions, unless the exhibitors pledge them-
 selves under a penalty, not to exhibit such songs or plays.
 Your petitioners are well aware that other persons are taken
 of in those plays, but they are also aware that these take off
 no farther, which is not the case with us. they serve to
 degrade us as well as involve us in difficulties

Respectfully
 Ours

W. R. Abbott Chairman
 J. S. Patterson Secretary

Committee
 J. C. Brown
 P. A. Randolph
 W. B. Harris
 Geo. Johnson
 W. H. Edwards

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To His Honor the Mayor
 Aldermen &c
 of the City of Toronto

of
 the
 Common Council
 of the City of Toronto
 in
 Council Chamber
 April 21 1843

