

## ELIHU CRESWELL'S WILL.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, }  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. }

Whereas the uncertainty of life is great, and is not left to the time and choice of human beings, I do herein declare this to be my last Will and Testament. I do herein will the freedom of my man servant Gabriel, whom I acquired by inheritance from my father's estate, and the sum of Fifty Dollars to him for long and faithful services, that he may acquire his freedom in the Slave States, or be sent to the Free United States of America, as he may desire.

And I do moreover will and decree the freedom of all slaves that may belong to me at the time of my death, and that the slaves shall be sent to one of the Free States of the United States of America, and there liberated; and their names shall be registered in the Court as free persons, no longer to be held in bondage; and I wish the expense of such removal to be paid, first out of any moneys or assets that may belong to me, and in case there is no assets that the slaves shall work at wages until a sufficiency is obtained to remove them as above directed.

My executors shall appoint some trust-worthy man to attend the removal of the slaves, who shall receive the expenses and a just compensation for the removal of the slaves to the Free States.

And I further will and bequeath all the remaining of my estate, to Mrs. Sarah Creswell, my beloved mother, and in case of her death to the heirs of her body. And I do wish that my friends, John E. Colwell, (Caldwell) of the firm of Edgill, Mullford & Co., and Mr. L. E. Simons, Attorney-at-Law, both of this City, shall act as Executors to carry out this my last Will and Testament.

I would will my body to a respectful burial. My soul belongs to the Supreme Being, and I with pleasure submit to His will.

I have written this Will and Testament in a state of sound mind, and hope no mortal man will interfere with it.

This done this second October, 1848.

ELIHU CRESWELL.



*New Orleans, August 14 1851.*

To his Excellency THE GOVERNOR

OF THE STATE OF *Maine*

SIR:—

As the Executor of the late ELIHU CRESWELL, (a copy of whose Will you will find annexed,) the duty devolves upon me to transport, and locate in some Free State of the United States, the Fifty-one Slaves of which he died possessed, say ten men, twenty-six women, and fifteen children, from five to twelve years of age.

The object of this letter is to enquire of you if there is any thing in the Constitution or Laws of your State preventing or interfering with their location within its limits, should it be determined to remove them to it, for the purpose of their liberation.

I should also feel obliged to you for any suggestions as to the most desirable locality to which the said slaves could be removed; taking into consideration their being at once employed, so that they could support themselves, they having no means of their own.

Your early reply will confer a great favor on

Your obedient servant,

*J. E. Caldwell*