ABOLITION & RELIGION IN THE NORTH

DUTTON FAMILY PAPERS (1800-1880)
DUTTON FAMILY

- New Haven clergy family
- Aaron Dutton (1780-1849) & Dorcas Southmayd (1780-1841)
  - 8 children
    - Mary Dutton (1807-1887)
    - Samuel William Southmayd Dutton (1814-1866)
    - Aaron Rice Dutton (1816-1885)
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS

• Aaron Dutton:
  • Minister, First Congregational Church in Guilford, CT (1806-1842)

• Samuel William Southmayd Dutton
  • Minister, United (North) Church in New Haven, CT (1838-1866)

• Dismissed (or almost)!!
AARON RICE DUTTON TO AARON DUTTON
MARCH 21, 1842

• "... you would soon be dismissed from your charge over that church and society."

• "... the determination of the mischief makers to get you away. They will never be content to have the society and let matters go on in peace."
AARON RICE DUTTON TO AARON DUTTON
JULY 4, 1842

• “It seems to me a very imprudent thing in those persons who petitioned for a recommendation to form themselves into another church to pretend to be acquiesce because there was a condition to the gravity of their prayer.”

• “…their design was to get out of the church… and they got the power of contending for the property of the society without subjecting themselves to censure from the church…”
DIVISION OF CHURCH

First Congregational Church

Third Congregational Church
But I am so insensible and lifeless so far from God and seemingly constipated with my distance that I am sometimes almost resolved to give up all hope, not that I am, but of even becoming a Christian. Never was there an assertion more strongly or more truthfully than that contained in those reasonable words, ‘Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots & c.’
**SAMUEL’S APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL FROM UNITED**

- “floating debt of about $900”
- “… what is the cause of this deficiency? & it was answered by someone that it must be **dissatisfaction with the ministrations of the pulpit.**”
- “deficient in spirituality”
- * No mention of abolitionism or slavery in appeal *
CIVIL WAR BEGINS

Riot in Baltimore—April 19, 1861
SAMUEL WS DUTTON TO MARY DUTTON
APRIL 30, 1861

“It is impossible to get people’s attention on any subject but the war, & so I preached on for two Sabbaths past on Roman 13:1-8:

‘The powers that be are ordained of God’ &c. ‘He beareth not the sword in vain’ &c.

In application to the present times. The proslavery folks have used that left long enough. It is our turn now.”