he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it’s most sa-
cred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never of-
fended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemi-
sphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This
piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the
Christian king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market
where MEN should be bought & sold. he has prostituted his negative¹
for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this
execrable commerce; and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact
of distinguished die,² he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms
among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them,
by murdering the people for whom he also obtruded them:³ thus paying
off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes
which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.]

John Adams to Timothy Pickering, 1822: “I was delighted with [the draft’s] high tone and the flights of oratory with which it
abounded, especially that concerning Negro slavery, which, though I knew his Southern brethren would never suffer to pass in
Congress, I certainly never would oppose. . . . Congress cut off about a quarter of it, as I expected they would; but they obliterated
some of the best of it, and left all that was exceptionable, if anything in it was. I have long wondered that the original draft had not
been published. I suppose the reason is the vehement philippic against Negro slavery.”

¹ I.e., he has abused his power to veto legislation by nullifying every attempt in America to ban or limit the slave trade.
² I.e., that slavery might lack no redeemable feature (die=dye: color, feature); in other words, by promoting slave insurrections against the Americans,
the king is guaranteeing the worst of slavery’s consequences in the colonies.
³ Obtrude: impose one’s opinion; i.e., the king is urging slaves to kill the slaveholders upon whom the king imposed the slaves in the first place.