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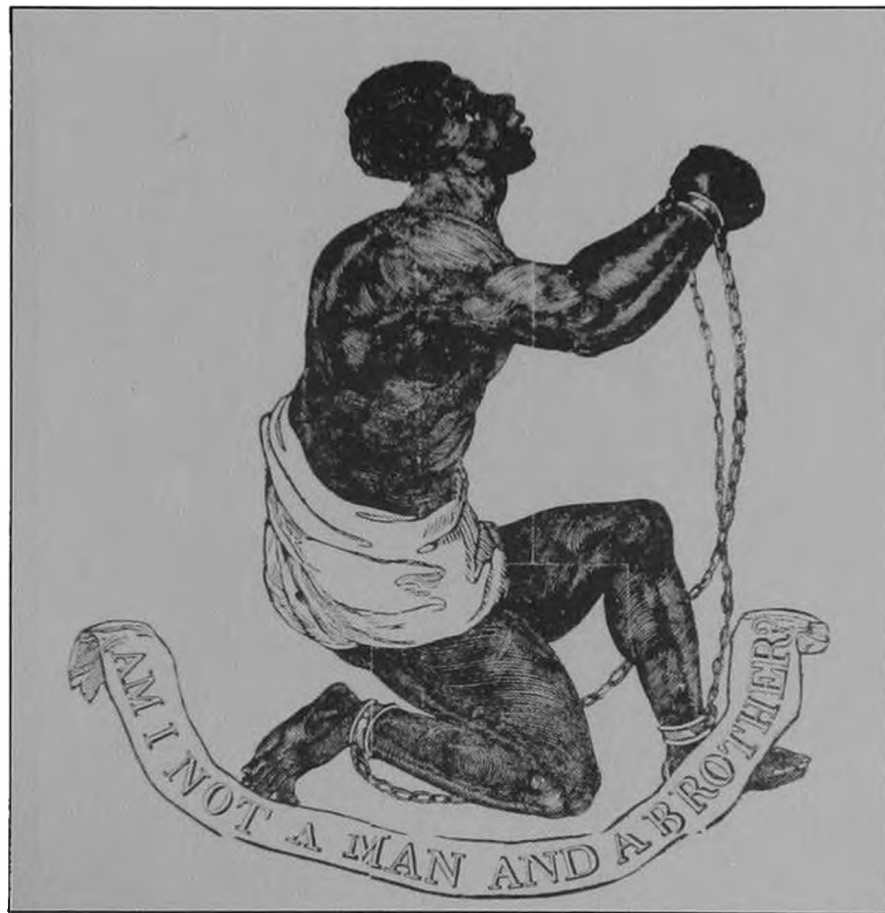
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The authors of all manuscripts published in the *Quarterly* become eligible to receive the James Phinney Baxter Award of \$100.00. Established to promote excellence in the research and writing of Maine history, the Baxter Award is presented at the discretion of the Editorial Committee to the author of the best article appearing in the *Quarterly* during the volume-year.

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COVER PHOTO: Although geographically remote from the "peculiar institution" that generated the nineteenth century's most dramatic reform crusade, Maine contributed heavily to the outpouring of abolitionist literature that kept the issue of slavery before the public in the decades prior to the Civil War. The cover illustration, taken from abolitionist poet John G. Whittier's famous broadside, "Our Countrymen in Chains," conveys the tenor of the antislavery appeal. In this issue Rod Farmer explores the premises behind the Maine abolitionist movement and suggests that these reformers saw slavery as the single force that set southern culture and society apart from that of the North. The Whittier tract is from the collections of the Maine Historical Society.