

### Activity 3

## Document-Based Activity The Second Great Awakening

### DOCUMENT 4

**Before You Read** The following words in the document below may be new to you: *execrate*, *intemperance*, *lazar*, *ardent*, *proscribed*. You may want to use a dictionary to look them up.

We execrate the cruelties of the slave trade—the husband torn from the bosom of his wife—the son from his father—brothers and sisters separated forever—whole families in a moment ruined! But are there no similar enormities to be witnessed in the United States? None indeed perpetrated by the bayonet—but many, very many, perpetrated by intemperance.

Every year thousands of families are robbed of fathers, brothers, husbands, friends. Every year widows and orphans are multiplied, and grey hairs are brought with sorrow to the grave—no disease makes such inroads upon families, blasts so many hopes, destroys so many lives, and causes so many mourners to go about the streets . . .

We have heard of the horrors of the middle passage—the transportation of slaves—the chains—the darkness—the stench—the mortality and living madness of woe—and it is dreadful. But bring together the victims of intemperance, and crowd them into one vast lazar-house, and sights of woe quite as appalling would meet your eyes . . .

The commerce therefore, in ardent spirits, which produces no good, and produces a certain and an immense amount of evil, must be regarded as an unlawful commerce, and ought, upon every principle of humanity, and patriotism, and conscience, and religion, to be abandoned and proscribed.

—Lyman Beecher, Presbyterian minister  
*Six Sermons on Intemperance*, 1827

1. How does Lyman Beecher compare intemperance with the slave trade?

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2. What change is Beecher calling for?

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## **Expansion Leads to Conflict**

## **Primary Source**

### **WHAT DID YOU LEARN?**

1. How would you describe Buchanan's position on the annexation of Texas?

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2. What did Buchanan believe might happen if the U.S. did not annex Texas?

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3. What did Buchanan want Gazzam to do? Why do you think Buchanan asked Gazzam to do this?

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