

HENRY HIGHLAND GARNET, addressed Mr. Smith, and said, respected friend and brother: We are here to-day, to present to you a tribute of respect, and gratitude, in behalf of the Colored Ladies of Buffalo. However many private tokens, designed to convey a similar expression, you may have received from the people of Color, none I apprehend has been more appropriate than this. As an individual, I am obliged to the ladies for it; for they have but expressed my desire, and those of the entire Colored population of the State of New York, and of the Union. I congratulate the ladies of Buffalo upon their success, in attempting to honor you. On other occasions, sir, your fellow-citizens have endeavoured to do the same thing publicly, but they have failed. We have besought you to yield your opinion to the warm wishes of your friends, but have been denied. We however thank you, for permitting us to offer this token of gratitude in this private manner. Yes sir, the public honors which your fellow-citizens have sought to pay you, have been refused by you, although they have earnestly supplicated for the privilege. But sir, when did the poor, or the improvident, or the panting slave, ever, present an unsuccessful petition to you? Never, no never, since the day in which, you learned that sacred lesson from your Savior, that it is more blessed to give, than it is to receive. When the injured sons of America called you to behold their gaping wounds—when you heard the prisoner's

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sighs—when the poor cried for bread—and when the mournful wailings of IRELAND reached your ears, in the name of the universal GOD and FATHER, you stretched out your hands to alleviate and to bless.

Sir, in freedom's darkest hour, when none but iron sinewed men attempted to stand in her defence; and when but a few who ventured, stood,—it was then, that you came forth from amid the charms of wealth and opulence, and fearlessly espoused our cause, and defended our rights. Your private and public life, in reference to justice and humanity, is not unknown to the country, and to the civilized world. The deeds which have marked your life were not done in a corner. *We are not ignorant of the fact, that during the period of fifteen years, you have not permitted the demon of prejudice to rule in your hospitable mansion—nor have you used the products of slave labor—neither have you during that time, given your vote for a man who despises and oppresses the poor—nor have you for fifteen years joined in the solemn farce of attempting to worship God, in the synagogues of Satan, in which is tolerated the unrighteous principle of caste.* For these deeds, there are many who hate you. But, sir, fear not. Your enemies are the foes of God, and man, while your friends are the adorers of truth and humanity. With you, the latter are willing to bare their bosoms to the storm. By your side millions will rise up, and fight in freedom's sacred cause.

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Having by your devotedness to our cause, secured an influence among the colored people unequalled by any other man of your times, the only advantage which you have taken of it, has been to point us to the highway of improvement, and to persuade us to lean upon the arm of Jehovah, while we struggle manfully against adverse winds and waves.

To you, Sir, who have distributed several fortunes to the poor, this piece of Silver in itself is comparatively worthless; but I trust that it may not be without its value, when it is remembered, that the ladies only desire to present it as a token of their gratitude to you, for the many acts of mercy which you have done for our wronged, but rising people.

Often in your time, sir, as in other days, and in regard to other men, the question has been asked, "why is there not a statue erected to GERRETT SMITH?" This would be far more gratifying to your friends, than though it had been that other interrogatory which is sometimes made, while gazing on the polished marble, which has been raised to unworthy names—"why was this erected—what has he done, whose name this marble bears?" The old Roman preferred the former, while he deprecated the latter. To-day there are tens of thousands of hearts, that beat kindly towards you' and there are tens of thousands of immortal minds on which is inscribed your works of benevolence. These sir, are more valuable than

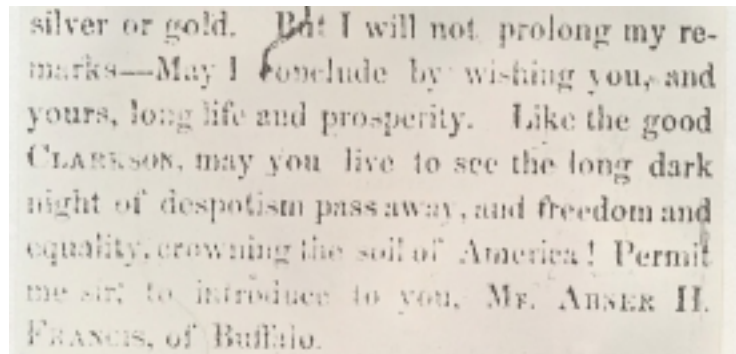
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