

One of the best speakers of the evening was Mr. S. M. Africanus, of Hartford. His style was quiet and modest, and [...] attractive, but as he proceeded, [...] the earnest attention of all present, [...] seemed to be listening, while [...] fixed upon him. When the time allowed each speaker by the rules had expired, he was about sitting down, but some one moved that he be allowed five minutes more, and leave being granted, he proceeded to the close of his speech. Throughout his remarks, we did not observe a single slip in grammar, nor any bad pronunciation. He was a full faced man of middling height, with a finely shaped head, and a remarkably pleasant eye and countenance. His thoughts were connected and logically expressed, without any repetition of language or waste of words. He said, that for the elevation of their characters, they must rely upon themselves; and for the exercise of their rights, they must rely on the justice of their cause. They are men, and the Constitution of the State which degraded them, admitted that they were citizens—otherwise such language as this would not be found in it: 'Every white male citizen of the United States shall, under certain restrictions, 'be an elector.'

Now the words 'white male citizen' imply that there are male citizens who are not white—these now claim a restoration of their lost franchise. In the course of his speech he said, that in New York State colored men were sometimes permitted to vote but their privileges were very narrow there. They were there treated much as the ancient Egyptians treated their dead. They were not buried entirely out of sight—but were embalmed, and place in

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niches of the walls of the houses of their relatives where they were seen. So in New York State, the colored citizen was not wholly lost sight of.

If he were worth the sum of 325 dollars in real-estate, he could vote, but not otherwise—in short, his rights were embalmed, and placed in the niches of the political temple, where they could be seen and spoken of. But they had no vitality—they were merely the rights of sepulchre; but even these were not tolerated in Connecticut. But he believed they would be in time, if colored men would show those who truly love republican principles that they could appreciate a freeman's privileges and exercise a free-man's franchise with reference to the best interests of our common country.

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