

Mr. White said it gave him pleasure to raise his voice in extenuation of the noble deeds of the men and nation whose names are connected with the first of August, and who will receive, until the end of time, the encomiums of the great and good everywhere. We may exhaust the calendar and not find another day of equal interest to our people—so full of gratifying reminiscences, and having so many associations of a pleasing character. On this day the heart of the colored man beats high when in his imagination he sees the chains fall from 800,000 of his brethren. He watches the labors of Clarkson and Wilberforce, till at length he sees them resulting in the freedom of the enslaved. His imagination carries him back 21 years, and he hears the rejoicings of the disenthralled. The opponents of freedom have pronounced the act a failure, and have said much of the “ruin of Jamaica.” It is scarcely necessary to say, that the cry of “ruin” was raised by the former slaveholders out of revenge for the release of their slaves. In contradiction of their misrepresentations, I would refer you to the testimony of many, among whom is Rev. Henry Bleby, a missionary to the West Indies, who says, “*There is no sense whatever in which the emancipation of the slaves proved a failure. The emancipation has not proved a failure in this sense—the people are free.*” The candid and impartial

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conversant with the history of these Islands corroborate the statements of Mr. Bleby, and are unanimous in the assertion that *Jamaica has not been ruined, and that emancipation was not a failure*. And if it had made the commercial and agricultural interests, and the wealthy planter, suffer, this is no argument against it. The only question in this matter to be settled is, "*Is it right for man to hold property in man?*" and all others dwindle into insignificance. When the people of this country freed themselves from Great Britain they said it is *self-evident* that *all men are created equal*, and that *liberty is an inalienable right*—a truism which we, the proscribed, ask the acts of government to accord with, and hope that ere long the word *white* shall be erased from the constitution of our commonwealth, and that then the other States of the confederacy will follow the noble example of the old Keystone State.

Mr. White then gave a brief history of the colored people of Jamaica—told how they once were deprived of all participation in political affairs, assailed, maltreated with impunity, not allowed to testify in court, their children shut out of the schools, and suffering under many other disadvantages, but by concert of action they released themselves from every restriction

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and had every oppressive and unjust law repealed. He spoke in the highest terms of the labors of the Hon. Edward Jordan, (now editor of the "Morning Journal," Kingston, Jamaica,) and claimed for his name a conspicuous place in the catalogue of philanthropists who brought about emancipation. In 1776, when the people of America saw that their liberties were jeopardized, they were willing to accord humanity to the black man, and to avail themselves of all the assistance that he could render. But when the war ceased, then began a series of oppressive acts which have increased in violence, and they now say that "black men had no rights that white men were bound to respect," when the colonies threw off the yoke of oppression, nor have they any now. Mr. White then recited some of the exploits of colored men in the wars of this country, and asked—No rights in a land which embosoms the hallowed remains of our ancestors? No liberty in a country which was freed by our own arms? He then spoke of the anti-slavery character of the constitution, and claimed that if the instrument was carried out to the letter, instead of celebrating the liberation of 800,000 souls from bondage, we would unite our voices in celebrating the full enfranchisement of 4,000,000 of our brethren. In conclusion he said: We hope to see the day when the

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vengeance of God will be poured, and without measure, on every species of injustice and wrong, and when this country, for its baseness and hypocrisy, will be humbled in the dust. Then, from yonder capitol the stars and stripes will float over freemen indeed. Then the Keystone State will be an honor to the Federal arch—every breeze will whisper freedom—the waves of the noble Susquehanna will move on, alternately chanting proscription's dirge and singing praises to God, and from every part of our beautiful land will arise sweet incense from Freedom's altar. From our National Capitol will radiate beams which will reach to the uttermost part of our dominion, infusing into all the spirit of Liberty, banishing proscription, and lighting with beams of refulgent splendor this dark, dark land.

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