

MY WELL-BELOVED FRIEND AND BROTHER:

Ten years have well-nigh elapsed, since it was my happy lot, in conjunction with the chairman of this meeting, to greet your first entrance into the city of Boston, and to give you a hearty welcome, as our organ—as an exponent of the feelings of the colored people.

It has become my pleasing task again to give you a most cordial welcome on the part of the same people, on your return from what is called the World's Convention;—falsely so called. Your advocacy of the glorious principles of immediate emancipation, for which you have suffered so much, has greatly endeared you to the hearts of this people. They have come forth, as you see, to give you a cordial welcome.

They well remember that William Lloyd Garrison was the first who raised his voice in America, in favor of immediate emancipation; and it is William Lloyd Garrison whom they still find their boldest-champion.

Whilst the pulpit was dumb, you, Sir, lifted up your voice in our behalf like a man! (Applause)—and lest editors may conceive themselves slighted, I will remark that they also were dumb; while your voice was raised in a manner the most determined and persevering. They well remember your 'Thoughts on Colonization;'—your predictions of what would befall you in consequence of attacking that rotten system. They remember the noble pledges that you have in past times made in their behalf; and they are here this night to testify that you have uniformly redeemed them all. (Great applause.)

We think, on this occasion, of some who were your early companions; we look for them in vain; they walk no more with you. It would have been our

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pleasure to have given them also a tribute of respect. But you are still surrounded by a brilliant constellation of faithful spirits, who have never flinched from your side. I behold one who is here sharing with you the pleasure of return. I mean your own beloved Rogers: dear to us also, for his faithfulness in supporting the same principles. Inseparable as the Siamese twins, wherever those principles call, there we see you together, united in the bonds of a friendship as close as that of Jonathan and David. The principles which characterized you here in the United States, you have nobly sustained in Europe. No change of country, or climate, or people, can make William Lloyd Garrison forget or deny his principles. As we honor those principles, so honor we the men who so nobly sustain them, the men whom we see bearing them forward at whatever labor, suffering and sacrifice. In the words of Job, 'When the eye sees you, then doth it bless you; and when the ear hears you, it bears witness to you.'

We congratulate you and ourselves upon your safe return to your dear native country—to this city—to the soil which gave you birth—to the society of your beloved family, and to the dear friends that surround you;—to the colored man whose cause you have advocated. And in expression of our fellowship and grateful sense of your devotedness to it, I now give you, in behalf of this meeting, my right hand, (great applause)—with it goes my heart! (overwhelming applause,) and the hearts of my brethren unitedly, sir. (Amen, amen, from the meeting.) I present hearts before you that your enemies have not been able to

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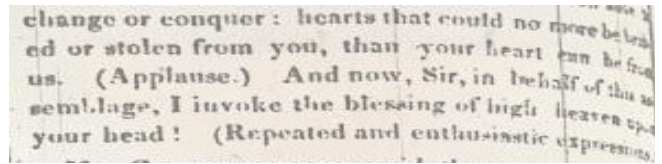
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August 28, 1840
Hilton, J[ohn] T.
Liberator

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