

On motion of Rev. CHARLES B. RAY,

Resolved, That the tendency of the principles and measures of the American A. S. Society, are practically illustrated, by their happy influence upon that class of our fellow citizens, more immediately identified with the enslaved millions of our land; by presenting new and powerful motives for efforts for their moral and intellectual improvement.

Mr. Ray spoke with much power, and with thrilling effect. After briefly dwelling upon the principles and measures of the great moral movement, he showed their benign influence on the free colored population. Not only, said Mr. R., do these great principles tend to undo the heavy burdens which are now crushing millions of those for whom Christ died; not only do they strike off the fetters from the body and souls of the oppressed; but they happily tend to clear away the mountain obstacles which retard the free colored man, in his efforts to qualify himself and children for usefulness in the various fields of enterprise, now exclusively occupied by others, but for which he is equally capacitated. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the principles of this blessed society seek the entire extermination of that cruel, unnatural and awfully wicked proscription, which turns away from the useful arts, and from places of profit and responsibility; and closes up from us the sources of useful knowledge. O! this heartless prejudice! I stand here a victim of its power. Yes, sir, I stand here this evening a victim of this withering, soul-killing prejudice. What might I not have been now, if I had been permitted to follow the guidance of my desires. I was impressed with the idea, that the great Author of my being, had intrusted to me a mind which I felt it my duty and privilege to cultivate; I gain-

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ed admission to the seminary found[e]d by the denomination of my own choice, located at Middletown, Conn.; I rejoiced in view of the prospect which spread out before me, of a favorable opportunity of acquiring that moral and intellectual cultivation, requisite to the responsible work of the holy ministry; but alas! alas! how did my heart sink within me, when I first discovered that even in my supposed retreat from the world and its persecutions, the monster was exercising his murderous influence.

Mr. Chairman, I have not language justly to portray the emotions that agitated my lacerated bosom, when by the repelling influence of prejudice exerci[s]ed by my *supposed* "Christian brethren," and fellow students, I was compelled to abandon the University, and with it all hope of acquiring a liberal education; for I then found the colleges throughout the land closed against me. In an instant all my fond hopes were blasted. The only consolation I found in this dark hour, was in pouring my sorrows into the bosom of the God of the poor and oppressed. But a new day has dawned upon us. Since the efforts of the American Anti-Slavery Society, new and powerful motives have been hung out, as it were from heaven, beckoning us onward and upward, in every thing useful and ennobling. The doors of literary institutions have been thrown open. Facilities are every day increasing, for affording our sons and daughters such physical, intellectual and moral training, as shall prepare them to set their part with usefulness to society.

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