

Friends and Fellow Citizens :—In behalf of 5000 Colored people of California, I greet you, and welcome you to a participation in this day's celebration. In behalf of the millions of our brethren, whose emancipation from slavery was proclaimed by the President of the United States on the 1st of January, 1863, I salute you. In behalf of the descendants of Africa throughout our country, the Western Continent and the world, I congratulate you.

This is a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing to us. The day which our father's desired to see, and for which we have prayed. They died without the sight;—we are permitted to behold the dawning and the light of the the advancing day of freedom to our race.

Our thanks are due unto God, who ruleth from everlasting to everlasting. Who said—"Ethiopia shall soon stretch out *her* hand to God." "He hath opened the gates of brass and cut the bars of iron in sunder." It is He that "hath sent to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." "Not unto us, O Lord! Not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory for Thy mercy and Thy truth's sake." "Let the people praise Thee! Let all the people praise Thee."

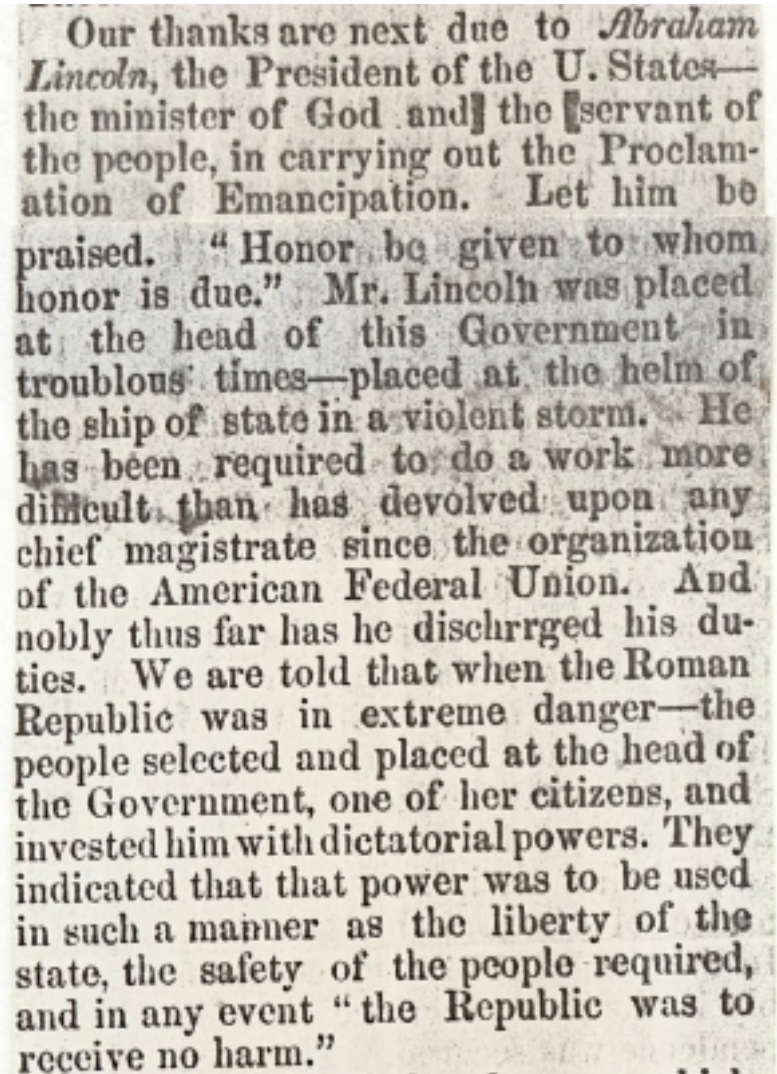
Friends and Fellow Citizens :—In behalf of 5000 Colored people of California, I greet you, and welcome you to a participation in this day's celebration. In behalf of the millions of our brethren, whose emancipation from slavery was proclaimed by the President of the United States on the 1st of January, 1863, I salute you. In behalf of the descendants of Africa throughout our country, the Western Continent and the world, I congratulate you.

This is a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing to us. The day which our father's desired to see, and for which we have prayed. They died without the sight;—we are permitted to behold the dawning and the light of the the advancing day of freedom to our race.

Our thanks are due unto God, who ruleth from everlasting to everlasting. Who said—"Ethiopia shall soon stretch out *her* hand to God." "He hath opened the gates of brass and cut the bars of iron in sunder." It is He that "hath sent to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." "Not unto us, O Lord! Not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory for Thy mercy and Thy truth's sake." "Let the people praise Thee! Let all the people praise Thee."

Our thanks are next due to *Abraham Lincoln*, the President of the U. States—the minister of God and the servant of the people, in carrying out the Proclamation of Emancipation. Let him be praised. “Honor be given to whom honor is due.” Mr. Lincoln was placed at the head of this Government in troublous times—placed at the helm of the ship of state in a violent storm. He has been required to do a work more difficult than has devolved upon any chief magistrate since the organization of the American Federal Union. and nobly thus far has he disch[a]rged his duties. We are told that when the Roman Republic was in extreme danger—the people selected and placed at the head of the Government, one of her citizens, and invested him with dictatorial powers. They indicated that that power was to be used in such a manner as the liberty of the state, the safety of the people required, and in any event “the Republic was to receive no harm.”

We are aware of the dangers which have threatened this Government with destruction since Mr. Lincoln’s election and which threatens it now. The prime caus[e] of that danger is found in the existence of slavery. No fact in the history of our country has been made plainer than that slavery has been the cause of constant strife and bad blood between the



Our thanks are next due to *Abraham Lincoln*, the President of the U. States—the minister of God and the servant of the people, in carrying out the Proclamation of Emancipation. Let him be praised. “Honor be given to whom honor is due.” Mr. Lincoln was placed at the head of this Government in troublous times—placed at the helm of the ship of state in a violent storm. He has been required to do a work more difficult than has devolved upon any chief magistrate since the organization of the American Federal Union. And nobly thus far has he dischrrged his duties. We are told that when the Roman Republic was in extreme danger—the people selected and placed at the head of the Government, one of her citizens, and invested him with dictatorial powers. They indicated that that power was to be used in such a manner as the liberty of the state, the safety of the people required, and in any event “the Republic was to receive no harm.”

We are aware of the dangers which have threatened this Government with destruction since Mr. Lincoln’s election and which threatens it now. The prime causs of that danger is found in the existence of slavery. No fact in the history of our country has been made plainer than that slavery has been the cause of constant strife and bad blood between the

people of the country, and is the cause of the present war. Slavery presided at the birth of the Government. It took the young child in it[s] arms, bathed it, and bound it in swaddling clothes; it reared it. True Yankee teachers—school-masters have assisted, (it is from them it has its better qualities,) but the *home* education has been in the house of slavery, and under the eye and influence of slave-holders. Thus slavery has grown stronger as the Government grew older—from the beginning i[t] has controlled the legislative, judiciary and executive departments of the Government.

Themistocles used to say, in allusion to the influence of a favorite child, “my boy rules Greece.” Slavery is the child that governs in the household of the American Republic; it has become full-grown, a monstrous and bloody tyrant, full of injustice and violence, ever armed with its instruments—whips, manacles, pistols and bowie knives. Its parents, teachers, the people, everywhere feared it—when its name was mentioned, men have trembled and spoken with abated breath. In the temples of learning, legislation and religion it was set up as though it were an oracle—a god.

I shall never forget the words which the lamented Baker uttered, in a temple erected to the dramatic muse in this city,

people of the country, and is the cause of the present war. Slavery presided at the birth of the Government. It took the young child in it arms, bathed it, and bound it in swaddling clothes; it reared it. True Yankee teachers—school-masters have assisted, (it is from them it has its better qualities,) but the *home* education has been in the house of slavery, and under the eye and influence of slave-holders. Thus slavery has grown stronger as the Government grew older—from the beginning i has controlled the legislative, judiciary and executive departments of the Government.

Themistocles used to say, in allusion to the influence of a favorite child, “my boy rules Greece.” Slavery is the child that governs in the household of the American Republic; it has become full-grown, a monstrous and bloody tyrant, full of injustice and violence, ever armed with its instruments—whips, manacles, pistols and bowie knives. Its parents, teachers, the people, everywhere feared it—when its name was mentioned, men have trembled and spoken with abated breath. In the temples of learning, legislation and religion it was set up as though it were an oracle—a god.

I shall never forget the words which the lamented Baker uttered, in a temple erected to the dramatic muse in this city,

on the eve of his departure to those fields of labor and duty, where after winning new laurels by his brilliant eloquence in the Senate, his prompt and faithful service in the field, he fell fighting the battle of freedom for you and me and all of us—that scene, those burning words, depicting the terror of white American citizens when the term *slavery* was named in their presence. “My God, it is true—it is true, exclaimed one, and *we are not free-men* while slavery exists.”

For the perpetuation of slavery the South are fighting in his war; for its destruction the North are fighting—the result of the contest involves the liberties, not of the colored people alone, but of all the people, white and black.

This is the golden hour for the nation. Slavery may now be destroyed. Mr. Lincoln sees and feels its importance—his position is grand and full of solemn responsibility. If slavery is destroyed, the course of this nation in future will be onward and upward to a degree of wealth, power, intelligence and glory hardly to be conceived. Should the slave power succeed, (which c[a]nnot be,) the nation will go backward and downward.

Mr. Lincoln may be compared to St. Peter, holding the key of heaven. If he will continue to stand firmly by his Proclamation, this declaration of faith, and

on the eve of his departure to those fields of labor and duty, where after winning new laurels by his brilliant eloquence in the Senate, his prompt and faithful service in the field, he fell fighting the battle of freedom for you and me and all of us—that scene, those burning words, depicting the terror of white American citizens when the term *slavery* was named in their presence. “My God, it is true—it is true, exclaimed one, and *we are not free-men* while slavery exists.”

For the perpetuation of slavery the South are fighting in his war; for its destruction the North are fighting—the result of the contest involves the liberties, not of the colored people alone, but of all the people, white and black.

This is the golden hour for the nation. Slavery may now be destroyed. Mr. Lincoln sees and feels its importance—his position is grand and full of solemn responsibility. If slavery is destroyed, the course of this nation in future will be onward and upward to a degree of wealth, power, intelligence and glory hardly to be conceived. [Should the slave power succeed, (which cannot be,) the nation will go backward and downward.

Mr. Lincoln may be compared to St. Peter, holding the key of heaven. If he will continue to stand firmly by his Proclamation, this declaration of faith, and

the people, as they have, continued to sustain him with heart, voice, hand, purse, the prosperity of the nation in future is sure—"the gates of hell shall not prevail against her." The Colored people of the United States by this Act of Emancipation, are now bound to stand by this Government—the American Federal Union—with Abraham Lincoln at its head—by every solemn tie that can bind men to their country, and the Government under which they were born, and which secures to them the enjoyment of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." I think I can say, without boasting, for the colored people of California, that when the Government requires and calls upon them, they will stand beside you and defend the Government and with their lives.—

In the Eastern, Middle and Southern States they have evinced this spirit: In the war of 1812 their valor in battle and their discipline, commanded the praise of General Jackson and others. In the war of 1776, they contributed nobly in the great sacrifice in which independence was secured. The event which we celebrate to-day will forever embalm the name of Abraham Lincoln in the hearts of the descendants of Africa on this continent and throughout the world. There is another name which is always to be mentioned in this connection—the

the people, as they have, continue to sustain him with heart, voice, hand, purse, the prosperity of the nation in future is sure—"the gates of hell shall not prevail against her." The Colored people of the United States by this Act of Emancipation, are now bound to stand by this Government—the American Federal Union—with Abraham Lincoln at its head—by every solemn tie that can bind men to their country, and the Government under which they were born, and which secures to them the enjoyment of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." I think I can say, without boasting, for the colored people of California, that when the Government requires and calls upon them, they will stand beside you and defend the Government and with their lives.—

In the Eastern, Middle and Southern States they have evinced this spirit: In the war of 1812 their valor in battle and their discipline, commanded the praise of General Jackson and others. In the war of 1776, they contributed nobly in the great sacrifice in which independence was secured. The event which we celebrate to-day will forever embalm the name of Abraham Lincoln in the hearts of the descendants of Africa on this continent and throughout the world. There is another name which is always to be mentioned in this connection—the

name of WM. LLOYD GARRISON. If there is a men in this nation to whom we owe obligations for sacrifices, for sufferings and for services rendered, more than to others, that man is Wm. Lloyd Garrison. In early youth he made a vow giving himself to labor for the destruction of slavery—he has kept that vow—for more than thirty years, amid obloquy, threats, persecution, imprisonment, mob-violence; through tears of blood he has come to the slave, to the interests and rights of the nominally free Colored people, “ever faithful among the faithless found.” O! it is beautiful to contemplate his character—what an unflinching faith in God—what a sublime life. Thirty years ago—obscure, despised, condemned—to-day he stands revered, a moral hero; recognized by the better portion of the people, by the philanthropic, in both hemispheres, as one of the most truly noble and god-like men of his age. I rejoice to believe that he has been permitted to live to see this day—to hear the President’s Proclamation of Emancipation, the day and event for which he has labored so long and faithfully. Our gratitude and love are his.

Fellow Citizens: Permit me to say, in closing, we cannot more effectually shew our sense of the value of the service rendered to our people throughout the coun-

name of WM. LLOYD GARRISON. If there is a men in this nation to whom we owe obligations for sacrifices, for sufferings and for services rendered, more than to others, that man is Wm. Lloyd Garrison. In early youth he made a vow giving himself to labor for the destruction of slavery—he has kept that vow—for more than thirty years, amid obloquy, threats, persecution, imprisonment, mob-violence; through tears of blood he has come to the slave, to the interests and rights of the nominally free Colored people, “ever faithful among the faithless found.” O! it is beautiful to contemplate his character—what an unflinching faith in God—what a sublime life. Thirty years ago—obscure, despised, condemned—to-day he stands revered, a moral hero; recognized by the better portion of the people, by the philanthropic, in both hemispheres, as one of the most truly noble and god-like men of his age. I rejoice to believe that he has been permitted to live to see this day—to hear the President’s Proclamation of Emancipation, the day and event for which he has labored so long and faithfully. Our gratitude and love are his.

Fellow Citizens : Permit me to say, in closing, we cannot more effectually shew our sense of the value of the service rendered to our people throughout the coun-

try—our gratitude to God—our thankfulness to the President—our obligations to the Government and People—than by giving heed to good counsel, and preparing for the discharge of those duties which will grow out of the new relations we are entering upon.

try—our gratitude to God—our thankfulness to the President—our obligations to the Government and People—than by giving heed to good counsel, and preparing for the discharge of those duties which will grow out of the new relations we are entering upon.