

Mr. W. Wells Brown was received with loud cheers. He said that he had come to the meeting as a spectator, without the remotest idea of taking any part in it. He had listened, as every one present must have listened, with great interest to the proceedings. He rejoiced that such a meeting had been held, for the present was a trying crisis in the United States to those who were identified with the cause of abolitionism, when everything said in this country by the friends of the slave would be eagerly caught up and taken to heart by his friends on the other side of the Atlantic. Now was the reign of terror in the United States—(hear.) Never was there a time when Abolitionists had so much to contend with as at the present time. They had heard the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Bill described, but whatever could be said at such a meeting would give the majority present but a very faint idea of what was passing in America under that Bill. He and his colored brethren then could appreciate what had been said in this connection. They could feel for their brethren across the Atlantic, as none others in that room could feel. They had themselves felt the lash—they had worn the chains; and they knew too what was being done in America to put down and oppress the free colored people of the North, to say nothing of the terrible condition of the fugitive—(cheers.) The Fugitive Act was intended, he believed, to snuff out the fire of freedom, burning on

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the hearts of the people in the Free States. It might be asked what could the people of this country do? They might express their feelings, their opinions and their sympathies, and in that way cheer and strengthen the friends of the slave. They might also aid the Abolition movement, as many of them had done by their contributions to the Annual Bazaar of the American Anti-Slavery Society. The American people were very sensitive, especially the religious people, as to what was said and thought of them in this country, and every genuine expression of abhorrence of slavery; and sympathy with the Abolitionists uttered here was felt across the Atlantic. The people of the United States who were in favor of the Fugitive Act, or who kept silence respecting it, could not plead ignorance as an excuse for their conduct, in this nineteenth century. There was too much light for that now. Why, they would exclude a member from Church fellowship who should merely steal a hat and coat, but should he steal the man also as well as the hat and coat, they deemed that no disgrace or wrong—(laughter and cheers.) He thanked the meeting for the resolutions they had passed, and the manner in which they had passed them—he thanked those who had convened the meeting, and those who had taken part in it—he thanked them in his own behalf, in behalf of his brethren in bonds, and in behalf of the Abolitionists, who would deeply

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value the expression of their sympathy. Let them think for a moment of the Fugitive Slave Law and all its atrocities. Mr. Brown here drew a touching picture of a poor woman, guided by the north star, flying from the South for freedom. She reaches the Free States, on a cold winter's night; she tremblingly knocks at your door; by the light of the moon you perceive her eyes filled with tears as she looks with a mother's apprehensions at the baby in her arms. She asks for bread for her child, and for temporary shelter. Your heart is touched, but at this moment you are informed that she has been a slave, and that should you relieve her you will be imprisoned and fined, and if unwilling to run this risk, you must turn her from your door, and tell her that the laws of your country will not permit you to shelter the houseless or to feed the hungry—(hear, hear.) He rejoiced to see so many women present. He wanted them to realize to their minds the condition of a million of colored women in America, denied marriage, and liable to be put on the auction-block. Noble and faithful women had given most efficient aid to the abolition movement in America, and he could not forget that they had been liberally seconded by the women of this country. He thanked them in the name of the Abolitionists for their valued sympathy: he thanked them one and all as the friends of the oppressed and the enslaved. (Loud cheers.)

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