

Mr. President:

I will endeavor to show my appreciation of the kind manner in which you have been please to announce me, by remembering not to monopolize these golden moments.

It was my happy privilege, sir, in the exercise of a boy's curiosity, to be a looker-on through the basement window of the Belknap street church that memorable evening, January 2d, just twenty-five years ago, when this Society began to live, move, and have its being.

In taking a retrospective glance at what has been accomplished since that dark hour to the present, by WM. LLOYD GARRISON, the *Liberator*, and this glorious pioneer Society, I would fain adopt those familiar lines of the poet—

‘Transported with the view, I am lost
In wonder, love and praise.’

I need not attempt, on this occasion, to analyze the why and wherefore of these my emotions, for they must be apparent to this assembly of Freedom's chosen veterans, champions and orators. You know, as all know even at the ‘free North,’ as this section of the country is sometimes called, slavery was deemed a subject not fit to be talked about in circles misnamed polite, nor even humane; but now, over the entire nation, South as well as North, in Church and State, in highways and byways, as also in the social circle, slavery is emphatically the thing thought of, and in most instances the prolific theme of discussion.

Another fact, and one no less significant, is the change wrought in public sentiment in its recognition of the manhood of that class with whom I stand identified by complexion and condition. Then the colored

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man was treated as though his very presence was a 'spell to conjure up the devil with.' Now, through the precept and example of this Society, he has secured an audience, and is beginning to be regarded as a man and a brother.

Among the instrumentalities contributing to this encouraging aspect of the times, I have Mr. Garrison's assurance and authority confirming my own experience and observation, that the influence and co-operation of Woman have been signally manifest.

ELIZABETH HEYRICK of England, coincidental with WM. LLOYD GARRISON, first promulgated the idea of immediate emancipation. The anti-slavery women of America rallied under that banner, consecrating their exertions and sacrifices in times of persecution and peril—the persevering and complicated taxation of their mental, moral and industrial powers—upon the altar of the slave's redemption, active in season and out of season, always remembering those in bonds as bound with them.

In behalf of the millions of slaves now groaning in the Southern prison-house, and the half-free colored citizens of the North, I tender the anti-slavery Women the united homage of grateful hearts; a just tribute for those labors of love. Like the Homeric chain of gold, one end rests upon the earth, and the other terminates in heaven.

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