

[The Chairman stated the object of the meeting to be an expression of thought and sentiment with reference to the recent speech in Congress of their illustrious Senator, Hon. Charles Sumner. He then introduced William C. Nell, who submitted the following resolutions:—]

Resolved, That true to those impulses for freedom which were the choice inheritance of Hon. Charles Sumner, its characteristic fruits blossomed out in his efforts for equal school rights of the colored children of Boston, and through many other channels of benevolence and reform, here in his native city; elsewhere, and in Congress, culminating in that eloquent and noble speech delivered in the United States Senate June 4th, 1860.

Resolved, That our past and every-day experience, both as enslaved and nominally free colored Americans, confirms the graphic truthfulness of said speech—the barbarism of slavery. But passing by the facts of Southern slavery, so abundantly cited by him in illustration, the speech has a special significance for us at the present time, inasmuch as prominent Senators and Representatives from Northern States, claiming Republican majorities, are directly sustaining the institution of slavery by gravely discussing the banishment of colored citizens as a prospective feature in their party programme; and the Executive of our own beloved Massachusetts interposes a second gratuitous veto against our exercise of rights freely enjoyed by all other citizens, native and adopted; while this great speech of our distinguished Senator not only

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portrays and denounces the outrages of Southern slavery, but is redolent with recognitions of our manhood and citizenship—our '*equality before the law*'—a speech, though too radical for politicians and parties, is loyal to humanity and God; for all of which we tender to Hon. Charles Sumner the grateful homage of our hearts.

Mr. Nell said,—From these resolutions, complimentary to the living orator, he felt that it would not be deemed an inappropriate transition to award a brief tribute to a recently departed friend, who, if now in the flesh, would have promptly enunciated from lips of glowing rhetoric an earnest commendation of Mr. Sumner's speech; and he would, therefore, submit for endorsement of the meeting a resolution relative to the late Rev. THEODORE PARKER:—

Resolved, That in the death of Rev. Theodore Parker, we mourn the loss of an ever-vigilant, devoted, noble-hearted friend. Independent of his multifarious offerings for the good of mankind, we remember, specially, (for how can we forget?) his Herculean and complicated services in the trial-hours of 1850, '51 and '54, when the Fugitive Slave Law established a reign of terror in Boston and throughout the country. As President of the Boston Vigilance Committee, he was as watchful as Argus with his hundred eyes, and as executive as was Briareus with as many hands. The scenes consequent upon the hunting of William and Ellen Craft—the rendition of Thomas Sims and Anthony Burns—his words and deeds at Faneuil Hall, Music Hall, United States Court House, &c.;—in the highways and byways of the city and

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suburbs, or protecting the flying fugitive in his own house, in times of imminent personal peril. Indeed, wherever his voice or hand could assist those who would escape, or foil the attempt of those who would betray, there was he sure to be found, abundant in resources, and ready for any emergency. His letter from Rome, in approval of the purposes of John Brown and party at Harper's Ferry, completed a public record consistent with his own chosen language,—
'I love my God, Father and Mother of the white man and the black; and am I to suffer the liberties of America to be trod under the hoof of slaveholders and slave-drivers?' These doings and sayings now well up to the surface of our memories, invoking the tribute due to him, who, though dead, yet speaketh to encourage all who would be faithful in the battle between Freedom and Slavery.

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