

The Rev. Mr. Kelly then presented himself and was greeted with loud applause. He proceeded to lay before the meeting a most interesting, and in some respects painful, statement of his experience of the operation of the slave system in America, and of its degrading and brutalizing effects upon its unfortunate victims. He called attention to the fact, that it was a rule amongst slave holders [to] rear up their slaves in utter and absolute ignorance, well knowing that while they remained in this barbarous state they could be the more easily retained in bondage. As a proof of the baneful influence of this system, wherever it existed, he mentioned that although Kentucky was considered as one of the mildest of the slave states yet he believed it was fully two hundred years behind the most inferior of the free states in civilization. Having given a horrifying description of the various modes of punishing slaves in the western states, he proceeded to show by reference to facts, that the worst characters sketched in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" were far from being unfair specimens of the classes which they were intended to represent. Towards the close of his discourse the reverend gentlemen asserted that the abolition of slavery was fast approaching, and one of the best proofs he could give of this fact was, that the slaves themselves were beginning to be sensible of their degradation, and to be filled with a strong and increasing desire for freedom. It was most encouraging to him to be enabled to come to the conclusion the world had now pronounced its verdict against slavery and for the freedom of all mankind, and that everywhere slave dealers and slave holders were beginning to be, if not already, regarded as unworthy to associate with humane and Christian men. Having stated that it was his intention to return as soon as possible to his native country, and that for the purpose of enabling him to do so he was

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