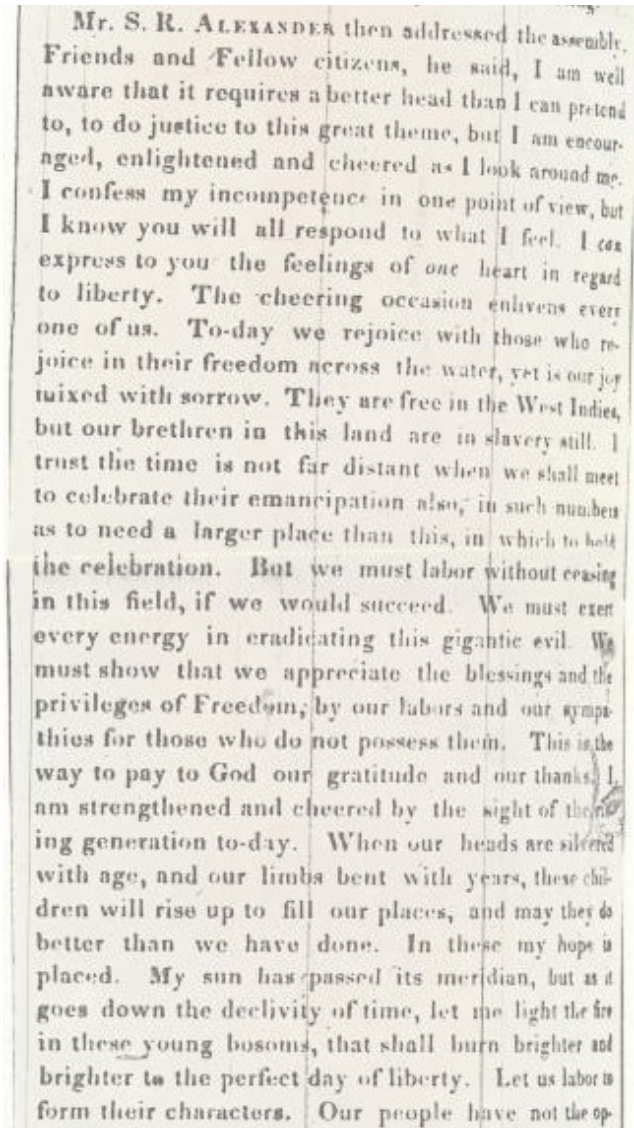


Mr. S. R. ALEXANDER then addressed the assembly. Friends and Fellow citizens, he said, I am well aware that it requires a better head than I can pretend to, to do justice to this great theme, but I am encouraged, enlightened and cheered as I look around me. I confess my incompetence in one point of view, but I know you will all respond to what I feel. I can express to you the feelings of *one* heart in regard to liberty. The cheering occasion enlivens every one of us. To-day we rejoice with those who rejoice in their freedom across the water, yet is our joy mixed with sorrow. They are free in the West Indies, but our brethren in this land are in slavery still. I trust the time is not far distant when we shall meet to celebrate their emancipation also, in such numbers as to need a larger place than this, in which to hold the celebration. But we must labor without ceasing in this field, if we would succeed. We must exert every energy in eradicating this gigantic evil. We must show that we appreciate the blessings and the privileges of Freedom, by our labors and our sympathies for those who do not possess them. This is the way to pay to God our gratitude and our thanks. I am strengthened and cheered by the sight of the [..] ing generation to-day. When our heads are silvered with age, and our limbs bent with years, these children will rise up to fill our places, and may they do better than we have done. In these my hope is placed. My sun has passed its meridian, but as it goes down the declivity of time, let me light the fire in these young bosoms, that shall burn brighter and brighter to the perfect day of liberty. Let us labor to form their characters. Our people have not the op-



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portunities that others have for acquiring an education, and how many can know nothing but what their fathers and mothers teach them. Except from their parents, they can learn nothing. Oh! then let parents be faithful, and lay before them the nature of slavery, and teach them to strive against it. Do not let the influence of this assembly fall dead here. Let it go out against that dreadful system. Scarcely has the dawn of effort begun. It seems but yesterday that we first heard of these efforts, and yet what progress! And should we not rejoice? Should we not come together to be glad, and to form good resolutions? I hope the next speaker may be able to say more to strengthen you to do the things that are right, in behalf of our brethren under the lash. I am grieved when I see apathy among us. It sometimes seems as if we were afraid to move or to speak or to look. But we ought to be all eye – all voice – all hand. America was wholly moved for the Pole – then how ought we as a people to feel! We came here to-day to show how we feel for our enslaved fellow-men, and to show our opposers that we feel how much their redemption depends upon us.

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