

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*—The Committee of Arrangements has conferred on me the honor to appear before you this evening. I thank you for this expression of confidence and esteem. You have increased my pleasure by your kindness, which has continued uninterrupted from the day of my arrival to the present hour. If I can render any assistance in the good cause by my humble efforts, I will freely and cheerfully respond to your generous request[.] To be a co-worker in the vineyard of our God, in sowing the seed of Christian fellowship, by encouraging a reunion of hearts, which is based on great and noble principles, is my highest enjoyment. The presence of so large a number of intelligent faces does exert an impressible influence on my sympathetic nature; I therefore beg your kind indulgence, if, from the inspiration of the moment, I do express sentiments which are too ardent or emotional. I thank you for the interest which you have manifested by responding to the call which was made to patronize this festival. The enterprise in which you are so laudibly engaged, is rapidly progressing towards completion under your liberal contributions. It is a fact worthy of record that you have accomplished a greater work in a short space of time than was ever before performed with the same appliances

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on the Pacific slope. You began this enterprise under circumstances far from being encouraging, with a small number of persons who possessed but a very limited share of worldly goods. Through the blessings of God you have instituted and executed a work of magnitude under the direction of brother Ward, who is indefatigable in his labors, and who invariably succeeds by his original method to relieve the people of their surplus imperial mint drops. The beautiful and commodious church edifice which you have purchased reflects a lasting credit on us as a people. It also demonstrates in power, which cannot be invalidated or controverted, that your sagacity and forethought was equal to the emergency. By this purchase many thousand dollars was saved, which otherwise would have been expended in accomplishing a work so stupendous. You have escaped a heavy debt which would have required many years of anxiety and toil to liquidate. The fact that you collected by subscription the sum of two thousand dollars, in twenty-five days, is as surprising as it was gratifying. Our friends throughout the country will read with pleasure your wonderful achievements. They will be astonished and delighted. We hope and believe that ere another year has passed, that you will again assemble to

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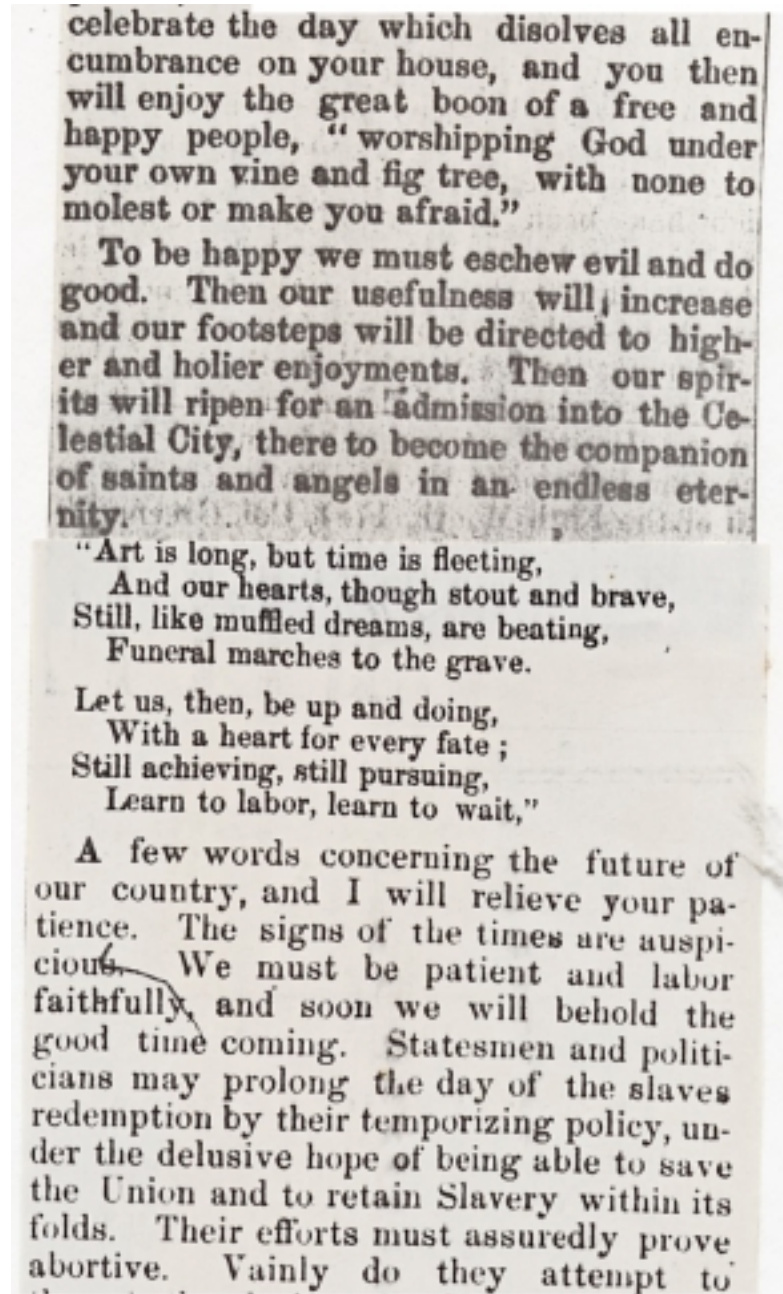
celebrate the day which dissolves all encumbrance on your house, and you then will enjoy the great boon of a free and happy people, "worshipping God under your own vine and fig tree, with none to molest or make you afraid."

To be happy we must eschew evil and do good. Then our usefulness will increase and our footsteps will be directed to higher and holier enjoyments. Then our spirits will ripen for an admission into the Celestial City, there to become the companion of saints and angels in an endless eternity.

"Art is long, but time is fleeting,  
And our hearts, though stout and brave,  
Still, like muffled dreams, are beating,  
Funeral marches to the grave.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for every fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor, learn to wait,"

A few words concerning the future of our country, and I will relieve your patience. The signs of the times are auspicious. We must be patient and labor faithfully, and soon we will behold the good time coming. Statesmen and politicians may prolong the day of the slaves redemption by their temporizing policy, under the delusive hope of being able to save the Union and to retain Slavery within its folds. Their efforts must assuredly prove abortive. Vainly do they attempt to



thwart the design of "Him who is thundering in the Heavens for the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, I will arise, I will put him in safety from him that puffeth at him."

Our Government may, with as much reason, attempt to carve a cathedral from the sunset clouds, or create salient and retreating lines of armed hosts in the northern lights, as to seek to save the Union without abolishing Slavery.

While the mighty car wheels of emancipation are rolling along, let us not hinder its destination. If we desire to hasten the downfall of slavery, we must cherish moral and religious principles. The power of Christianity exemplified in our pilgrimage through life, is no small item in the account current of exacting justice, from those who oppress us. If we expect to see the influence of prejudice decrease, and colored men respected, it must be through the blessings of enlightened education. It must be by placing ourselves in a situation to shed upon a country and a people that scientific grandeur which is imperishable by time, and drowns in oblivion's cup our moral degradation. We must awaken from our lethargy, and become owners in real estate. Very few who hear my voice but what are able to purchase a homestead. It can now be obtained for a small sum. Do not delay in making a

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purchase. We must also become a reading people, and thereby improve in our literary pursuits. We have talent among us of a high order. Let us cultivate the natural gifts bestowed upon us by a beneficent Creator; then we will be able to unshaft the calumnious darts of our enemies and compel them to acknowledge by act and by deed, that intellectuality dwells in white and black the same.

President Lincoln's manifesto to Horace Greely is significant. I believe that the time is not far distant, when the President will decide this great question by a single blow, and the bastile of Slavery will totter and fall, and its destruction will be ratified by millions in our land, and the jubilee will extend to the remotest bounds of civilization.

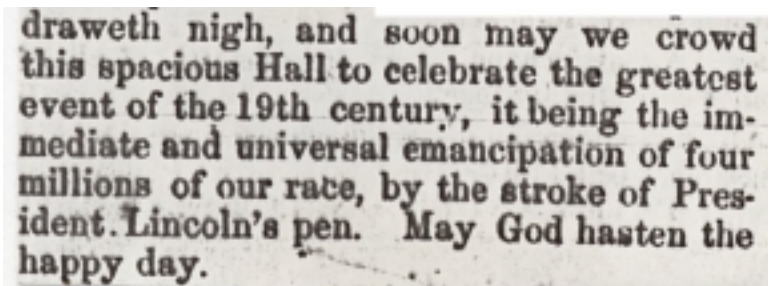
The public mind is being educated on this subject. I listened last Monday evening at Platt's Hall, to a thrilling and eloquent address delivered by Rev. T. Starr King, before an assembly of three thousand persons. The question of arming the Negro and of emancipating the slaves to save the Union was freely discussed; and the sentiments contained in Gen. Halleck's order was enthusiastically applauded. In view of all the controlling causes which are now precipitating the issues, which are suspended over the destiny of a great and powerful nation, let us not despair. The day of our redemption

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