

August 3,[?] 1857

Morris, Robert

New Bedford, Massachusetts

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ROBERT MORRIS of Boston, said none of the Massachusetts judges, from Judge Shaw to Judge Russell, endorsed the Dred Scott decision. Judge Shaw repudiated it. It had no more binding force in our courts than the mere assertion of the President. The speaker repudiated schemes of colonization. The colored man should not leave the country. Slavery would not peaceably go out, but must be removed by a strong arm. The speaker here took occasion to say that the respectable and intelligent young colored men of Boston were not represented here to-day by a military company. It was high time they left off playing and went down into seriousness. They were dressed up to-day in soldier's uniform, without commission or legal right. When the State gave the colored man this right, they would form military companies and fine ones too. With regard to the Dred Scott decision, he agreed with Mr. Remond, and he knew not a brother lawyer in Boston who did not entertain the same opinion.

The true secret of the advancement of the colored men was on their insisting on their rights. Let them submit to nothing wrong. In the school question in Boston they had carried every point by earnest persistency. He hoped the action of this convention would be such as to show the world that the colored men of Massachusetts trod under foot the principles involved in the Dred Scott decision. If a fugitive came to New Bedford, and there was any movement to take him away, telegraph to the friends in Boston, and they would come three hundred strong, and neither leave nor forsake him till he was out of danger. If he came

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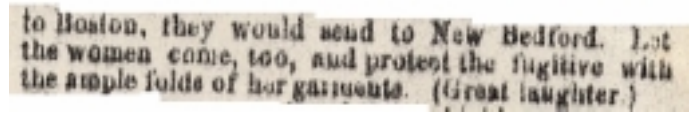
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