

Mr. Craft then came forward and said, that he was very happy to be permitted to meet so large an audience on the present occasion. They were met in behalf of a cause in which he was deeply interested, and he trusted that the same feeling pervaded the whole assembly. He was interested in it for the sake of his relatives, and friends, and countrymen. He came out of slavery about two years ago; and then he was not able to read the name of the God that made him; but he felt it his duty to appear before them, knowing how he had suffered. He considered that the address that had been read was most proper, and what should be adopted, for he assured them, that while slaveholders came over to Scotland, and were acknowledged as brethren, entering into their pulpits, and sitting at their communion tables, they never would do anything for the abolition of slavery. He considered that a recital of the manner in which he and his wife escaped from slavery would be more interesting than any speech he could make, and he accordingly proceeded to relate very humorously and with good effect, the way in which their escape had been effected. They had innumerable difficulties to encounter, having to travel a thousand miles in disguise, and should they have been detected, would have been separated from each other for lifetime. But they had weighed the matter on both sides; and they resolved to incur such a risk and grapple with the difficulties, rather than live in perpetual chains and slavery. He had been put to learn the trade of a cabinet-maker, and had wrought for five years night and day in order to procure money enough to purchase articles of clothing for disguise, and to pay their passage by railways and boats. He was sold twice, and made a bargain with his last master to give him 220 dollars per annum, and keep himself, the surplus he devoted to the purpose just stated. His wife hesitated at first

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to adopt the plans which they had contrived; but having consented, she went to her mistress one day and told her she had an aunt about twelve miles distant who was very sick, and wished very much to see her. The mistress at first refused, upon which she burst out into tears till she affected the heart of her mistress, who then wrote a pass for her. No slave can travel any distance without such pass from their owner. He made the same excuse to his master, pleading the danger his wife might incur if he did not accompany her. The night before they started he cut his wife's hair, dressed her in gentleman's apparel, with a pair of green glasses, and got poultices to tie up her arm to prevent the necessity of having to write her name at the various stations where it was required. She travelled as his master. They came to Savannah, then to Charleston, where they put up at the first-class hotel, got new poultices made, as the gentleman feigned throughout the whole of the journey that he was labouring under inflammatory rheumatism. Their narrowest escape however was at Baltimore, it being a station in the slave states, and if the officers permitted any slave to pass without sufficient caution, they were liable to sustain all damages. After waiting some time they were at last permitted to go, and landed safely at Philadelphia, free from the trammels of slavery, and rejoicing in the sunshine of liberty. Their first inquiries regarded the laws relating to runaway slaves, as they were under the impression that slaveholders could go to the free states and take their slaves back again without any trouble. But they learned differently from Mr W. W. Brown, who was the first person with whom they entered into conversation after their arrival. After staying in Philadelphia for some time, they went to Massachusetts, and remained there until the passing of the

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atrocious Fugitive Slave Bill, when they were compelled to leave their native land, for their masters had actually employed agents in Boston to adopt proceedings for their apprehension, detention, and return. But they were free, and he trusted that this meeting, in adopting the address which had been read, would thereby give such an expression of their feelings as would tend in no small measure to make his enslaved countrymen and friends also free. And he also trusted that the audience would not think that he gloried in coming before them and telling them how he and his companion had planned and successfully carried out the deception, for under the circumstances he thought they were perfectly excusable, and he would conclude with the words of an anti-slavery writer which could not but convince every one that man was intended to be free. "Has God willed us free, and man willed us slaves; But we will as God wills, let God's will be done." (Applause.)

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