

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—Our meeting this evening forms one link in that golden chain of associations which unites in a signal manner the faithful band of American anti-slavery men and women with their ever-vigilant and efficient co-laborers in Great Britain, France, Germany and elsewhere in the old world.

From the year 1833, when WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, the honored and acknowledged pioneer of our cause, performed his first anti-slavery mission to Europe, it has been the high privilege of friends in Boston to bid God-speed to several others on departing—and when returning, to take note of the event, as on this festive occasion.

Five years since, our guest left his native land to sojourn beyond the broad Atlantic wave—during which time, in glorious contrast with some others identified with him by complexion and condition, he has never lowered the tone of anti-slavery testimony, nor elevated sect above humanity, but on all and every occasion his voice has been heard, his hand been seen, in proclaiming and defending the cause of the crushed and bleeding slave. For this, among other merits, Wm. Wells Brown, we cherish a grateful recollection of your mission.

Permit us to anticipate your unfolding to us, this evening, a brief chapter of 'Places you have seen and people you have met.' The oft-repeated but none the less acceptable European every-day protest against color-phobia—a peculiar institution of Christian, republican America—and from your own 'sunny memories of foreign lands,' we may glean some incidents in the philanthropic tour of Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose wonderful book of the dark-browed son of toil and the angel-child Eva elicited the sympathies of lord and peasant—

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even to that 'material aid,' which, as a faithful almoner, she is now dispensing to 'help the cause along.' We shall hear from that hero of many an anti-slavery battle at home and abroad, PARKER PILLSBURY, and the WEBBS, HAUGHTONS and MURRAYS, the PEASES, ESTLINS, and others in that brilliant constellation of representative men and women devoted to the cause of emancipation; and last, but O, how far from least! GEORGE THOMPSON and MARIA WESTON CHAPMAN, whose honored names are ever welcome to our ears.

It would not be in keeping with the proprieties of this hour to moot the question of purchasing a man from his self-styled master. We have to take cognizance of the heart-inspiring *fact*, that WILLIAM WELLS BROWN is to-night, and henceforth, a free man—no longer a fugitive slave, but ransomed from American chattelhood by British philanthropy. We rejoice that he is as free as the bird that cleaves the air, or sings on the branches.

Let us thank God that *Enoch* cannot translate you, our brother, back to slavery. You are now beyond *Price*.

In behalf of this meeting and the friends of our common cause—as an earnest of their satisfaction in view of your course abroad, and safe return home—it is my happiness to tender you the right hand of fellowship. May your past services prove an earnest for the future; and so consecrating them, may you and our beloved GARRISON live to see the day when our guilty land will no more be trodden by a tyrant or a slave, and you both gladden by your presence, and inspire by your voices, the multitudes assembled to usher in the Jubilee.

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