

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I would much rather hear than be heard on such an occasion as this, but as I am unexpectedly called upon to make a few remarks, I will be as short as I possibly can, and do justice to the subject.

We are not here on the present occasion one against another, but we come in all our strength to denounce that common foe, American Slavery. We are here in the name of Liberty and of the Constitution of the United States, to discuss those principles which are seen to be self-evident, and which declare all men to be free; but those principles have been trampled on and violated under the name of law and the Constitution, and so far from being carried out, I suppose there are at present more than three millions of slaves in the United States. The politicians who live upon the spoils of office, and delegate themselves to that office by debasing the condition of the slave, have continued to perpetuate this bloody institution that we have met here this evening to denounce. the speaker who is to follow me will faithfully delineate to you the evils of that wicked system.

Why should we not assist, ladies and gentlemen, in carrying out or applying those great principles that our fathers so nobly declared, and on which they relied, in the name of Liberty? I think that all we have to do is to correct the public sentiment, get the Constitution and the people right, and the teachings of the Bible will then be sustained in a manner becoming of free citizens of the world. It should be the aim of every friend of liberty and humanity to do what he can to sustain the doctrine of the abolition of slavery, in any form whatsoever.

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We must exercise more influence on the press as well as on the pulpit, if we wish to destroy this base system; until we do this, nothing effectual can be accomplished.

Let us look a moment at the politicians—such a man as Daniel Webster, for instance, who stands head and shoulders above any other man in New England, for his talent and ability. He has been called an anti-slavery man, but he has shown himself as little in favor of the Wilmot Proviso as any slaveholder at the South. We expect to see Daniel Webster, with his mighty intellect, come out and show himself in our favor; but it appears that he is almost willing to lie down and lick the very feet of the slaveholders. We have the same blood flowing in us that our revolutionary fathers had, and should we allow ourselves to be debased in such a manner, if it is in our power to help it? NO, NEVER! God being my helper, though I am in favor of peace, if the human brutes under whose lashes I have smarted, come to claim me as their property, I will act as a man and a freeman, whether I am to believe the Constitution or not. If there is no alternative but to go back to slavery, or die contending for liberty, then death is far preferable. Fellow fugitives, you *have* but one alternative. It is found in this fact, that when we have crossed Mason and Dixon's line, a portion of our rights have been restored to us, namely, the right of self-defence; and if any scoundrel lays hold of us for the purpose of reclaiming us, we have the power to use that right of self-defence. If a man lays hold of you, I say, resist; but if you are weak enough to suffer

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