

MR. PRESIDENT:—The remarks you have employed, in introducing me to this audience, excite a feeling in my mind scarcely ever dormant in the terrible ordeal through which we are passing every moment of our existence, in the presentation to-day of that state of things which victimizes us by a cruel and relentless prejudice. This, Sir, is hard, very hard to bear; for, with due deference to modesty, we live in the consciousness of our rights and our manhood. (Applause.)

Mr. President, you have said that this is the twentieth anniversary of the American Anti-Slavery Society; but, Sir, through this long lapse of years, in which anti-slavery truth has been preached according to the gospel of this Society, we feel to-day the necessity of yet presenting to the American people the plain and just demands we make upon them. It is not passing strange, that there is as yet needed from the people of this country, a practical recognition of the fact, that the colored man is a man, and, as such, is entitled to equal rights with other men? But, Sir, we have well-grounded hope in the history of past success and the present aspect of our cause, that we shall yet triumph. I beg leave, Sir, to offer as an expression of my views upon this point, the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the contrast between the present aspect of the Anti-Slavery cause now, and as it presented itself twenty-three years ago, is in the highest degree cheering—that the change which has taken place in public sentiment on the subject of the colored man's rights, as evinced in the tone of the newspaper press, and in the character of the current literature of the day, is such as not only to inspire the friends of the cause with the liveliest satisfaction, but to produce in the minds of all careful observers the conviction that a mighty revolution is going steadily on in this country, that will result, and that at no distant day, in the utter overthrow of American slavery, and the restoration to the colored man of the rights of which he has been so long robbed.

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We all recollect the effect of the first declaration of immediate and unconditional emancipation, and how the man who startled this guilty nation by the bold avowal of that doctrine had large rewards offered for his head, and was incarcerated in a Southern prison. The gathered energy and spirit of that philanthropy, penetrating the walls of Slavery, said, 'I am in earnest; I will not equivocate; I will not excuse; I will not retreat a single inch; and I will be heard.' (Applause.) That these pledges, made in the full confidence of an abiding trust in the power of truth and God, have been faithfully redeemed, no argument is needed to show. The trials and persecutions, and sacrifices of property, of liberty and life, have shown that those men who entered this cause were not to be turned aside by threats. 'We may be personally defeated; our principles, never. Truth, reason, justice, humanity, will and must gloriously triumph.' And that there has been a triumph, both of the principles and of the persons who advocated them, our presence here to-day is not among the smallest evidences.

I will not weary the patience of this audience by attempting a recital of facts that have fallen under the observation of all, in proof of the progress which our principles have made in this country; but you will allow me to refer to a single one, and a significant one, in the rebounding of public sentiment, overwhelming in defeat, disgrace and moral death, the Irish miscreant, John Mitchel (applause); a man who longs for a Southern plantation, stocked with healthy negroes, and who blasphemously associates, in his infernal opposition to human liberty, the sacred names of St. Paul and Jesus Christ! Sir, this braggart traitor to liberty has met with a repulse, which, while it is an index of

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the advancement of our principles in the public mind, will be a warning to any unprincipled foreign adventurers who may hastily prostrate their servile souls to the slaveholding spirit of our land. (Applause.) This John Mitchel is a disgrace to your city, and his presence would be a curse any where. (Applause.)

Pardon, Sir, somewhat of feeling on this subject. I became a member of an association of colored persons in Philadelphia, whose object was, by contributions and otherwise, to promote the repeal movement in Ireland. ('Hear, hear.') We felt for Ireland, as we believe no other class in the country could. ('Hear, hear.') We sympathized with her in her distresses, in the wrongs and outrages inflicted upon her. We contributed our money and our personal effort to assist her in the overthrow of what we conceived to be a galling despotism. But, Sir, could we have believed for a moment, could it ever have entered our minds, that the leaders in that movement were such men as your Mitchel and your Meagher, how much sympathy do you think we could have shown for that cause? I couple the name of [Meagher with that of] Mitchel, because, according to his own confession, it will be three years before [he will] be enabled to determine whether he will be a man when he becomes an American citizen. (Applause.) In other words, this liberty-loving patriot will then decide whether his influence shall be for or against native-born Americans, many of whom are descendants of those who shed their blood in the Revolutionary struggle, and of those who subsequently, in important crises and perilous times, have shown their unfailing devotion to the interests of this country, in maintaining

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its liberties, and securing a refuge even for such vagabonds as these. (Great applause.)

Mr. President: It is hard to bear up against the trials and persecutions which our cause has to encounter from our own countrymen; it is hard to endure the insults and the ingratitude of Americans; but, God helping us, we will defy them all, and we will look with pitying contempt upon all insults to freedom, whether from the foes or the apostates of liberty, whether foreign or domestic, whether exhibited in that rare specimen of superlative impudence, John Mitchel, or in the unscrupulous demagoguism of that traitor to humanity and to his country, Stephen Arnold Douglas, (loud and long-continued applause,)—a man who would offer up to the bloody Morloch of Slavery, the unpolluted and virgin soil of a territory larger than the original thirteen States. (Applause.)

Sir, these things should only stir us to renewed zeal and devotion to the cause of freedom; for, after all, there is no mistaking the tendency of the age. The signs of the times are brighter than ever before. A series of articles has lately appeared in that widely-influential journal, the *New York Tribune*, calculating the value of the Union. ('Hear, hear.') The doctrine of disunion, which this Society has so often expressed and maintained, amid censure and opprobrium, is finding its way into the minds and hearts of men. The sentiment of freedom is abroad in the whole world. The despotic thrones of Europe are shaking to their very foundations, and the spirit of Liberty is arousing and animating men every where to do their duty. For more than three hundred consecutive nights, the popular and faithful drama of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' has been performed in your city, in obedience to the demand

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But I will not detain you with any further remarks. In the language of the resolution I have submitted, I repeat, that a mighty revolution is going steadily on in this country, that will result—and that at no distant day—in the utter overthrow of American Slavery. The day is not far distant, we confidently hope and believe, when the soil of this country will be unpolluted by a single stain of Slavery. (Applause.)

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