

DR. ROCK'S LECTURE AT THE MUSIC HALL.

He commenced by saying that he trembled when he reflected that so much learning, deep thought, and careful research were necessary to prove the bold position which he had taken, and especially so, as so much had been said of his abilities, and the severe judgment that would be passed upon him— That though the criticism would be severe, it was a right which belonged to every one, and he calmly submitted to it, as he did not ask more for himself, or his race, than for others. All they asked was perfect equality in every thing.

He then stated the object of trying to degrade so black a man to a thing, and announced as his subject, "The unity of the human race, and the recent aggressions of the slave power."

He then spoke of the great desire among writers upon the physical history of man, to classify mankind into races. He denied that there could be any rational classification, or even if there could be, that it would in any way materially affect the blacks. He also denied that the monkey was in any way related to man. He then mentioned the different classifications which have been made, and described the features said to belong to each, in a very interesting manner, exciting much laughter, after which he argued at much length, the unfairness in which the classifications have been made, and their inconsistency with reason and the

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facts. He concluded his argument on the classification by saying—

“If we adopt this standard, we shut out all white men from the Caucasian race whose features are not regular according to the standard, and we shut out all black men from the African race, whose features are not irregular according to the standard.— White men who have irregular features we make Africans, and black men who have regular features we make Caucasians—and here we have legitimately under our standard, white Caucasians and black Caucasians, white Africans and black Africans.— In undertaking to prove too much they prove nothing.”

He did not deny that there were differences among men and very great differences too. But it is utterly impossible to classify mankind into races. The people of every country and the members of every family present such great differences among themselves, that it is utterly impossible to tell whether they are of the same language unless you hear them speak. That no one pretends to believe that the races have presented a uniformity of appearances, for we do not look like the ancient Saxons, and we do not look like the Anglo Saxons. Time and circumstances have changed us much, and will change us more. He then presented several cases, showing how varieties have arisen, and may arise, from known and unknown causes in

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nature, and also the effects of local circumstances.

He then called the Bible to his aid, and, after considering it as superhuman authority and quoting from it, concludes that "God is no respecter of persons," and that "he hath made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon the face of the earth."

He then argued at some length, that if the classification was admitted, it could not prove anything.

He then made an elaborate and scientific comparison between the man and the monkey showing that there was a broad and clearly defined interval between man and all other animals.

After showing the many difficulties which yet remain to be accounted for by ethnologists, he said he had been puzzled to ascertain the origin of white men. He argued at some length that the original birthplace of man was in tropical Africa, and that man is not naturally adapted to cold and variable climates; that if Europe was the original birthplace of man he would have been born with natural clothing, and with some inherent provision securing the maintenance of life without aid from art.

He then compared the races together, and showed, in a very lucid manner, that the same physical and moral laws govern all men, and added much valuable information, which must have been produced with great labor.

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He then proved that while other oppressed nations retrograded under their oppressions, the colored man gradually surmounted them.

He then argued the question of slavery, and said that while Abolitionists, Freesoilers and those Americans who were faithful to liberty were branded as traitors, and liable to severe fines and imprisonment for setting in according with these honest convictions of duty—the most miserable recreant who would shoulder his musket, or conceal his bowie knife to defend the slave hunter, and murder Boston citizens, was the object which Northern vassals worship.

He then argued the question of slavery as to the rights of the master and the slave, in a very clear manner. He then referred to the execution of the fugitive slave act in Boston, and the inhuman order to shoot down the old and young, men and women, without notice, to carry out the designs of a Virginia slave-hunter. He said the Fugitive Slave Act cannot again be executed in Boston. 'That Massachusetts is in the hands of one who will maintain her dignity at all hazards. That the sentiments of the citizens of Boston are not represented in the city government. There was much applause at these sentiments. He thus predicts the downfall of the Fugitive Slave Act:

"This reign of slavery and injustice cannot be tolerated long; it must give way to the reign of freedom and justice, which, when

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This is the natural end of the matter (hear.)
If the government continues to betray the
rights of the people, they will rise up as one
man against it. (Hear, hear.) History sus-
tains this conclusion. It was in this manner
that the Roman plebeians, when they retired
to the 'sacred mount' obliged the patricians
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(Loud cheering)

He then argued we were not obliged to
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fillibusters against Cuba, and that our Government had taken advantage of the Eastern War. But the alliance of France, and Great Britain was a matter which we must not look upon lightly, and especially if this fillibustering disposition is encouraged, and the eastern War should speedily terminate. He spoke at length upon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and especially lauded Hon. Charles Sumner. He spoke of the necessity of colonizing Kansas and Nebraska with Northern freemen—the inability of our administration to get the enormous appropriation of ten millions of the Public money for fillibustering—the greediness of the slave power—the triumph of electing Gen. Wilson to the United States Senate and the mistaken policy of the government, with the disastrous results which must attend it.

[We have carefully avoided many of his able and eloquent points and have merely given an outline, as it is the intention of many of his friends to have him repeat it, as the evening was stormy and many could not get in to hear him. The production was one well worthy of his reputation, and was highly applauded during the whole delivery of it. We believed he received a silver medal in 1851 for a prize essay on Temperance.—*Boston Telegraph*.]

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