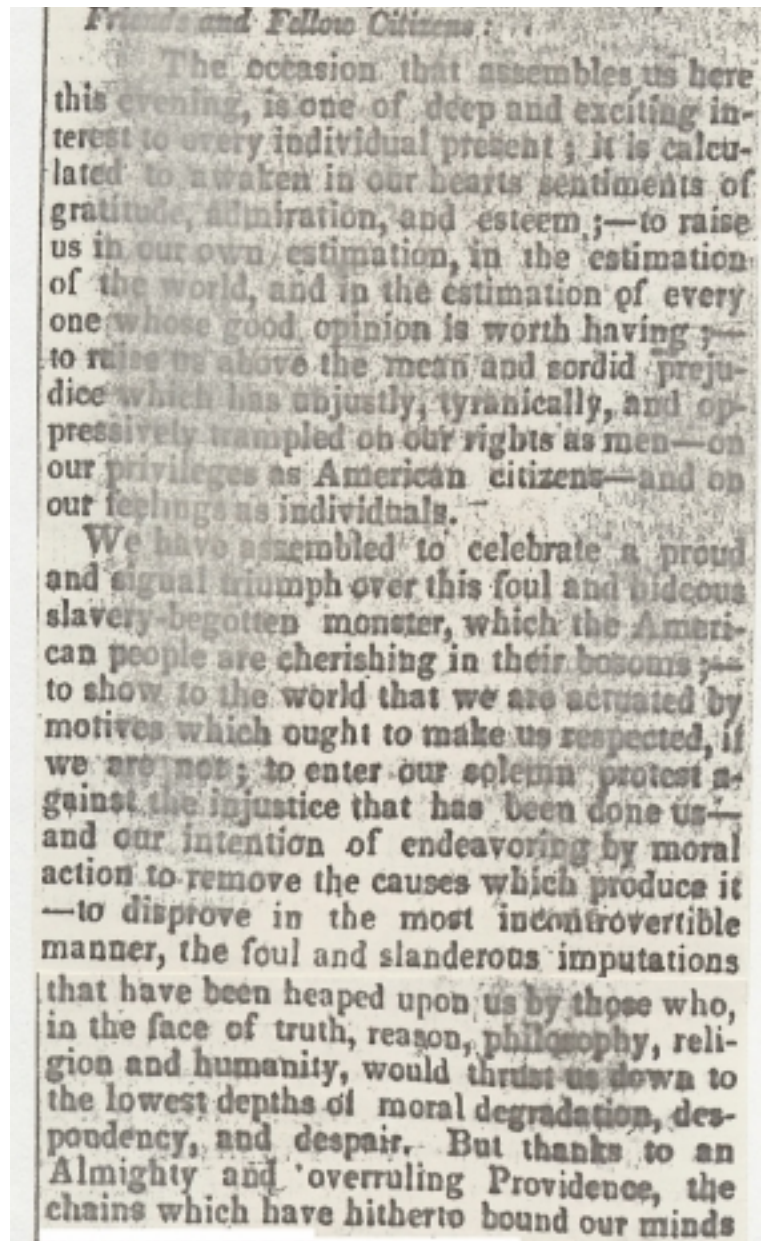


Friends and Fellow Citizens:

The occasion that assembles us here this evening, is one of deep and exciting interest to every individual present; it is calculated to awaken in our hearts sentiments of gratitude, admiration, and esteem; — to raise us in our own estimation, in the estimation of the world, and in the estimation of every one whose good opinion is worth having; — to raise us above the mean and sordid prejudice which has unjustly, tyrannically, and oppressively trampled on our rights as men — on our privileges as American citizens — and on our feelings as individuals.

We have assembled to celebrate a proud and signal triumph over this foul and hideous slavery begotten monster, which the American people are cherishing in their bosoms; — to show to the world that we are actuated by motives which ought to make us respected, if we are not; to enter our solemn protest against the injustice that has been done us — and our intention of endeavoring by moral action to remove the causes which produce it — to disprove in the most incontrovertible manner, the foul and slanderous imputations that have been heaped upon us by those who, in the face of truth, reason, philosophy, religion and humanity, would thrust us down to the lowest depths of moral degradation, despondency, and despair. But thanks to an Almighty and overruling Providence, the chains which have hitherto bound our minds



in the dark and dreary prison-house of ignorance, have been broken by the genius of universal intelligence; and now the cheering rays of intellectual light are irradiating our mental perceptions, illuminating our moral vision, and enabling us clearly to distinguish amid the clouds of sophistry and delusion with which we are surrounded, the things which pertain to our elevation, morally, mentally, and politically. And if we continue faithful to the end, we shall, through the intervention of God, and the influence of the kind, zealous, and untiring friends which He has been pleased in His goodness (sinful and unworthy as we are,) to raise up in our behalf, ultimately be enabled to eradicate this bane of our existence; to root out this moral canker that is destroying the heart of the nation, and which renders the name of America a hissing and by-word among the nations of the old world; to wipe away this foul spot which disgraces the land of our birth, and which we are proud to call our home; oppressed as we are and have been, in it, we love it still for the very reason that it is our home; we know of no other – and if we cannot live in it on any other terms, we will live in it as monuments of its injustice and oppression; but we hope for better things.

Dr. James Mc'Cune Smith, the subject of our gratulations this evening, having from

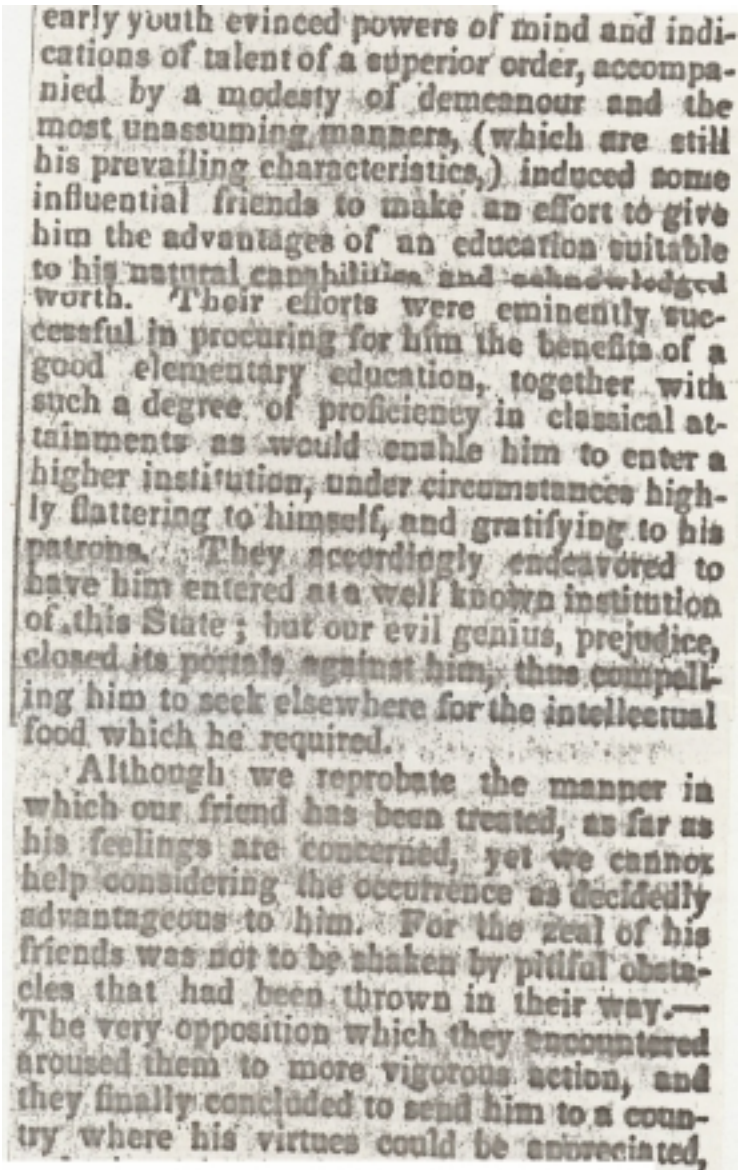
in the dark and dreary prison-house of ignorance, have been broken by the genius of universal intelligence; and now the cheering rays of intellectual light are irradiating our mental perceptions, illuminating our moral vision, and enabling us clearly to distinguish amid the clouds of sophistry and delusion with which we are surrounded, the things which pertain to our elevation, morally, mentally, and politically. And if we continue

faithful to the end, we shall, through the intervention of God, and the influence of the kind, zealous, and untiring friends which He has been pleased in His goodness (sinful and unworthy as we are,) to raise up in our behalf; ultimately be enabled to eradicate this bane of our existence; to root out this moral canker that is destroying the heart of the nation, and which renders the name of America a hissing and by-word among the nations of the old world; to wipe away this foul spot which disgraces the land of our birth, and which we are proud to call our home; oppressed as we are and have been, in it, we love it still for the very reason that it is our home; we know of no other—and if we cannot live in it on any other terms, we will live in it as monuments of its injustice and oppression; but we hope for better things.

Dr. JAMES Mc'CUNE SMITH, the subject of our gratulations this evening, having from

early youth evinced powers of mind and indications of talent of a superior order, accompanied by a modesty of demeanour and the most unassuming manners, (which are still his prevailing characteristics,) induced some influential friends to make an effort to give him the advantages of an education suitable to his natural capabilities and acknowledged worth. Their efforts were eminently successful in procuring for him the benefits of a good elementary education, together with such a degree of proficiency in classical attainments as would enable him to enter a higher institution, under circumstances highly flattering to himself, and gratifying to his patrons. They accordingly endeavored to have him entered at a well known institution of this State; but for our evil genius, prejudice, closed its portals against him, thus compelling him to seek elsewhere for the intellectual food which he required.

Although we reprobate the manner in which our friend has been treated, as far as his feelings are concerned, yet we cannot help considering the occurrence as decidedly advantageous to him. For the zeal of his friends was not to be shaken by pitiful obstacles that had been thrown in their way. — The very opposition which they encountered aroused them to more vigorous action, and they finally concluded to send him to a country where his virtues could be appreciated,



early youth evinced powers of mind and indications of talent of a superior order, accompanied by a modesty of demeanour and the most unassuming manners, (which are still his prevailing characteristics,) induced some influential friends to make an effort to give him the advantages of an education suitable to his natural capabilities and acknowledged worth. Their efforts were eminently successful in procuring for him the benefits of a good elementary education, together with such a degree of proficiency in classical attainments as would enable him to enter a higher institution, under circumstances highly flattering to himself, and gratifying to his patrons. They accordingly endeavored to have him entered at a well known institution of this State; but our evil genius, prejudice, closed its portals against him, thus compelling him to seek elsewhere for the intellectual food which he required.

Although we reprobate the manner in which our friend has been treated, as far as his feelings are concerned, yet we cannot help considering the occurrence as decidedly advantageous to him. For the zeal of his friends was not to be shaken by pitiful obstacles that had been thrown in their way. — The very opposition which they encountered aroused them to more vigorous action, and they finally concluded to send him to a country where his virtues could be appreciated,

and where the degrading influence of prejudice – as vulgar as they are mean – would not be [exercised] to crush the energies of his vigorous mind. Accordingly we found him during the summer of 1832, taking a sorrowful leave of his kind, affectionate, and dearly loved mother, and a large circle of admiring friends and acquaintances, and wending his lonely way across the trackless ocean; an exile from home and all its endearments, and a victim to his country's injustice, to seek in a foreign land that food for the mind which was denied him in his own; but we cannot expect to gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles.

Arriving in Scotland, the place of his destination, and meeting with a reception characterized by that nobleness of feeling and benevolence of heart so peculiar to Scotia's gifted sons, who regard man from real worth, and not for the fortuitous circumstances of color; with them no matter what may be the complexion of an individual, "whether an Indian or an African sun may have burned upon him," they would still exclaim with their own poet

"A man's a man for a' that."

He was duly entered and cordially received as a member of the venerable and "time honored" University of Glasgow. With a heart overflowing with hope, and burning with the intensity of its emotions, he entered

and where the degrading influence of prejudices—as vulgar as they are mean—would not be exercised to crush the energies of his vigorous mind. Accordingly we found him during the summer of 1832, taking a sorrowful leave of his kind, affectionate, and dearly loved mother, and a large circle of admiring friends and acquaintances, and wending his lonely way across the trackless ocean; an exile from home and all its endearments, and a victim to his country's injustice, to seek in a foreign land that food for the mind which was denied him in his own; but we cannot expect to gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles.

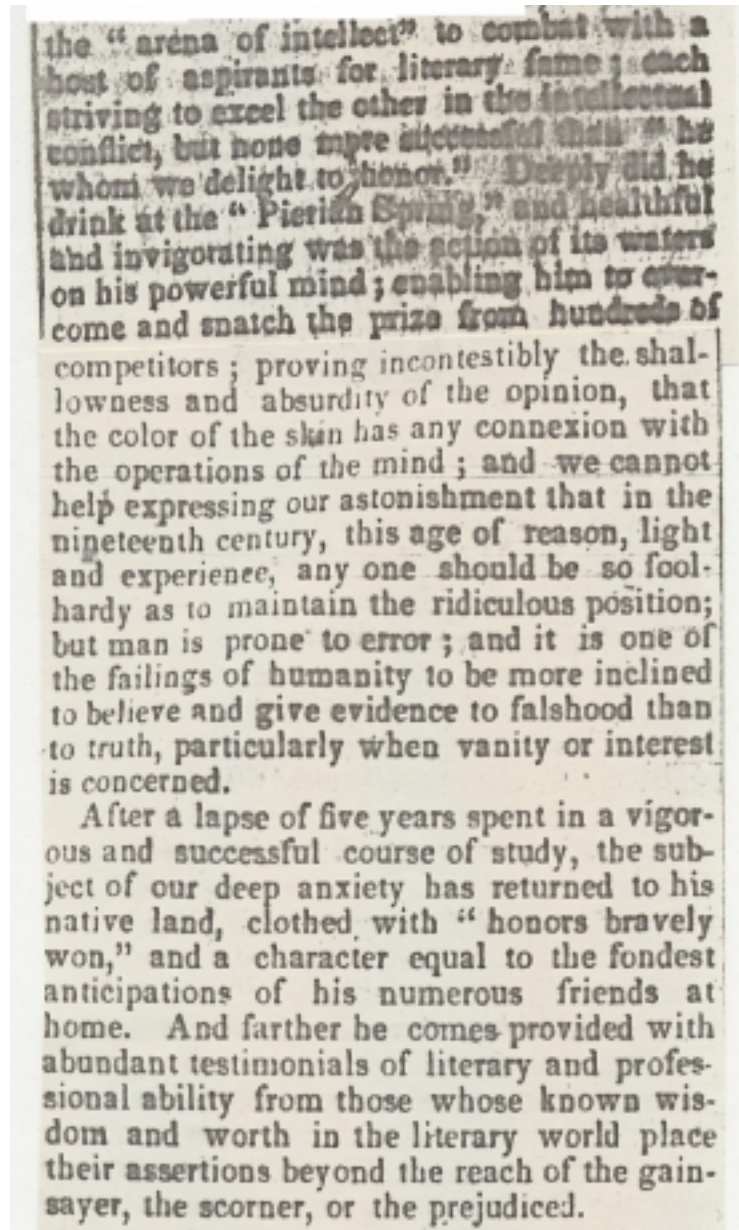
Arriving in Scotland, the place of his destination, and meeting with a reception characterized by that nobleness of feeling and benevolence of heart so peculiar to Scotia's gifted sons, who regard man from real worth, and not for the fortuitous circumstance of color; with them no matter what may be the complexion of an individual, "whether an Indian or an African sun may have burned upon him," they would still exclaim with their own poet

"A man's a man for a' that."

He was duly entered and cordially received as a member of the venerable and "time honored" University of Glasgow. With a heart overflowing with hope, and burning with the intensity of its emotions, he entered

the "arena of the intellect" to combat with a host of aspirants for literary fame; each striving to excel the other in the intellectual conflict, but none more successful than "he whom we delight to honor." Deeply did he drink at the "Pietian Spring," and healthful and invigorating was the action of its waters on his powerful mind; enabling him to overcome and snatch the prize from hundreds of competitors; proving incontestibly the shallowness and absurdity of the opinion, that the color of the skin has any connexion with the operations of the mind; and we cannot help expressing our astonishment that in the nineteenth century, this age of reason, light and experience, any one should be so foolhardy as to maintain the ridiculous position; but man is prone to error; and it is one of the failings of humanity to be more inclined to believe and give evidence to falsehood than to truth, particularly when vanity or interest is concerned.

After a lapse of five years spent in a vigorous and successful course of study, the subject of our deep anxiety has returned to his native land, clothed with "honors bravely won," and a character equal to the fondest anticipations of his numerous friends at home. And farther he comes provided with abundant testimonials of literary and professional ability from those whose known wisdom and worth in literary world place their assertions beyond the reason of the gainsayer, the scorner, or the prejudiced.



[At this point of the address DR. SMITH entered, and was introduced amidst unbounded applause from all parts of the house.]

DR. SMITH,

Sir,—In the varying course of the events which mark man's life in this transitory and trying world, it often becomes necessary for a people not only individually but collectively to mourn over the decrees of that Providence which, though justly, severely compel them to acquiesce to its rigid and apparently oppressive commands.

Five years since a number of those who are now permitted again to behold you on the active stage of the world, were forced to assemble on the out-shores of their home, to bid you a sad and solemn farewell on your departure to another, and far off country. They saw you offered up a victim, to an unholy and unrighteous public opinion; compelled to seek in another, but more friendly land, that which was denied you in your own; and with the emotions actuated by friendship and the ties of kindred, they mourned over the destiny which forced you to leave them. Five years have rolled on in the revolvings of time, and the scene has changed. They are again assembled, but it is upon another occasion; they meet now upon an occasion of rejoicing and of proud exultation; an occasion of congratulations and of welcome.

Sir, as the organ of communication of this large and highly respectable Meeting of your friends and countrymen, I congratulate you on your safe and welcome return to your native land, after a long absence in a foreign but hospi-

At this point of the address DR. SMITH entered, and was introduced amidst unbounded applause from all parts of the house.
DR. SMITH,

Sir,—In the varying course of the events which mark man's life in this transitory and trying world, it often becomes necessary for a people not only individually but collectively to mourn over the decrees of that Providence which, though justly, severely compel them to acquiesce to its rigid and apparently oppressive commands.

Five years since a number of those who are now permitted again to behold you on the active stage of the world, were forced to assemble on the out-shores of their home, to bid you a sad and solemn farewell on your departure to another, and far off country. They saw you offered up a victim, to an unholy and unrighteous public opinion; compelled to seek in another, but more friendly land, that which was denied you in your own; and with the emotions actuated by friendship and the ties of kindred, they mourned over the destiny which forced you to leave them. Five years have rolled on in the revolvings of time, and the scene has changed. They are again assembled, but it is upon another occasion; they meet now upon an occasion of rejoicing and of proud exultation; an occasion of congratulations and of welcome.

Sir, as the organ of communication of this large and highly respectable Meeting of your friends and countrymen, I congratulate you on your safe and welcome return to your native land, after a long absence in a foreign but hospi-

table country, among those whose ample benevolence and active virtues place them in the foremost ranks of the friends of humanity and promoters of the welfare of mankind.

I congratulate you that it has been your happy lot to exchange the courtesies of life, and reciprocate the best feelings of our nature, with those whom the world are compelled to admire for their genius and talent, and all the qualifications which adorn the Gentleman, the Scholar, the Christian, and the Patriot, who do not restrict their benevolence to geographical limits, nor to the mean, degrading, illiberal, detestable and unholy distinction of color, which prevails in our otherwise happy land.

I congratulate you in your close connexion and familiar intimacy with the genius of Literature, while partaking of Scotia's bountiful hospitality, and the happy results of your free intercourse with kindred spirits, while engaged in the laborious and arduous course of studies in which you have been so eminently successful, and which have conduced to gain for you a reputation peculiarly gratifying to your friends and well-wishers during your absence from home.

I congratulate you for the able manner in which, under Providence, you have represented the character and intellectual capabilities of those with whom you are proud to be identified, and for whom you have sacrificed valuable considerations abroad, in order that you might return to your native land to assist them in living down prejudice, Satan's prime minister, to the American peo-

table country, among those whose ample benevolence and active virtues place them in the foremost ranks of the friends of humanity and promoters of the welfare of mankind.

I congratulate you that it has been your happy lot to exchange the courtesies of life, and reciprocate the best feelings of our nature, with those whom the world are compelled to admire for their genius and talent, and all the qualifications which adorn the Gentleman, the Scholar, the Christian, and the Patriot, who do not restrict their benevolence to geographical limits, nor to the mean, degrading, illiberal, detestable and unholy distinction of color, which prevails in our otherwise happy land.

I congratulate you in your close connexion and familiar intimacy with the genius of Literature, while partaking of Scotia's bountiful hospitality, and the happy results of your free intercourse with kindred spirits, while engaged in the laborious and arduous course of studies in which you have been so eminently successful, and which have conduced to gain for you a reputation peculiarly gratifying to your friends and well-wishers during your absence from home.

I congratulate you for the able manner in which, under Providence, you have represented the character and intellectual capabilities of those with whom you are proud to be identified, and for whom you have sacrificed valuable considerations abroad, in order that you might return to your native land to assist them in living down prejudice, Satan's prime minister, to the American peo-

ple.

I congratulate you on the cheering prospects held out to you since your return to your native land; and sincerely hope that your most sanguine expectations may be more than realized; — and that you may be amply compensated for all your toil, and receive the full reward of all your labors.

In the name of this assemblage of your admiring friends and countrymen, I greet you with a cordial and hearty welcome to your native land. Long may you enjoy the golden opinions for which you have so nobly contended, and so bravely won. Ever-green be the laurels with which *fame* has encircled your brow. May Heaven's choicest blessings, and the affections of a grateful people, cheer your heart in the pilgrimage of life. May the hand of time press lightly on your brow, and long may you live to be an ornament to your Country—an advocate for the oppressed—a scourge to the oppressor, and a benefactor to mankind.

ple.

I congratulate you on the cheering prospects held out to you since your return to your native land; and sincerely hope that your most sanguine expectations may be more than realized;—and that you may be amply compensated for all your toil, and receive the full reward of all your labors.

In the name of this assemblage of your admiring friends and countrymen, I greet you with a cordial and hearty welcome to your native land. Long may you enjoy the golden opinions for which you have so nobly contended, and so bravely won. Ever-green be the laurels with which *fame* has encircled your brow. May Heaven's choicest blessings, and the affections of a grateful people, cheer your heart in the pilgrimage of life. May the hand of time press lightly on your brow, and long may you live to be an ornament to your country—an advocate for the oppressed—a scourge to the oppressor, and a benefactor to mankind.