

RESPECTED FRIEND:

In behalf of my fellow citizens, I have been appointed to congratulate you on your return to your native land, and in their name to bid you welcome.

In the performance of this duty, my heart is filled with pleasurable and grateful emotions. The services which you have rendered the colored man — your firm adherence and fidelity to the truth in the days that tried men's souls, and your recent services in the cause of humanity by your advocacy of its claims beyond the Atlantic — this, and much more that I might name, all rushes upon my mind on this interesting occasion. I shall, in future days, refer to this as one of the most auspicious moments of my life; when, sir, the distinguished honor was mine of extending to you this hand on behalf of the colored citizens of Boston, to welcome your return, hailing you as the worthy colleague of our faithful friend and advocate — our beloved Garrison.

Anticipating the high satisfaction of listening to you, I will say nothing farther. I will only with heartfelt joy, in behalf of this meeting, once more bid you welcome home.

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