

Mr. CHAIRMAN – You know how much I esteem Mr. Bell as a gentleman and a christian. Did I not know, that Mr. Bell appears here as the representative of Rev. S. E. Cornish, as well as the defender of the Colored American; yea, as a member and representative of a christian church, where he is permitted to kneel before the sacred altar, and partake of the holy sacrament, in remembrance of the dying love of Him, who said to his disciples; “*Do this in remembrance of me*” – Were it not for the character which he affects to sustain, I would not weary your patience, or insult your understanding, (as I fear I may) by noticing his billingsgate revelling in his native mire.

Mr. Bell appears here as an interested witness, testifying to his own conduct, and to the conduct of S. E. Cornish, and other members of the N. Y. Committee of Vigilance. In relation to the Libel Suit, and the \$17 50 of which he complains that it was appropriated to relieve certain refugees in distress, with the expectation that time would permit us to collect the amount from other pledges to the Committee, before the money would be called for; Mr. Bell deserves some credit for candor in repeating his conversation with the accused, on the occasion to which he has referred. Permit me to help him out with this conversation. When I attempted to explain the condition of the refugees, and the danger to which they were exposed, and expressed my belief that the Committee would make up this money, Mr. B. exclaimed: “*D—n the fugitives, d—n you, and the Committee too!*” My veritable antagonist has given you to understand, that the Rev. S. E. Cornish was “*goaded on*” to publish the libellous matter, which has appeared from time to time in the Colored American against myself; and that the only ground on which he attempts to justify the Rev. gentleman’s course, is, that I appropriated \$17 50 for the relief of certain refugees, who were in eminent danger of loosing their liberty, which should have been appropriated to our relief, who were threatened with a suit, by a pro-slavery lawyer. For this offence, Mr. Bell wishes you to understand, that he felt that their “*pockets*” were touched, and therefore, has exposed his prudence and magnanimous generosity, by plunging his dagger into a man who, the Rev. S. E. Cornish as informed you, was “*on his back.*”

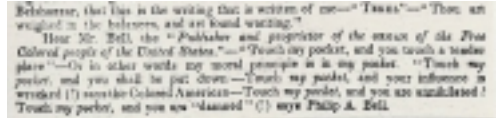
Sir, – Were I the Rev. Samuel E. Cornish of the Colored American in this affair, or even Phillip A. Bell himself, I should think, that from the intellectual feast that I had furnished to the appetite of the low and the vulgar, to the roistering and bellowing ale-house readers in this case, that it would be well to remember



July 18, 1839
Ruggles, David
A Plea for "A Man and A Brother"
by David Ruggles also, *Extracts from the*
Speeches of Messrs. Philip A. Bell and William P. Johnson
Presscopy – Essex Institute, Salem Massachusetts – Anti-Slavery Pamphlets

Belshazzar, that this is the writing that is written of me – “TEKEL” – “Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.”

Hear Mr. Bell, the “*Publisher and proprietor of the organ of the Free Colored people of the United States*,” – “Touch my pocket, and you touch a tender place” – Or in other words my moral principle is in *my pocket*. “Touch my pocket, and you shall be put down – Touch *my pocket*, and your influence is wrecked (!) says the Colored American – Touch *my pocket*, and you are annihilated! Touch *my pocket*, and you are “damned”(!) says Philip A. Bell.



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