

FELLOW CITIZENS – I arise to address you on the important subject of cultivating a friendly union among ourselves as an oppressed people. We have met on this 5th of July, not under a mock pretence of celebrating the 4th of July, for that would betray in us a want of sound understanding – but to cultivate friendship and good feelings amongst ourselves, with hopes of a reform among our race.

Yesterday our citizens and neighbors, who are of a different cast from us, did with propriety hoist the star-spangled banner and watered the tree planted for them by their fathers fifty-six years ago, when the noise of the drum, the thundering of the cannon, the toasts of the people, all united in forming strong expressions of their joy and tokens of their union; – while we the descendants of Africa, for no alleged crime by us or our forefathers committed, are despised, rejected and excluded from all the privileges calculated to render the life of man comfortable. We are denied the privilege of filling a station in social, political or religious society on terms of equality, amongst a people who differ from us in their complexion! Yea, more – we are deprived measurably of the means of grace, which are calculated to prepare us for the kingdom of glory. The doors of the schools are barred against us by a legislative act, and that too contrary to the legislation of heaven; for we are commanded to train our children in the way they should go. This is a hard task for us or any other people, so long as the means of training are withheld. It needs no argument to confirm this fact. Only let us look to the history of nations, and there we shall see that all people destitute of the revealed will of God, have been envel-

FELLOW CITIZENS—I arise to address you on the important subject of cultivating a friendly union among ourselves as an oppressed people. We have met on this 5th of July, not under a mock pretence of celebrating the 4th of July, for that would betray in us a want of sound understanding—but to cultivate friendship and good feelings amongst ourselves, with hopes of a reform among our race.

Yesterday our citizens and neighbors, who are of a different cast from us, did with propriety hoist the star-spangled banner and watered the tree planted for them by their fathers fifty-six years ago, when the noise of the drum, the thundering of the cannon, the toasts of the people, all united in forming strong expressions of their joy and tokens of their union; – while we the descendants of Africa, for no alleged crime by us or our forefathers committed, are despised, rejected and excluded from all the privileges calculated to render the life of man comfortable. We are denied the privilege of filling a

station in social, political or religious society on terms of equality, amongst a people who differ from us in their complexion! Yea, more—we are deprived measurably of the means of grace, which are calculated to prepare us for the kingdom of glory. The doors of the schools are barred against us by a legislative act, and that too contrary to the legislation of heaven; for we are commanded to train our children in the way they should go. This is a hard task for us or any other people, so long as the means of training are withheld. It needs no argument to confirm this fact. Only let us look to the history of nations, and there we shall see that all people destitute of the revealed will of God, have been envel-

oped in ignorance, moral gloom and superstition, and possessing a spirit of insubordination. And such, fellow-citizens, has been our unhappy fate: and if ever there have been a people on earth, whose situation and interest called for a combination, it is meliorate our condition? not, what can be done by others?

Let every one of us cherish a friendly union with ourselves; and in order to do this, let the members of our churches be true to their God, and then they will be true to each other – and the non-professing part of our race will, in some degree, follow our example. Let christians throw away the spirit of superiority, and acknowledge every human being their brother and equal, as it respects his creation; for it has been the vain and unfounded notion of superiority, as it respects our creation, which this day, my fellow-citizens, excludes us from a friendly and social intercourse on terms of equality with those of our neighbors who differ from us in complexion. This day causes millions of our sable race to groan under the galling yoke of bondage. Let us, then, respect each other according to character and merit; and then, and not till then, shall we know what it is to enjoy the comforts of social society.

Permit me, fellow-citizens, in the sequel of my address, to confine myself more particularly to the colored people of our own town and neighborhood.

Twenty years ago, individual attempts were made to benefit the condition of colored individuals in this place; but little general good resulted therefrom. Ten years ago, it entered the hearts of some of our worthy colored citizens, whose names ought to be

oped in ignorance, moral gloom and superstition, and possessing a spirit of insubordination. And such, fellow-citizens, has been our unhappy fate: and if ever there have been a people on earth, whose situation and interest called for a combination, it is meliorate our condition? not, what can be done by others?

Let every one of us cherish a friendly union with ourselves: and in order to do this, let the members of our churches be true to their God, and then they will be true to each other—and the non-professing part of our race will, in some degree, follow our example. Let christians throw away the spirit of superiority, and acknowledge every human being their brother and equal, as it respects his creation; for it has been the vain and unfounded notion of superiority, as it respects our creation, which this day, my fellow-citizens, excludes us from a friendly and social intercourse on terms of equality with those of our neighbors who differ from us in complexion. This day causes millions of our sable race to groan under the galling yoke of bondage. Let us, then, respect each other according to character and merit; and then, and not till then, shall we know what it is to enjoy the comforts of social society.

Permit me, fellow-citizens, in the sequel of my address, to confine myself more particularly to the colored people of our own town and neighborhood.

Twenty years ago, individual attempts were made to benefit the condition of colored individuals in this place; but little general good resulted therefrom.

Ten years ago, it entered the hearts of some of our worthy colored citizens, whose names ought to be

handed down to our latest posterity, to form a combination to remove the moral gloom, and ameliorate the condition of our rising race, which combination was entered into, and the good effect has been seen by every strict observer in our town, both white and colored. Two churches have since been erected by the people of color – one Baptist – the other Methodist – both of which are attended by colored persons of respectability. Our children have been called from wandering in the streets, and some of our adult profligates called from scenes of debauchery and vice to experience the love of God. Our school has been successfully taught for the last eight years. Many of our children have been educated, enlightened and raised to respectability.

This combination endeared neighbor to neighbor, family to family, and children to children, until the whole mass of the respectable part of the people of color in our town formed one general compact, and became more powerful in doing good than the Philistine giant who defied the armies of the living God.

Away with prejudice and the slanderous assertion that imbecility of the Africans renders them incapable of improvement. Let those who accuse us of inferiority, as it respects our intellect and structure, look through the dark vista of past ages, and read in the history of Hannibal and others, who were Africans, the strength of intellect, the soundness of judgement, the military skill, which existed in ancient Africa. Africa was the garden and nursery where learning budded and education sprang. From Egypt the arts of civilization were carried into Greece, and from Greece to Europe: therefore all

handed down to our latest posterity, to form a combination to remove the moral gloom, and ameliorate the condition of our rising race, which combination was entered into, and the good effect has been seen by every strict observer in our town, both white and colored. Two churches have since been erected by the people of color—one Baptist—the other Methodist—both of which are attended by colored persons of respectability. Our children have been called from wandering in the streets, and some of our adult profligates called from scenes of debauchery and vice to experience the love of God. Our school has been successfully taught for the last eight years. Many of our children have been educated, enlightened and raised to respectability.

This combination endeared neighbor to neighbor, family to family, and children to children, until the whole mass of the respectable part of the people of color in our town formed one general compact, and became more powerful in doing good than the Philistine giant who defied the armies of the living God.

Away with prejudice and the slanderous assertion that the imbecility of the Africans renders them incapable of improvement. Let those who accuse us of inferiority, as it respects our intellect and structure, look through the dark vista of past ages, and read in the history of Hannibal and others, who were Africans, the strength of intellect, the soundness of judgment, the military skill, which existed in ancient Africa. Africa was the garden and nursery where learning budded and education sprang. From Egypt the arts of civilization were carried into Greece, and from Greece to Europe: therefore all

the now civilized world is indebted to sable Africa for the arts of civilization and learning. If our ancestors were instructed and became great on the burning shores of Afric, why may not their descendants, in a milder clime, even on the continent of America? It is not essential that three millions of [t]he sable sons and daughters of Africa must be sent to Liberia before they can be enlightened and become respectable — it can be done at home: and if our neighbors and lawgivers could be induced, by our entreaties, supplications and groans, to remove our heavy burthens, and afford us the means of improvement, the confined African would leap from his chains, and stand forth with the enlightened men of the earth.

I can say in justice to the honor and credit of my colored citizens of Chillicothe, that this place is the mother and guardian of literature to the colored people west of the Alleghany mountains. With us the spark kindled and burnt till our brethren in neighboring towns caught the flame, and set their hands to the great work of reform; and if we continue our efforts with firm steps and unwearied zeal, guided by an all-wise Ruler, we shall soon be able to stretch our hands across an ocean of three or four thousand miles, and there unite with our sable brethren in cultivating friendship and good feelings, till the whole of our race become enlightened and each one say, 'Let me seek my neighbor's good.'

Suffer me, fellow-citizens, to give a short statement of things at this time among us. For the last two years a spirit of contention and division has entered among us. Division, with his deadly weap-

the now civilized world is indebted to sable Africa for the arts of civilization and learning. If our ancestors were instructed and became great on the burning shores of Afric, why may not their descendants, in a milder clime, even on the continent of America? It is not essential that three millions of

the sable sons and daughters of Africa must be sent to Liberia before they can be enlightened and become respectable—it can be done at home: and if our neighbors and lawgivers could be induced, by our entreaties, supplications and groans, to remove our heavy burthens, and afford us the means of improvement, the confined African would leap from his chains, and stand forth with the enlightened men of the earth.

I can say in justice to the honor and credit of my colored citizens of Chillicothe, that this place is the mother and guardian of literature to the colored people west of the Alleghany mountains. With us the spark kindled and burnt till our brethren in neighboring towns caught the flame, and set their hands to the great work of reform; and if we continue our efforts with firm steps and unwearied zeal, guided by an all-wise Ruler, we shall soon be able to stretch our hands across an ocean of three or four thousand miles, and there unite with our sable brethren in cultivating friendship and good feelings, till the whole of our race become enlightened and each one say, 'Let me seek my neighbor's good.'

Suffer me, fellow-citizens, to give a short statement of things at this time among us. For the last two years a spirit of contention and division has entered among us. Division, with his deadly weap-

on, has smitten, and society, social and religious,
has felt the blow. Our churches are shaken – our
school is removed from its former basis – families
are at variance – our young society divided. Let the
good citizens of color arise, male and female, young
and old, and give their aid, for the purpose of recon-
ciling and consolidating society again, and set their
faces against every person of color who dares to raise
his puny arms to interrupt our peace or mar our
goodly heritage. Let this maxim be engraven on
our memories: UNITED, WE STAND – DIVIDED,
WE FALL.

on, has smitten, and society, social and religious,
has felt the blow. Our churches are shaken—our
school is removed from its former basis—families
are at variance—our young society divided. Let the
good citizens of color arise, male and female, young
and old, and give their aid, for the purpose of recon-
ciling and consolidating society again, and set their
faces against every person of color who dares to raise
his puny arms to interrupt our peace or mar our
goodly heritage. Let this maxim be engraven on
our memories : UNITED, WE STAND—DIVIDED,
WE FALL.