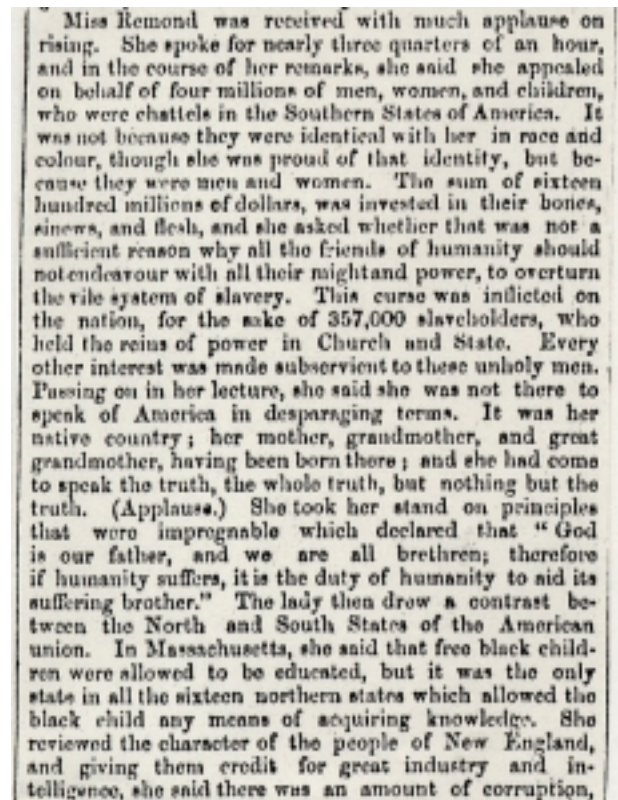


Miss Remond was received with much applause on rising. She spoke for nearly three quarters of an hour, and in the course of her remarks, she said she appealed on behalf of four millions of men, women, and children, who were chattels in the Southern States of America. It was not because they were identical with her in race and colour, though she was proud of that identity, but because they were men and women. The sum of sixteen hundred millions of dollars, was invested in their bones, sinews, and flesh, and she asked whether that was not a sufficient reason why all the friends of humanity should not endeavour with all their might and power, to overturn the vile system of slavery. This curse was inflicted on the nation, for the sake of 357,000 slaveholders, who held the reins of power in Church and State. Every other interest was made subservient to these unholy men. Passing on in her lecture, she said she was not there to speak of America in disparaging terms. It was her native country; her mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, having been born there; and she had come to speak the truth, the whole truth, but nothing but the truth. (Applause.) She took her stand on principles that were impregnable which declared that "God is our father, and we are all brethren; therefore if humanity suffers, it is the duty of humanity to aid its suffering brother." The lady then drew a contrast between the North and South States of the American union. In Massachusetts, she said that free black children were allowed to be educated, but it was the only state in all the sixteen northern states which allowed the black child any means of acquiring knowledge. She reviewed the character of the people of New England, and giving them credit for great industry and intelligence, she said there was an amount of corruption,



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not only in that state, but throughout all the union, that was absolutely startling. The church was corrupt beyond belief, even more so than political parties were. Corrupt because of the evil influence of the slaveholders of the Southern States. The lecturer in order to illustrate how a nation became degraded, and glorified in its shame, referred to the passing of the fugitive slave bill, in order to shew her meaning. She remarked that after the adoption of this bill, the people withstood its provisions, and determined not to obey it. The great heart of New England rebelled against the enormity, but at length a statesman of whom New England was proud, said it must be obeyed. This statesman was loved as a true and distinguished son of the state. He held the heart of New England, and what he said, was law with them. He told the people to obey its dictates, and they did so. The abolitionists protested against this; for they believed with Blackstone, that great English lawyer, that the laws of nations were coeval with man, and dictated by God; and that no human law was binding against this. The lawyer of New England read Blackstone; but Webster told them that as the Alleghanies were higher than the other mountains, so this law was ranged higher than the feelings of common men. He otherwise spoke in its favour; and the Fugitive Slave Law was obeyed, in Boston. The lady then mentioned, as an instance, of the infernal workings of the law, the case of Anthony Burns, a coloured man, who had escaped into the free state, of Massachusetts. He had lived there a great number of years, and occupied a very respectable position in society, and was a local preacher among the Methodists. He was seized, and guarded by 125 of the lowest wretches in Boston; and

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Massachusetts was humbled to the very dust. (Applause.) Afterwards, at the bidding of the slaveholders, he was taken away,—the *elite* of the young men of the city forming his body guard—and in spite of repeated offers to purchase his freedom, his so-called master refused to part with him, preferring to bear him back to bondage. (Sensation.) Referring to other instances of the iniquitous working of the slave laws, the lady said she did not wish to horrify her hearers, though she could do so, but would tell them that few know of the depths in which the poor slaves were sent. Not on her own testimony, but on that of others she would rest herself, and would read the audience a letter she had received, telling of the horrors of slavery. [The letter was then read by the lady, the writer describing various heart-rending scenes, with great force.] Under the Fugitive Slave Law, white people, she said, were not safe; for instances had been known when white people had been taken away. In fact, she knew of one white girl with not one drop of African blood in her veins, who was dragged away in the open face of day, and only saved from a dreadful life by being recognised. White children, too, were not safe; and many instances were known when they had been taken away. Miss Remond next spoke of the influence the institution of slavery had upon society in the free states, and touched upon the hearty receptions which the slaveholders met with on their travels in the north. It appeared, she said, to her, as if the most honour was paid to him who owned the most human flesh and blood. He was feted and carressed; but how different was the state of the northern, that travelled south. Let him beware of speaking of slavery; if he did so, he would be told to quit the state within a certain number of hours; and in the

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event of his stopping, Lynch Law would be put in force. The power of the slaveholding interest throughout the whole of the United States was then touched on, it being mentioned, as a fact, that at the present time there is not a single solution in the gift of the government, from the very highest, to the lowest, but what is held by persons favourable to slavery. The lady then paid a compliment to England—her sons and daughters—and after speaking of the well known words of Webster, respecting the possessions of England being scattered over the globe, said of Florence Nightingale, that her name would be remembered with affection, when such deeds as were performed at Plassy, Waterloo, Balaclara, and Inkermann had been forgotten. (Applause.) The memory of Elizabeth Fry, too, was revered all over America; and she called upon her countrywomen to give their aid and countenance to the efforts of those who tried to set the black man free. This was in course of her address to the ladies; and she was warmly applauded during its delivery.

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