

*Gentlemen of the Convention, and respected fellow-citizens:*—I see nothing in the past history of my life so meritorious as to render me worthy of the high honor you have conferred upon me, for which I return you my sincere thanks. And as I never before have had an opportunity of filling so important a place among you, I solicit your kind aid in the performance of the high and important duties devolving upon me as President of this Convention. The object of this Convention has been stated by other gentlemen, who have preceded me. It only remains for me to say that I have been laboring for the last five years for the promotion of the general elevation of our people; with what success, I leave for your honorable judgment to decide. It is true that the star of our hope has been hid in obscurity behind the dark cloud of the Fugitive Slave Bill, yet I believe if we labor with unwearied diligence, the victory will be ours. Gentlemen, again thanking you for the honor you have done me. I resume my seat.

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