

Mr. WM. WELLS BROWN, who was received with great applause. Having given a somewhat lengthened historical detail of what may be called the political or legal branch of the anti-slavery question in America, from the framing of the Constitution of the United States to the present period, the lecturer proceeded to explain the nature of the controversy at present pending in the Congress, and the subtle artifices, which were being resorted to for giving a preponderance of political power to the slave over the free States, which were then equal in number. To all human appearance, the issue of the struggle involved the serious consequence of the absolute ascendancy of the South over the North—the extension of slavery into several new, as well as its almost permanent perpetuation in the old, slave States—and the utter destruction of the peace and security of the colored population where they at present found refuge, north of Mason and Dixon's line. Mr. Brown reprobated, in terms of strong indignation, the base apostasy of Daniel Webster, and his betrayal of the trust reposed in him by the people of Massachusetts, in defiance of the recorded instructions of the Legislature of that State, and the almost unanimous wishes of his constituents, by giving his vote and the countenance of his influence, in favor of the abolition of the Wilmot Proviso, and the other measures which were then endeavoring to be carried, with a view to the omnipotence of that greatest of all despotisms—the Slave Power of America. The propositions before Congress would, if carried, render the condition of all men of color—not merely those who had, like himself, made their escape from slavery, but those who

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were born free—most perilous: so much, indeed, were its effects dreaded, that a friend of his, (Mr. Brown's) had written a letter, strongly urging him not to return, even to the city of Boston, the old cradle of liberty, and the capital of 'the old Bay State,' while these measure were in abeyance.

He (Mr. Brown) rejoiced at the presence of so many of those warm friends of his race—the members of the Society of Friends. It was the intention of that body, on the following morning, to discuss the expediency of adopting and giving practical effect to the free labor principle. He admired the lively zeal and Christian self-denial of those who, while they denounced the man-stealer, refused to participate in the produce of his robbery, whether in cotton, sugar, or other articles. So tremendous was the evil of slavery in his own judgment, that no sacrifices were too great for its abolition. Life without liberty was of no value in the estimation of the slave, as was continually proved by the suicides occurring among them. Mr. Brown gave several anecdotes illustrative of the contempt of life by the slave without freedom, and the desperate risks and hardships they were willing to encounter to obtain it. In conclusion, he besought English men and women, by their moral influence and pecuniary assistance, to aid the American abolitionists in the holy work of rescuing three millions of human beings from slavery, and redeeming the great disgrace of connection with that foulest of all sins. (Cheers.)

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