

[Mr. Henry Bibb, a fugitive slave, then offered the following resolution, which was discussed and unanimously adopted by the meeting—]

“Resolved, That we hail these fugitives as our fellow countrymen and brethren, and in behalf of the citizens of Canada, we bid them welcome on this soil as freemen, and that we do here in the presence of Him who is no respecter of persons, pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor, if need be, that no fugitive who has or shall hereafter escape from American slavery to us for protection shall ever be taken back into bondage.”

Mr. Bibb then remarked as follows:

“Dear brethren, we are happy to meet you here on freedoms soil, we congratulate you, we rejoice with you, and some of us can sympathise with you from experience. I can imagine that I see you traveling by night through the dark swamps, some with their little children on their backs, and their wives and others by their side, guided by the North star; and in the distance I seem to hear the slaveholder and his bloodhounds. But you are now in Canada, free from American slavery; yes, the very moment you stepped upon these shores you were changed from articles of property to human beings. You are here entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens of Canada so long as you obey her laws. All I have to say to you now is go to work, dig for your bread; you have a right to the products of your own labor, you have a right to worship God according to the dictates

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Bibb, Henry
Emancipator

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