

[On Tuesday evening, the 1st inst., a formal reception was given to Frederick Douglass, by the citizens of Chicago. Mr. Douglass arrived here about noon, and was taken to the private residence of John Jones, Esq., where he was waited on in the evening by a Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen: H. O. Wagoner, J.B. Dawson, H. Bradford, J. F. Platt, George Lee, W. H. Stanley, W. I. Crummell, and F. C. Freeman, who escorted him to the A. M. E. Church on Jackson Street. The house was filled to its utmost capacity by both white and colored citizens. Mr. Douglass made his appearance on the platform accompanied by H. O. Wagoner, who addressed him as follows:]

My brother, I have been selected by my fellow-citizens, to tender to you the hospitalities of the city, and to give you a hearty welcome to our homes and firesides. We regard this as a fit and proper occasion to express to you our gratitude, and to indicate our appreciation of your long and arduous services in defence of our common oppression. Unlike that other great name, who was born, reared and educated in an enlightened society, surrounded by numerous and kind friends, thus furnishing his mind with every facility necessary to the development of his natural powers. With such surroundings and conditions for unfolding his future, no wonder his aspirations, and the

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coruscations of his genius are dazzling and bewildering his political associates[.] But you, my brother, have come to us under far different circumstances. Born away down in the deep, dark valley and shadow of slavery, with no kind friends to aid you, in word or deed, separated from an affectionate mother, whose form and face, doubtless, sank deep into your youthful heart, and though many years have rolled by, still, at times, when your mind recurs, you can imagine you see her as she last appeared to you. Nor had you the privilege of a recognition of your earthly father, as such. No common schools to which you could go, where the young idea learns to shoot—surrounded by no enlightened society from which you could catch a ray of light; but all was dark and gloomy—nor was this all, still fettered for three long years by *sincere* and *earnest*, though impracticable prayer of mere words, imbibed by the teachings of a false theology, which came to you from the stereotyped notions of the past. But all these incumbrances could not hold you down; aye, in spite of them all, you burst the double bands of physical and mental slavery, and came forth a man, ever asserting the great principle of Liberty implanted in the mind of every man, by the voice and power of the great God.—

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Having thus escaped from slavery, you were not to be contented with mere freedom of the physical body. At this period, the freedom of your thoughts began to press for utterance; and so you entered upon the great work of first developing your own higher faculties, and then engaged earnestly in the life long business of laboring for the elevation and final redemption of our prostrate and bleeding people. In this noble work you have spent years of toil; and for the sake of sustaining *our* paper, have sacrificed much of your own private means. It is, indeed, the only paper which we can emphatically call *ours*; for among the many news papers started in this country by colored men, none but *Frederick Douglass' Paper* have thus far succeeded. And now, my brother, and fellow-citizens, the question arises, and appeals directly to you, *shall Frederick Douglass' Paper be sustained?*— It should be sustained because it is doing a great and noble work in demonstrating the capacity of the negro and colored man for freedom and self-government, as well as gaining for them a recognition of their manhood. We believe that circumstances warrant us in saying that you have done more for the elevation of the negro and colored man in this country, than any other colored man in it. And now, my brother, in conclusion let me say that in

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the present, as in the past, our deepest feelings and sympathies are with you, and, I trust, will be with you to end

“In the evil days before us,  
And trials yet to come,  
In the shadow of the prison,  
Or the cruel martyrdom,  
We will think of thee, oh! brother,  
And thy sainted name shall be,  
In the blessing of the captive,  
And the anthem of the free.”

And now, my brother, as we know you must be fatigued, from having traveled all last night, and therefore need repose, we will only desire you at this time, to give us a little plain talk by way of counsel and advice.

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