

'GENTLEMEN: — I am truly sensible of the honor you have conferred on me, on this momentous occasion, and I assure you that I feel more than an ordinary solicitude to discharge with honor and propriety, the duties devolving on me. I have to regret that the task has not been conferred or assigned to one, whose abilities are better calculated to do justice to the subject, and to entertain more agreeably the respectable audience assembled on this auspicious day, gladly to welcome the return of the memorable epoch, which gave liberty to many of our colored brethren in the State of New-York.

There is nothing more interesting, more valuable, and elevating to the soul of man, than freedom and independence. In that state alone, he feels the true dignity of his nature; inspired with magnanimity and courage, his exalted soul towers to the heavens, with pleasing admiration, to contemplate their glory and sublimity; full of patriotism and the love of his country, his heart glows with benevolence and philanthropy. But when his rights are invaded, fearlessly he embarks in his country's defence, presenting his bosom to the cruel engines of death, preferring death in its most bloody form to tyranny and oppression. Yes, he looks down with proud disdain and indignation on the invader of his rights and privileges; every dormant passion of his generous soul is called into action; he makes the most formidable resistance, determined to live a freeman, or die at the shrine of liberty.

The colonies of the United States, when threatened with danger and despotism from without, and intestine commotion within, had a Jefferson, an Adams,

'GENTLEMEN:—I am truly sensible of the honor you have conferred on me, on this momentous occasion, and I assure you that I feel more than an ordinary solicitude to discharge with honor and propriety, the duties devolving on me. I have to regret that the task has not been conferred or assigned to one, whose abilities are better calculated to do justice to the subject, and to entertain more agreeably the respectable audience assembled on this auspicious day, gladly to welcome the return of the memorable epoch, which gave liberty to many of our colored brethren in the State of New-York.

There is nothing more interesting, more valuable, and elevating to the soul of man, than freedom and independence. In that state alone, he feels the true dignity of his nature; inspired with magnanimity and courage, his exalted soul towers to the heavens, with pleasing admiration, to contemplate their glory and sublimity; full of patriotism and the love of his country, his heart glows with benevolence and philanthropy. But when his rights are invaded, fearlessly he embarks in his country's defence, presenting his bosom to the cruel engines of death, preferring death in its most bloody form to tyranny and oppression. Yes, he looks down with proud disdain

and indignation on the invader of his rights and privileges; every dormant passion of his generous soul is called into action; he makes the most formidable resistance, determined to live a freeman, or die at the shrine of liberty.

The colonies of the United States, when threatened with danger and despotism from without, and intestine commotion within, had a Jefferson, an Adams,

a Marion, an immortal Washington, and a train of illustrious worthies and heroes, who, scorning death and danger, determined to defend their rights at the hazard of their lives, their property, and all that is dear to man. They fought valiantly; they conquered gloriously; and they have handed down to their posterity, Liberty, the best and most valuable gift Heaven has conferred on man.

But while the sons of Columbia are exulting in the strength and vigor of their political liberties and republican institutions, many of the sons of Ethiopia are feeling all the sad evils of slavery and oppression. More than two centuries have rolled around, since this degraded race has suffered the sad variety of miseries peculiar to themselves. How long have the sacred ties of human affection been sundered! The peaceful mansion and the quiet residence have become a scene of sorrow and distress. How long has the Stygian monster been ploughing the watery deep, to touch on the darkened shores of Africa, like some prowling beast of prey, murdering and slaughtering the sable sons of the torrid zone! He captivates, binds in fetters and chains the articles of his shameful traffic, and returns home with this wretched group and offers them for sale in the market of a Christian land, where his most sanguine expectations have been more than amply satisfied by the liberal encouragement given him by Christians. O, cruel injustice! How long shall thy sons, O Africa! be sold in the market like beasts of the stall? How long shall they be trodden under the foot of men, bearing all the accumulated contempt

a Marion, an immortal Washington, and a train of illustrious worthies and heroes, who, scorning death and danger, determined to defend their rights at the hazard of their lives, their property, and all that is dear to man. They fought valiantly; they conquered gloriously; and they have handed down to their posterity, Liberty, the best and most valuable gift Heaven has conferred on man.

But while the sons of Columbia are exulting in the strength and vigor of their political liberties and republican institutions, many of the sons of Ethiopia are feeling all the sad evils of slavery and oppression. More than two centuries have rolled around, since this degraded race has suffered the sad variety of miseries peculiar to themselves. How long have the sacred ties of human affection been sundered! The peaceful mansion and the quiet residence have become a scene of sorrow and distress. How long has the Stygian monster been ploughing the watery deep, to touch on the darkened shores of Africa, like some prowling beast of prey, murdering and slaughtering the sable sons of the torrid zone! He captivates, binds in fetters and chains the articles of his shameful traffic, and returns home with this wretched group and offers them for sale in the market of a Christian land, where his most sanguine expectations have been more than amply satisfied by the liberal encouragement given him by Christians. O, cruel injustice! How long shall thy sons, O Africa! be sold in the market like the beasts of the stall? How long shall they be trodden under the foot of men, bearing all the accumulated contempt

and disdain of pride? Shall there be daily fresh supplies of calumny and contumely added to the catalogue of their miseries?

Notwithstanding they have fallen to degradation and wretchedness, let this pleasing thought powerfully animate you to vigorous exertion. The land of your fathers is the birth-place and cradle of the arts and sciences. In that dark continent, was the light kindled that so conspicuously blazed in Greece and in Rome; that light which now beams with exuberant splendor and meridian brightness, on the auspicious shores of Europe and America. From our royal fathers in the land of Egypt, the nations of the earth have learned the policy and the rules of political government, which render life useful and people happy. The names of Hamilcar, Hannibal, and Cleopatra the Egyptian queen, will ever stand conspicuous on the pages of history. Hannibal was not only the warrior, but the statesman. So superior and universal was his genius, that it grasped at all parts of the government; and so great were his natural talents, that he was able to acquit himself with the various functions of it with glory. He shone as conspicuously in the cabinet as in the field, being equally capable of filling civil or military employments. In him were united the warrior, the senator, the philanthropist and the financier. In Egypt there stand, reared by the hands of our fathers, the magnificent Pyramids that point their towering heads to the heavens, to attest the royal grandeur of their founders. Light, science, civilization and glory are again returning to Africa, to eradicate that darkness which has long since benighted that desolate region. We are permitted to sit under our own vine and fig-tree. The

and disdain of pride? Shall there be daily fresh

supplies of calumny and contumely added to the catalogue of their miseries?

Notwithstanding they have fallen to degradation and wretchedness, let this pleasing thought powerfully animate you to vigorous exertion. The land of your fathers is the birth-place and cradle of the arts and sciences. In that dark continent, was the light kindled that so conspicuously blazed in Greece and in Rome; that light which now beams with exuberant splendor and meridian brightness, on the auspicious shores of Europe and America. From our royal fathers in the land of Egypt, the nations of the earth have learned the policy and rules of political government, which render life useful and people happy. The names of Hamilcar, Hannibal, and Cleopatra the Egyptian queen, will ever stand conspicuous on the pages of history. Hannibal was not only the warrior, but the statesman. So superior and universal was his genius, that it grasped at all parts of the government; and so great were his natural talents, that he was able to acquit himself with the various functions of it with glory. He shone as conspicuously in the cabinet as in the field, being equally capable of filling civil or military employments. In him were united the warrior, the senator, the philanthropist and the financier. In Egypt there stand, reared by the hands of our fathers, the magnificent Pyramids that point their towering heads to the heavens, to attest the royal grandeur of their founders. Light, science, civilization and glory are again returning to Africa, to eradicate that darkness which has long since benighted that desolate region. We are permitted to sit under our own vine and fig-tree. The

July 30, 1831
Nickens, Owen B.; et. Al.
Liberator

holy rays of the star of Bethlehem are filling the world with light and glory. Ethiopia is stretching her hands unto God. Wasting and destruction shall shortly no more be heard--but peace and good-will to mankind fill every heart.

holy rays of the star of Bethlehem are filling the world with light and glory. Ethiopia is stretching her hands unto God. Wasting and destruction shall shortly no more be heard—but peace and good-will to mankind fill every heart.’