

[Mr. WILLIAM CRAFTS, who was received with loud cheers, next addressed the meeting.] He said:—It affords me great pleasure to meet with you here this evening, not because I feel capable of interesting you with a speech, but because I feel myself in the midst of friends, amongst whom I can exclaim,—Thank God, I am free! (Applause.) It is only two years since I escaped from slavery, and previous to my escape, I was unable to read a syllable. I hope then, if I should speak ungrammatically, or so as not to be clearly understood, that my friends will attribute it not to any neglect of mine or of my parents, but to that accursed system which kept me in a state of ignorance. (Hear, hear.) * * *

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