

GENTLEMEN,

I feel myself highly honored by addressing you in behalf of myself and the African race. I am but a poor descendant of that injured people. When I reflect upon the enormities which continue to be practised in our otherwise favored country, on the ill-fated Africans and their descendants, who are torn by the hands of violence from their native country, and sold like brutes to tyrannical slaveholders in different countries, where they are held in slavery and bondage, I ought to return thanks unto Almighty God, for having put it into the hearts of such distinguished men as you, to undertake the cause of the abolition of Slavery; and I ought to feel myself greatly blessed for enjoying the many privileges I do; while there are so many in the southern states chained in slavery, who perhaps, have left mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, to mourn their loss. I feel myself greatly blessed in belonging to a school which has been established for many years by the Manumission Society. The different branches that are taught in this school, are reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, navigation, astronomy, and map drawing. Our schools which now contain 700 male and female scholars, continue to be conducted on the Lancasterian system, and the improvement of the scholars is such, as to be satisfactory to the Trustees, and all visitors who come to the school. Next to the Supreme Being, gentlemen, you deserve the gratitude and thankfulness of our whole race. When I reflect on the great things that you have done for us, I can but with gratitude fall at your feet and thank you. It makes my heart burn within me, when I think of the

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poor Africans who are torn from their homes and relatives; deprived of the protection and advice of their friends, and forced to a distance from the means of proving and defending their rights[;] these wretched victims of avarice and cruelty languish a long time in bondage before they can procure assistance.

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