

* M. WILLIAM BROWN paraît sur l'estrade. (Grande sensation. Vifs applaudissements.) L'orateur est un ancien esclave échappé des Etats-Unis. Il proteste avec énergie contre l'existence de l'esclavage, cet élément de guerre qui retient aux Etats-Unis trois millions d'hommes dans la dégradation et dans la souffrance. Esclave pendant vingt ans, il remercie la France d'avoir généreusement aboli l'esclavage dans ses colonies, et il espère que les Etats-Unis finiront par suivre ce noble exemple. L'idée dominante de son discours, c'est qu'il est impossible de maintenir l'esclavage sans maintenir la guerre, et que par conséquent demander l'abolition de l'esclavage, c'est travailler au maintien de la paix.. (Vifs applaudissements.)

M. Brown s'exprime d'une manière remarquable. M. Coquerel résume, en français, les paroles de cet ancien esclave qui reçoit de vifs témoignages de sympathie.

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