

TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT DOUGLASS

Honors for the Apostle of
Freedom.

REBUKE TO PREJUDICE

Colored Men Eulogized the States-
man of Their Race—A Great
Meeting at Fitzhugh Hall—
The Douglass Monument
Formally Presented
to the City.

Owing to circumstances with which the public is generally familiar, namely, that the contractors who were to model and cast the bronze statue of Frederick Douglass failed to have the statue in the city, the unveiling ceremonies did not take place yesterday morning, but the exercises attending the presentation of the monument to the city were held in the afternoon and evening at Fitzhugh hall, addresses being delivered by prominent orators of the Afro-American race, and the monument being formally accepted in behalf of the city by Mayor Warner. The audience, which almost entirely filled the hall, was composed of some of Rochester's foremost citizens, the representatives of both races being about evenly divided. Upon the platform were seated, beside the general committee and the speakers, members of the park board and common council, prominent residents and representatives of the old abolitionist families of the city. The exercises began shortly after 2 o'clock and continued until after 6, but the interest of all present was held until the end.

Born in obscurity, forced to endure the tutelage of slavery within sight and sound of the ceaseless service our nation offered up to liberty, breaking the bonds of his slavery and mastering all the arts of civilization, of intellectual development, of high manhood, working with the energy of a Titan for the freed of his fellow serfs, and finding time to plead for the rights of women, suffering untold indignities, fleeing before the agents of a nation that stood for the rights of men and religions and

triumphing at last until his name and fame were honored in the land, Frederick Douglass was the grand disciple of an oppressed race.

And so, yesterday, in the full light of the end of the century's humanity, in the glow of a nation's victory for the cause of manhood, in the city where he found a haven when the clouds were darkest, the name of Douglass was honored, not alone by men of his race, who showed in their intellectual powers the fruits of the rights for which the great freedman strove, but also by prominent public men, who in the years past had fought the fight against prejudice, and had even taken up arms against their brothers to defend the helpless black.

It was the prophecy of Wendell Phillips come true. The name of the slave was printed in the great sunlight of truth, the name of the man, who, with the matchless orator and Garrison, the sturdy newspaper man, were the first apostles of liberty.

Honor to Douglass.

The city of Rochester again took pride in honoring the name of Frederick Douglass. After months of arduous work, the committee having in charge the matter of the erection of a monument to his memory was able to report the work completed, although even at the last unavoidable circumstances prevented the unveiling of the monument itself. This fact, nevertheless, did not detract from the interest or significance of the memorial exercises which were held in Fitzhugh hall yesterday afternoon.

Among the prominent persons who were present at the exercises were Miss Susan B. Anthony; T. Thomas Fortune, of New York, editor of *The Age*; John H. Smyth, of Washington, ex-minister to Liberia; Hon. John C. Dancy, collector of customs of the port of Wilmington, N. C.; Chris. J. Perry, editor of the *Philadelphia Tribune*; Miss Mary Anthony, Hon. Arthur E. Sutherland, Judge George E. Benton, Mayor George E. Warner, Jean Brooks Greenleaf, Dr. E. M. Moore, Bishop Alexander Walters, D. D., James N. Neib, editor of a prominent negro journal in Philadelphia; Mr. Dorham, ex-minister of the United States to Hayti; Colonel Carson, of Washington, and all of the surviving members of the family of Frederick Douglass, including his children and grand-children.

Letters of regret were received from United States Senator Thomas C. Platt, of New York; United States Senator William E. Chandler, of Vermont, and ex-Postmaster-General John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Thompson's Explanation.

It was the intention of the committee to have the statue of Douglass in the city and placed for the unveiling yesterday, but Chairman Thompson presents the following letter to explain why the ceremony was postponed.

Westerly, R. I., Sept. 12, 1898.

J. W. Thompson, Esq., Rochester, N. Y.
Dear Sir: After receiving your telegram on the 9th we telegraphed to Philadelphia for the earliest date, and received reply that they would ship the statue on the 26th. We wrote them, asking to hurry it and ship it as much earlier than the 26th as they possibly could.

You doubtless know that we had delays in Washington, caused by our Mr. Edwards being unable to obtain the assistance he required, which has put us behind just the number of days to complete the statue on time. A letter to this effect was dictated to you on the 9th, but by an oversight on the part of the stenographer it was not written. We are very sorry, both for the statue not being completed on time and for our letter failing to

go on the 9th, which would have explained matters to you before this time.

Yours respectfully,
The Smith Granite Co.

J. R. Randall, Secretary.

Asked to give "an explanation of the explanation," Mr. Thompson said:

"The only word I received from the company was to the effect that they were having trouble in getting a model for the statue. Finally after hunting around for a long time they hit on Charles R. Douglass, a son of Frederick Douglass, as model.

"They next found difficulty in selecting a place that was light enough to do the work. They at last found a church that answered their purpose. I suppose that by the time all this was done it was too late to get the statue ready for the unveiling to-day."

Mr. Thompson added that if the marble was finished by the 26th the ceremony of unveiling would take place the 1st of October or thereabouts.

THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES.

How Rochester Did Honor to the Name of Douglass.

The memorial meeting was called to order at 2:30 o'clock by Chairman J. W. Thompson, of the monument committee. He gave a cordial invitation to all friends of Douglass, any Grand Army men who might be present, and all city officials, to occupy seats on the platform, an invitation which was supplemented by Miss Anthony, who said that every old-time abolitionist ought to be proud to take a seat on the platform where exercises in honor of a man who stood not only for the freedom of his race, but also for the emancipation of women, were being held. A number availed themselves of the invitation.

The exercises were opened with music by an orchestra from the Fifty-fourth Regiment band, which played a medley of patriotic airs. Following this a forceful and eloquent prayer was offered by Bishop Alexander Walters, D. D. Mr. Thompson briefly explained the circumstances which had prevented the ceremony of unveiling the monument and then introduced the Rev. Alonzo Scott, pastor of Zion Church, who sang "His Name Shall Live Forever," composed by himself for the occasion. He was accompanied by a chorus of forty voices under the direction of Mrs. R. Jerome Jeffreys.

"Frederick Douglass."

In introducing T. Thomas Fortune, of New York, editor of the Age, one of the leading papers published in the interest of the colored race, Mr. Thompson paid a fitting tribute to his abilities and his earnest efforts to secure the erection of the monument. Mr. Fortune read an original poem, entitled, "Frederick Douglass." The poem follows:

We cannot measure here the dizzy heights
he trod

To whom this glyptic shaft is lifted from the
soil,
Towards the matchless azure of sweet Free-
dom's skies.

If we forget the depths whence God bade
him arise,
Above the slave's log cabin and a sireless
birth.

To be a prince among the children of the
earth!

No giant who has placed one foot upon the
land
And one upon the sea, with power to them
command,

To bid the angry turbulence of each be still,
And have them bend obedient to his master
will—
Ever started lower in the social scale than
he—

This Champion of the Slave, this Spokesman
of the Free!

In him the deathless lesson of our common
race

Was taught anew—the lesson you who will
may trace
From Babel's fatal tower to fateful Water-
loo—

From Eden's blest abode to slavery's Tucka-
ho—
That still "one touch of nature makes the
whole world kin,"

The world of love and joy, the world of woe
and sin.

But such as Douglass was not born to wear
a chain—

At the slave's task to bend and cower and
cringe and strain—

To bare his princely back to the rude lash
whose welt

Produced no pain that his proud soul must
have felt!

As Moses did, he served in bondage for an
hour

The better to be armed to crush the mas-
ters' power.

It has been ever thus since the old world
was young—

The giants of the race from the head of woe
have sprung—

Out of the agony and sweat and rayless hope
in which the swarming masses have been
doomed to grope.

So lifts its head from rocks and sands the
lighthouse beam,

To guide the fearless sailor o'er the
treacherous wave.

For who can sing of woe who never felt a
pain—

Who never hoped 'gainst hope to know a joy
again?

Who thirst for vengeance on the skulking,
coward foe

As he whose sire or mate has fallen 'neath
the blow?

Who feel the venom of the slave's undying
hate

As he whose lot has been the slave's degrad-
ing fate?

'Twas a long way to the north star from
Tuckaho—

From slavery's dark shade to freedom's elec-
tric glow—

From out the depths—"O the depths!"—of
slavery's long night—

To the high altitude of freedom's fadeless
light!

And here he stood in winter's storm and
summer's sun.

Majestic, brave, till the fierce war was fought
and won.

We claim him as our own, the greatest of
the race,

In whom the rich sun stamp of Africa you
trace,

And we delight to place upon his massive
brow

Affection's crown of reverence, as we do now.
But, in a larger sense, forsooth, did he be-
long

To all the race, a prophet strong among the
strong!

For he was large in stature and in soul and
head

True type of New America, whose sons, 'tis
said,

The western world shall have as glorious
heritage—

That they shall write in history's fadeless,
truthful page

Such deeds as ne'er before have wrought for
liberty

And all the arts of peace—the strongest of
the free!

And every depth he braved, and every
height he trod

From earth's alluring shrines to the presence
of his God;

And he was cheered by children's confidence
and trust,

A tribute never withheld from the true and
just;

And woman's sympathy was his, the divine
power

That rules the world in calmest and stormiest
hour!

To him all weakness and all suffering ap-
pealed;

'Gainst none such was his brave heart ever
steeled.

And pleading womanhood for honest rights
denied

No champion had of sturdier worth to brave
wrong's pride—

To claim for her in all the fullest measure
true

Of justice God ordained her portion, as her
due.

He needs no monument of stone who writes
his name

By deeds, in diamond letters in the Book of
Fame—

Who rises from the bosom of the race to be
A champion of the slave, a spokesman of
the free—

Who scorns the fetters of a slave's degrad-
ing birth

And takes his place among the giants of the
earth.

This shaft is lifted high in heaven's holy
air

To keep alive our wavering hope, a message
bear

Of inspiration to the living from the dead,
Who dared to follow where the laws of duty
led,

They are so few—these heroes of the weak
and strong—

That we must honor them in story and in
song.

So let this towering, monumental column
stand,

While freedom's sun shall shine upon our
glorious land,

A guiding star of hope divine for all our
youth.

A living witness to the all-enduring truth—
The living truth that makes men brave to
death, and true—

The truth whose champions ever have been
few—

The truth that made the life of Douglass all
sublime,

And gave it as a theme of hope to every
clime!

Mr. Fortune's poem was followed by an
excellent violin solo by Joseph Douglass,
of Washington, a grandson of Frederick
Douglass. The older members of the audi-
ence, who remembered the great freed-
man's love for music, and his own pro-
ficiency in the use of the violin, recalled
many instances and greeted the young
player with enthusiasm. He played a se-
lection from Verdi's "II. Trovatore."

An Eulogy of the Man.

The orator of the afternoon, Hon. John
C. Dancy, collector of customs of Wil-
mington, S. C., delivered an eloquent
eulogy of Douglass, saying in introduction
that he had come from the Southland to
join with the North in doing honor to the
great apostle of his race. He said in part:

"Any eulogy I may make of Frederick
Douglass can only emphasize those al-
ready made by others who have preceded
me. The best tribute to his memory is
tame in comparison with the actual
achievements of his life, considering its
early environments. He was indeed the
architect of his own fortune, 'the builder
of the ladder by which he climbed.' His
birth, his race, his condition as a chat-
tel, were all against him, and his first and
greatest obstacle was to conquer these,
and minimize their influence as recognized
insurmountable barriers. His boyhood did
not prophesy one of the most remarkable
careers this nation has seen, nor did any-
thing in his early life indicate that he was
born to a noble destiny. His mother was
probably a greater woman than his father
was a man, and he no doubt inherited from
her the qualities of soul which were in him
the inspiring, overmastering power which
moved and electrified vast audiences, and
made him the wonder and admiration of
the world.

"Mr. Douglass always insisted that we
must not be measured by the heights to
which we have attained, but rather by the
depth from which he have come. These
depths were lower than those from which
Garfield came—and he drove a canal boat;
or from which Grant came—and he was a
tanner; or Lincoln—and he was a rail-
splitter. Douglass came from depths far
beneath any of these, for he was a slave,
and had to go further to reach
their starting point than either of
them went in the entire journey of their
triumphs. Wisely and philosophically
did he remark, immediately after the
war closed, at a great meeting held in Dr.
Sunderland's church: 'It's a long way
from the corn fields of Maryland to Dr.
Sunderland's church in Washington.' The
actual distance was only about twenty
miles, but it took Mr. Douglass forty years
to go the 'ourney—like Moses, forty years
in the wilderness. He has told me that
he walked the decks of steamers that plied
between the ports of New York and Bos-
ton, because he was denied accommodation
elsewhere. And yet even this affront to
his sensitive nature did not curb his am-
bition, relax his efforts to uplift himself
and his race, or smoulder the burning fires
of his manhood. Obstacles which would
have absolutely sapped the vitality and the
hopes of almost any other man, seemed to
be to him an inspiration, which nerved him
to more superhuman effort, in order to
more transcendent triumphs.

"I saw Mr. Douglass under many and
varying circumstances, but he was always
the same grand, peerless character in his
personality. I heard him declare in a
great convention, where weighty political
interests were involved, and party spirit
ran high, that 'the Republican party is
the ship and all else is the sea.' I beheld
him with cane in hand at the Columbian
Exposition, at Chicago, at a great congress
tell a caustic critic of our race, in answer
to his an'madversions, to desist from his
unfair attacks and go home and learn the

truth, before attempting again to instruct others as to the true status of a too long maligned and oppressed race; I heard him in a great national Republican convention, speaking of his own race, assert that 'we may be many as the waves, but we are one as the sea.'

"I watched him before an audience made up chiefly of foreigners, at Washington, during the great Ecumenical conference, as he rose to the loftiest pitch of overpowering eloquence and made a last

appeal to them on behalf of fair play for all mankind. I sat with him an hour at the executive mansion, as he talked with President Harrison, portraying the greatness of the people of Hayti, whom he loved; I have seen him make merry at his own home at Cedar Hill, overlooking the Potomac, as he and his grandsons played in concert on their violins his favorite, 'The Suwanee River,' and to cap the climax, I beheld him as the orator of the day, on the occasion of the unveiling of the Lincoln monument.

"Other great men have arisen to fame and distinction, and others will rise; but the like of Douglass we will hardly see in this generation or the next. The occasion may never rise for his like. No vulcan need forge thunder bolts like those prepared for him, as they are hardly required to carry the same power of destruction, or to produce the same trepidation and dismay. The power of the whirlwind and awe-inspiring tremor of the earthquake shock are hardly necessary now as in darker days to arouse a nation to a full sense of its duty and its danger—realizing as we do that a nation's chief sin is its chief danger. In his own day, this sin denied his manhood, humbled his pride, sapped his vitality and clouded his future. He realized its dangerous influence and tendency, and clutching it by the throat, assisted in choking it to death."

The next musical number was a solo by Mrs. Charles P. Lee. Mrs. Lee sang in an excellent contralto, "The Sun is on the Hills," being accompanied by Mrs. Jeffreys on the piano.

Medal for Chairman Thompson.

The programme was interrupted at this point by Walter Stewart, who arose on behalf of the Douglass monument committee and the citizens of Rochester, to present a token of their gratitude to John W. Thompson, chairman of the committee, who had conceived and engineered the plans for the memorial to the great leader of his race. Mr. Stewart said briefly:

"It is a custom among all nations to perpetuate the memory of their greatest men who in some special manner have stamped their names upon the hearts of the people, but as far as I can determine this is the first time that a people have met to perpetuate the memory of any of my race. This idea was first promulgated by a citizen of Rochester in 1894, long before Douglass was deceased. John W. Thompson being imbued with the spirit of his race arose in a Masonic meeting and first started this work. But ere he had perfected his plans the grand old man had run his race. But at his death Mr. Thompson put forth renewed energy, and though progress was slow he was conscious that he was right and worked on and on without fear of failure or hope of reward, and to-day he can look back upon a successful work. Often he had to tread the wine-press alone, yet I believe there was an unseen influence assisting him so that he could not fail.

"To-day John W. Thompson ought not to be without reward, so in token of our appreciation for his efforts I wish to present him with this gold medal."

Mr. Thompson accepted the gift with a few words of gratitude, though taken entirely by surprise. The medal was a handsome one, being a solid gold medallion, with an engraving of the Douglass monument and a personal inscription to the donee.

A pleasant and appropriate feature of the programme was the reading by Miss Fredericka Douglass Sprague, a granddaughter of Frederick Douglass, of an extract from the great speech of the freedman delivered in Washington on April 16, 1883, the occasion being the celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of emancipation.

Miss Anthony's Reminiscences.

Miss Susan B. Anthony was then introduced. She said in part:

"I am proud and happy to bear my testimony by presence and words to the great truths that Frederick Douglass did so much to vindicate by his life and works. It is not because I have not been importuned to provide a sentiment for the monument but because I have been busy and so at this late hour I am going to read a testimonial from Frederick Douglass to me and I think that this one sentence should be the sentiment inscribed on the pedestal at Douglass park:

"The cause of woman suffrage has under it a truth as eternal as the universe of thought, and must triumph if this planet endures."

"I must pay a tribute to the old abolitionists who have passed before. Robert Purvise, Parker Pillsbury and all the rest, but Elizabeth Herrick, a grand noble woman, was the influence behind it all, when she made the utterance for immediate emancipation. When he came to this country William Lloyd Garrison brought with him a true, noble wife and mother, and I believe that he could not have done the work unless for her influence. And then there was the invalid wife of Wendell Phillips, who read all anti-slavery literature and encouraged the great orator to go and speak for the oppressed. I think that Mr. Phillips's most magnificent speech was made in Rochester when he stopped with John and Mary Hallowell. I said to him:

"That's a great speech, Mr. Phillips."

"Yes, but you must thank Ann for it."

"And Ann was his faithful, loving wife who encouraged, helped, cheered him in great fight for abolition."

"I remember well the first time I saw Douglass. When I came home from school teaching. My father put me in the buggy and carried me down to Alexander street to see Douglass and his children, and through all the years after the friendship was continued. Our happiest Sundays were when Douglass and his family spent the day at our house. We felt proud of those occasions. Douglass was a jolly fellow. He always brought that violin along.

"In our circle of friends we very often had those who visited us who were prejudiced. I didn't mean to persecute them or make them unhappy, but I was mighty glad to introduce Douglass to them. I am going to detain you to tell you one experience.

"The son of my mother's brother was a real good, solid Western New York Democrat. He had come out from the city to spend his vacation at our beautiful little farm. He didn't like our 'niggers.' One time when he was there Douglass came. I invited him into the parlor to meet Douglass.

"He refused, but later consented to an introduction. He began to ply his legal lore on Mr. Douglass and found himself wholly unable to cope with Frederick Douglass. Realizing this, he turned to Rosa Douglass, his daughter, and asked her to play, and, unlike many white girls, she played without dissent. She played another selection and finally my cousin followed Rosa out to the table and placed a chair for her. And before the evening was over that 'Lish,' that Democratic New York city lawyer, actually ran down and opened the gate for Douglass to drive through when he started home. Douglass overcame prejudice.

"I tell you the greatest thing that stands in the way of advancement is prejudice. To negro men I say, don't imitate white men. The women ought to be remembered, and colored men should still stand by the women. Why the white men propose to give the ballot even now to heathens and

leave Frederick Douglass's daughter under the heel of prejudice.

"Women were never asked about the war. But the sons have gone and they can enlist whether mother says yea or not. And yet the women are taxed for the expenses of this war. I appeal to you colored men to join with us, the last disenfranchised class, to fight for us to secure our liberty. I have never had my feelings so stirred up as by this war. The women should have a place in the one great criticised department, the commissary.

"When President McKinley is going to have an investigation he appoints nine men, careful to select men representing every class of interests in the country, but he forgot the women. What was McKinley thinking of when he forgot the women. Women like Mary Jacobi, Sarah H. Stevens, Julia Holmes Smith. No one is so capable of knowing whether the army has been well fed or not as a woman."

Mrs. Barnett's Tribute.

One of the interesting addresses of the afternoon was that by Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, of Chicago, who is classed with the leading female orators of the race. She had been heard before in Rochester, having delivered an address a few years ago advocating the anti-lynch law. In fact, a large part of her life has been spent in this work. Mrs. Barnett said, among other things:

"I come as a pilgrim to a Mecca, a worshipper at the shrine of one of the greatest men this country has produced. The American nation owes Frederick Douglass a debt of gratitude because he helped her to cure herself of a radical evil. It is not necessary to recount what he did for the United States. We have come to know and love him because he espoused the cause of those who are victims of mob law. He is not dead; his words live after him, and will be an inspiration to us in the many problems which confront us."

The speaker referred to the work Douglass had done in espousing the cause of the anti-lynch law, of woman's suffrage and against the "hydra-headed monster of prejudice," and said that the work that he did should be an inspiration for the present generation to take up those questions with renewed energy, until perfect emancipation and freedom were granted to all races and all sexes in the country.

Ex-Minister Smyth's Eulogy.

John H. Smyth, ex-minister to Liberia, and president of the Negro Reformatory Association, of Virginia, now a prominent lawyer in the South, was to have delivered an extended address, but it was late in the afternoon when the opportunity was presented to him, and he confined his remarks to a few brief words of tribute to the great freedman. Though he spoke but a short time, Mr. Smyth showed that he was easily one of the foremost orators of his race. By way of preface he seconded heartily the suggestion of Miss Anthony that the negro should not be an imitator of the white man. He paid a high tribute to the women of the land, and stated that it was doubtless through womanly influence that Douglass became what he was. "It was due to the negro woman," he said, "that we had a Frederick Douglass, or any other illustrious negro in religion, politics or the field of battle.

"The man whose active, moral and intellectual agency aided in the destruction and extirpation from America of a legalized infamy and degradation is no less a national benefactor than the martyr souls were human benefactors, who went to God through Rome in its zenith, and the inquisition in protest against godlessness, heathenism and sin in the cause of Christianity and its redemptive forces.

"It is ever of interest to have narrated the circumstances connected with the birth and family of any great personage. Alas! for the negro in Christian lands—little that is authentic that may be relied upon, can be said of such in this respect who have lived so long as fifty years. Chronology in connection with a negro slave, had importance only with regard to his ability to work. Genealogy, so far as blacks were concerned, heretofore, was a matter of indifference. From our emancipation and throughout all our future, chronology and genealogy are to be factors in our life and history, which under God, may be significant and important.

"Frederick Douglass's parentage and antecedents are shrouded in mystery. It is not a surprising circumstance, as all must realize, the result of human slavery in the United States where he was born.

"Through the warp and woof of his private and public life, one purpose ran: Honesty, incorruptibility and loyalty to the interests of his race. His uncompromising hatred of oppression and American prejudice distinguished him from 1838 to the end of an eventful, useful, effective and beautiful life. His name will ever be 'great in tongues of wisest censure.'"

The Presentation.

Charles P. Lee, a prominent colored attorney of the city, then made the presentation of the monument to the city of Rochester. Mr. Lee referred to the noble work of the monument committee, which is composed of the following gentlemen: John W. Thompson, chairman; H. A. Spencer, secretary; R. L. Kent, assistant secretary; Mrs. R. Jerome Jeffreys, Hon. George A. Benton, Hon. H. S. Greenleaf, Hon. Charles S. Baker, Benjamin F. Clegggett, T. H. Barnes, E. R. Spaulding, Bishop Alexander Walters, D. D., Rev. James E. Mason, D. D., B. N. Simms, Thomas E. Platner, F. Cunningham, T. Thomas Fortune and C. J. Vincent. In his speech Mr. Lee said:

"The character of a country is often known by the class of men it crowns. Monuments dedicated to heroes and patriots disclose a nation's ideals and reveal the growth and grandeur of its civilization." Continuing he said:

"This monument represents a great leader. God endowed Douglass with all the qualities of exalted leadership, high moral purpose, courage of conviction, great personal magnetism, broad perceptive powers, iron will, matchless physical endurance, restless industry, spotless integrity, commanding and conspicuous figure, a leader by Divine right. Believing the principles he defended and the cause he espoused were true and righteous, he stood by them with unflinching fidelity. This unwavering firmness made him strong in counsel, steady in conflict, powerful with the people. Douglass was a leader of fixed principles and unshaken integrity. He would not sell the people's right for a seat in the senate or betray their confidence for a second-class appointment.

"During the reconstruction period, Douglass devoted his energies to the material advancement of the freedman and to the graver conditions and circumstances growing out of emancipation. His powerful appeals for justice—equality before the law and absolute civil rights for his race—contributed much toward the formation of that public sentiment which gave a guaranteed citizenship. The trials and triumphs of Douglass extended over all the thrilling period of our national history.

"He saw the flag of his country in dishonor—he lived to see it restored in glory. He saw the constitution blotted by a fugitive slave law—he lived to see it redeemed by the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments. He saw slaves sold in the public square—he lived to see them in the senate of the United States. He saw his race

in political degradation—he helped lift it to the heights of civil liberty and equality. He saw his countrymen shut out from every avenue of trade, the paths of polite industry and enjoyment—he died leaving them possessed of every opportunity of elevation and advancement. All of this he saw and part of which he was. In the economy of life Douglass filled many places, as editor and author, diplomat and statesman, and in them all he acquitted himself well.

"It repeats the story of the soldier and sailor, whose courage in battle never faltered or failed, but with a heroism born of inspiration, faced rebel ball and blade, for the Union, liberty and law. On tented field and crested wave, where treason trampled under foot the rights of man, and grim-visaged rebellion besieged a nation's forts and firesides, they fought and fell.

"It marks the majestic march of that public sentiment, which, when the smoke of battle rolled away—in a spirit of justice equal to the world's sublimest hope, stooped and took the freedman by the hand, placed him in possession of political rights, made him equal before the law, surrounded him with great opportunities of advancement and elevation, in the exalted duty and dignity of citizenship, bade him live and labor for the grandeur of his country, the glory of his race and God.

"This monument is a mute appeal to the Afro-American of to-day. It implores us to show by our devotion to duty, our love of truth, our zeal for knowledge and our acquisition of wealth and prosperity, that we appreciate the advantages we enjoy, that we are worthy of the liberty left us as a legacy of love. It begs us to cultivate habits of virtue, temperance, economy, industry and commercial activity, seeking ever that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and by the nobility of our lives, the purity of our characters and the material grandeur of our achievements, reach and realize the highest privileges and possibilities of American civilization. It points out to us the necessity of rising to the duty of the hour, of realizing our part and place in the progress of the age, of lending our effort and energy in defense of every measure and movement beneficial to mankind, which marks the spirit of the times, the triumphant march of the new republic.

"We know of no city more entitled to the honor of this monument than Rochester. Douglass loved her with a devotion that was passing strange, and though separated from her by ocean trips, or called away by public duty, he still clung to her as his home. For nearly a quarter of a century he was identified with her welfare, associated with her growth and grandeur, and enjoyed her great generosity. It was here that he toiled and triumphed and firmly laid the foundation of that fame and fortune which cheered and comforted his declining years. It was here he commanded and controlled the thrilling conflict and tragic commotion of the anti-slavery campaign. It was here he saw the light of liberty break over the land of bondage. His life was closely interwoven with her own—and his mortal remains have found lasting repose in her loving embrace.

"May she welcome this monument as a worthy contribution to her Pantheon of glory, around which are clustered memories, that will inspire her youth for generations to come with lofty hopes and heroism, and awaken in the hearts of her citizens a high and holy admiration for the life and labor, name and fame of this venerated apostle of liberty. In that silent city of the dead—on the banks of the historic Genesee—Douglass sleeps to-day—and the sun shines on no grander spot than where his majestic form mingles with its mother earth—and where the lovers of liberty from every land shall some day come to weave a garland above his grave. Let none of us approach that sacred shrine with feelings of resentment or come away to revive the flame of race animosity, but with past trials forgotten, past wrongs forgiven, gather around his tomb and recalling the cherished memories of his life and invoking the sainted shades of his illustrious spirit, consecrate ourselves anew to the Genius of Liberty—to the grandson of free government. He lives, ever lives."

The Mayor's Acceptance.

Mayor Warner, in behalf of the city of Rochester, accepted the monument, as follows:

"Rochester would prove herself unworthy of having been the home of a great man if she would do nothing to perpetuate his memory. She has had many citizens, able in the councils of the state and nation, alert in business, and of brilliant mind, but none as great as Frederick Douglass. He was great on account of what he did for his people—because he transformed himself from a piece of personal property on the plantation of his master, contrary to the laws of the land and the prejudices of the people, to a sage, the adviser of the great; and great on account of what he did for his people—because he gave for their salvation the rarest endowments of nature and the whole wealth of his mind accumulated through years of the severest trials. He was the true self-made man, for he could look back to the time when the laws of the republic said he was not a man. He became a man not with the aid of its beneficent laws, but in spite of its inhuman laws.

"The years he spent in our city were the ones in which the greatest efforts of his life were put forth for his race. Here he edited a newspaper for the publication of his views on slavery. Between the hours of labor which he spent in this enterprise, he traveled over the country lecturing. He also held here a sort of central office for the 'underground railway,' an institution for the humane purpose of conducting slaves to Canada. That he was well received by our people he gives testimony in his autobiography. He notes that we did not take the advice of a New York paper and throw his printing press into the lake. By financial contributions and in other material ways he was assisted by our people in the great work of his life.

"For twenty-five years he was a familiar figure on our streets and in our public life. Our citizens learned to admire and reverence him, and thousands gathered to hear his frequent anti-slavery speeches. That he, too, had a tender feeling for our city and people, appears from the following sentence from his 'Life and Times':

"I know of no place in the Union where I could have located at the time with less resistance, or received a larger measure of sympathy and co-operation, and I now look back to my life and labors there with unalloyed satisfaction, and having spent a quarter of a century among its people, I shall always feel more at home there than anywhere else in the country."

"Our city is proud for having sheltered him when other cities would have refused him shelter. At his death she honored his remains and gave them a resting place at her door. To-day her citizens honor his memory by erecting a beautiful monument inscribed with his eloquent words.

"It is fitting that it should stand near a great portal of our city where the thousands who enter may see that she is willing to acknowledge to the world that her most illustrious citizen was not a white man.

"As mayor of the city I accept this monument to a great and good man. May it stand always to remind our people of a

life which should never be forgotten, and as an index finger to a bright page in history."

Before the exercises were brought to a close Miss Anthony said that no public gathering could be complete without a word from the venerable Dr. E. M. Moore, who occupied a seat of honor on the platform. Dr. Moore spoke briefly, saying that he was very glad to be present and thus show his admiration and respect for a man who had at one time been his fellow townsman and friend. Mrs. Jean Brooks Greenleaf also made a few remarks in the same strain. The afternoon's exercises were then brought to a close by the singing of America by the audience, and a benediction by the Rev. Alonzo Scott.