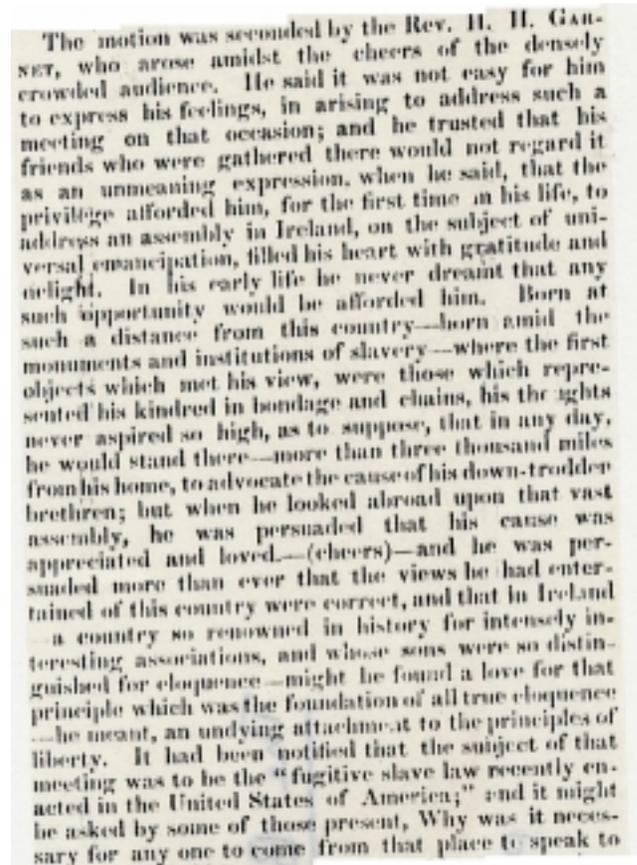


The motion was seconded by the Rev. H.H. GARNET, who arose amidst the cheers of the densely crowded audience. He said it was not easy for him to express his feelings, in arising to address such a meeting on that occasion; and he trusted that his friends who were gathered there would not regard it as an unmeaning expression, when he said, that the privilege afforded him, for the first time in his life, to address an assembly in Ireland, on the subject of universal emancipation, filled his heart with gratitude and delight. In his early life he never dreamt that any such opportunity would be afforded him. Born at such a distance from this country—born amid the monuments and institutions of slavery—where the first objects which met his view, were those which represented his kindred in bondage and chains, his thoughts never aspired so high, as to suppose, that in any day, he would stand there—more than three thousand miles from his home, to advocate the cause of his down-trodden brethren; but when he looked abroad upon that vast assembly, he was persuaded that his cause was appreciated and loved.—(cheers)—and he was persuaded more than ever that the views he had entertained of this country were correct, and that in Ireland—a country so renowned in history for intensely interesting associations, and whose sons were so distinguished for eloquence—might be found a love for that principle which was the foundation of all true eloquence—he meant, an undying attachment to the principles of liberty. It had been notified that the subject of that meeting was to be the “fugitive slave law recently enacted in the United States of America;” and it might be asked by some of those present, Why was it necessary for any one to come from that place to speak to



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the people of this country on the subject of American slavery? What efforts could be made, with reference to the matter, on their part, however much they might abhor the system? They were, in no respect, connected with the movement? In his opinion, there was no country in the world so intimately connected with the slavery of the United States as Ireland. He had stood upon the American shores, and seen the ships floating in with their freights of human souls; he was told that no fewer than 3,000 people were landed every week in the port of New York, and there was no country contributed so largely to that number as the Emerald Isle—(applause)—and, he believed there would be a day when still larger numbers would flow to that land; and, therefore, it was important that the sons and daughters of this country—which had done something for the cause of freedom—should, when they put their foot upon the soil of America, be in a position to let their first accents be shouts of freedom, and a cry to “break off the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free.” Taking that view of the subject, he thought he was in his proper place, and he meant to speak as if he were at home, for he believed he was in a place where he might utter sentiments of his mind, without fearing the fangs of the bloodhound, or the whip of the slave-driver. (Cheers.) The passing of the Fugitive Slave Law had brought out slavery in its true colours—it brought it before the world in such a way that it needed no commentary. It had been said by the Americans, that slavery was a great evil—a great misfortune—and one which they regretted as much as anybody else; and Jonathan might even be seen elongating his face, and shedding his tears about American

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slavery, and saying they would gladly get rid of it, if they could; but they would point to England and say, "Though she might be the first among nations in defending the helpless, yet there was a time when she led the band in stealing the people of Africa from her shores, and reducing them to slavery;" and thus he would rest his plea upon what was formerly the practice of England. But how much sincerity was there in all this? On one occasion the people of America had thought fit to change their form of Government, and they were determined they would have no taxes, and even their women became quite patriotic, and because there was a duty on tea they would drink no more of it—they threw it out upon the streets, and put up their tea-pots to dry. Again, the Americans threw out intimations of their independence to all the world; they presented declarations which had never been made by any other nation; they said, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain rights, and amongst these, that of liberty." Now, they had a good opportunity of proving their sincerity in these assertions. From July 17, 1776, they broke off their allegiance with England: and how then did they act with regard to slavery? Did they emancipate their slaves? When they had entreaties to do so, both public and private, from such men as Thomas Jefferson, Washington, and Benjamin Franklin—their great philosopher—he who was successful in causing the lightning of heaven to obey his command—did they yield to these entreaties and blot out this stain from their nation? But this was not all; Divine love raised her voice against the evil; justice lifted her hand and proclaimed liberty as

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the right of black, as well as white men; Christianity came, through the tears of Calvary, and begged them to fulfil their own declaration, which was only a repetition of the golden rule, to “do unto all men as they would that men should do unto them.” (Cheers.) But still they permitted the evil to exist; and now the country was staggering under the putrid corpse of American slavery. It had been said, some time ago, that there were some thousands of slaves in the United States; but it would now be found that there were no less than three millions—a greater number of people than those which crowded the city of London! Such was a proof of the sincerity of Jonathan, when he said they desired to get rid of their slaves! (Applause.) He then proceeded to relate several circumstances showing the cruelty of the slaveholders, and the many sufferings and privations of their slaves; these were interspersed with anecdotes which, though bearing upon a melancholy subject, were highly interesting and amusing. He concluded by urging the propriety of refusing to deal in, or purchase any kind of goods, the produce of slavery, as the best means of putting a stop to the system. He contended that its abolition would be advantageous to the slaveholder, as well as the slave, and would make America what it professes to be, the land of liberty and freedom. (Continued cheering.) The resolution was then put to the meeting, and pursued by acclamation.

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