

The Chairman (Rev. Dr. Garnett) proposed the singing of "Blow Ye the Trumpet, Blow," and asked all those present to join in and sing with spirit. The hymn was sung by the entire congregation standing.

Rev. Dr. Garnett here returned his thanks for the honor conferred upon him in calling him to the chair. He thought it was out of respect for the State he was from, as he was a Marylander. The speaker was under the impression that the grandest spectacle one could behold was the assembling together of a respectable and intelligent people for the purpose of thanking God for the blessings they had received. They should thank God, said the speaker, as Maryland was no longer to be trodden by slaves, for at midnight the fetters of the slaves were buried, and he hoped so deep that they would never resurrect. The wires, continued Mr. Garnett, were flashing the news over the country that Maryland was free, and that involuntary bondage shall not exist, except for crime. Mr. Garnett said it was intended to fire twenty guns in honor of the event, but there had been so many victories in the Valley and in Georgia, so much powder burnt, and so many windows broken, that they were not permitted to do so. They were here, however, to celebrate the day in another way.

The speaker then alluded to the enemies of slavery, and said that this crime had passed away in Maryland, and it was proper to rejoice and let the world know that the colored people were not indifferent to this great event. There were a few things they ought to learn from those blessings, for it became all to learn more and more to respect and reverence God. Let us, remarked the speaker, respect God who has been the instigator of this good and great work. Let us

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learn to be united. If we direct our energies and hearts under God, we can accomplish everything and push back the waves of oppression. The colored people ought to learn to make the best of the present opportunities, and use the hands made free by endeavoring to get homes for themselves, wives, and children, and show that they can and will do for themselves.

The speaker wanted them to stop finding fault with the President, for there was not a man living who could do better than the man in the executive chair. Could they, remarked the speaker, find fault with the man who gave them the privilege of celebrating freedom? for where would they be to-night at ten o'clock were it not for President Lincoln? The speaker thought some of them would be making tracks for home! (Great applause.) When the speaker attempted to find fault with that illustrious statesman, he hoped his tongue would cleave to the roof of his mouth.

Mr. Garnett then warned his friends against saying a harmful word against the soldiers, and bade them remember that, when the fate of Maryland was trembling in the balance, the brave soldiery, who had met the fiery hail of lead and iron, who had stormed the breast-works and taken the rifle-pits, who were suffering and bleeding on the battle-field, sent forth their votes, and by them decreed that henceforth "Maryland" was free. The speaker further urged them not to find fault with the Yankees; for when their hearts sank within them at the gloomy prospect after the fall of Sumter, the Yankees, east, west, and north,

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