

Stenographic report of W. L. G.'s  
speech at annual meeting  
Mass. A. S. S. (?)

Jan. 29. 1847



7 Garrison. It was a question presented eighteen hundred years ago by the prince of emancipators, "What went ye out to see? a reed shaken with the wind?" So now I would ask for what purpose are we assembled together on the present occasion. Is it one of ordinary importance? Is it one of considerable importance? Is it one appertaining to our commerce, our manufactures, <sup>or</sup> our agriculture? It is one too sublime for language to describe, too comprehensive for any human heart to conceive. It is one which should make us feel the saddest of all human beings; one that should inspire us with indignation; that should alarm & terrify us; that should unite us in the high & holy resolve that come what may, the object should be attained, God helping us. It is no less than this; the ransom of three millions of our fellow countrymen from the condition of mere brutes & animals, & to place them among the rational creation of God. What is this country? What is this country doing? When I ask that question, I do not speak of a mere ideal thing, that which concerns nobody. I speak of the people of this country, of the ruling power of the country. What are, & who are, the American people? What are they doing this present hour? What have they been doing ever since they ~~were~~ have been a distinct nation? I charge them with the vilest crimes, with being the most wicked nation upon the face of the earth.

Our hands are stained with blood. We shoot inno-



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