

Read in Music Hall

Hampton No. 6. Jan 24 1868

Mrs Child

Dear Ancestress

The invitation to the Subscription Anniversary is received, and it would give me the highest pleasure to be present and join the cordial greetings, participate in the rejoicings for what has been achieved, and listen to the inspiring word that shall fall from the lips of those whose commission needs - Go speak my words in the ears of this people whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. I shall surely be with you in spirit, for though locally separated, my heart has long been drawn in sympathy towards those who here been laboring for ^{the} Emancipation, of the bondman, for the regeneration of this nation, and the redemption of the world; and in the distance my spirit often looks towards you and says,

"For I to your Saviour belong,
that Saviour who came to seek the lost, lift up

She bowed down, deliver the oppressed - and
say to the guilty friendless sinner, Go - sin no
more.

Much has been achieved and it
was meet that this New Year should be ushered
in with rejoicings for the pre-advent of Freedom;
and at your Anniversary you will perpetuate the
Thanksgiving anthem. But never, I apprehend,
did one of these annual gatherings occur at a
more momentous crisis, never did you assemble
to meet demands more imperative for redress
for vigorous action, and unflinching persistency
in urging the claims of Justice and Humanity.
How instructive to trace the analogy between us
and ancient Pharaoh! At first he said haughtily
and defiantly, 'Who is the Lord? I will not let you
go. But Omnipotence said, thou wilt see: - all
the world shall ^{know} that I am the Lord. Stroke upon
stroke fell upon ^{the} offender; he begins to relent,
and the first conception is - But who shall go?
Then another plague, and he says, go ye that are
men, let all the rest remain. Yet another plague, and
he says, Go yourselves and take your little ones, but

let your flocks and herds be stayed. Eternal Justice and Impartial Love said through Moses, Ye must serve the Lord with a feast, and not a hoof shall be left behind. To bring them to this point they had been three days enveloped in darkness, so that they saw not one another, nor rose any from his place. Now let us see how modern Pharaoh has done. For thirty years he has been proudly saying, "I know not the Lord that sent these abolitionists. I will not let the negro go — he is my property — God made him for a slave — fit for nothing else!" But in the procession of events he learns that he is standing on a volcano, — that there is an eruption — the foundations are upheaving; — he feels the strokes of the Almighty, and begins to consider whether it is not better to let some of them go, — at least enough to meet a "military necessity". Little by little he yields as the plagues in succession one after another fall upon him, disaster — defeat — and darkness. We now in our history seem to have arrived about to that point, where Pharaoh said to Moses, Go all of you — but not the flocks and herds. Liberty is now proclaimed to almost four millions of our bondsmen, but there is a remnant still held —

the flocks & herds are stayed;— without these the
feast cannot be served;— And the darkness—
are ~~not~~ we now enveloped in its folds? Where
is there light? Can any one see it? Is it light enough
for the President, the Cabinet, or the army to see
the way before us? How many days have they been sitting
in darkness— darkness which is felt, not any one
from his place? Is this picture a mere fancy
of a heated brain? If not, are these coincidences
accidental? Rather they show the presence & the
working of an Almighty Deliverer. If this picture
rationals, true, we may see that this is not the
hour for misgivings, but from this hour of darkness we
learn something of our present position, of the future
that is at the door, gird ourselves anew to watch and
wait, make ready for that night of the Lord, now
at hand which is to be observed in all generations
for when midnight is fully come, the Lord will
go out and smite all the first-born of Pharaoh
and execute judgement upon all the Gods
of Egypt. Let us not look for this deliverance in
daylight, for at midnight, Behold the Bridegroom cometh
therefore as the darkness thickens and gathers around us
let us rejoice, for Behold he standeth at the doors

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 9 p. 71