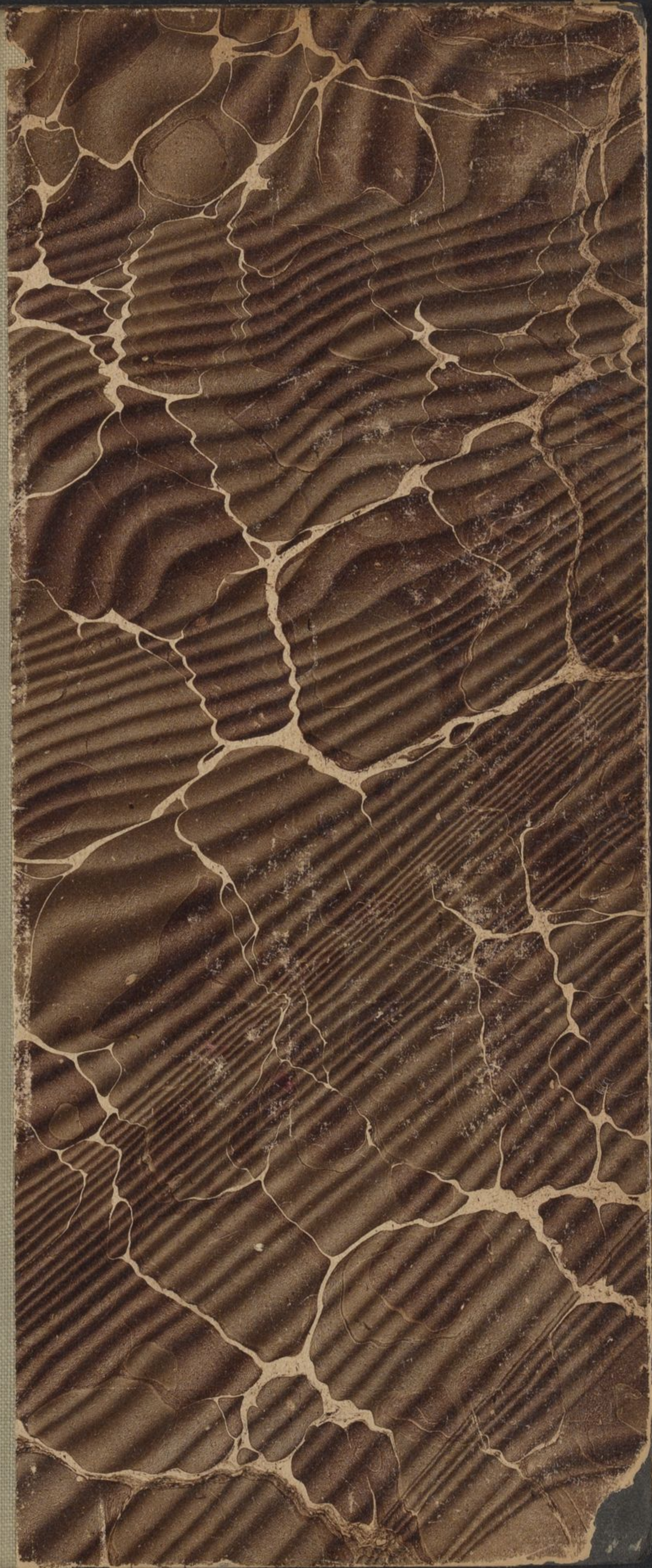


**Address in Commemoration of the  
Great Jubilee - 1834**

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## Harvard College Library



FROM THE  
**BRIGHT LEGACY**

One half the income from this Legacy, which was received in 1880 under the will of

**JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT**

of Waltham, Massachusetts, is to be expended for books for the College Library. The other half of the income is devoted to scholarships in Harvard University for the benefit of descendants of

**HENRY BRIGHT, JR.,**

who died at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1686. In the absence of such descendants, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.

ADDRESS  
IN  
COMMEMORATION  
OF THE  
GREAT JUBILEE,  
Of the 1st of August, 1834.

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*To our Colored Brethren :*

BRETHREN—Two years ago this day, EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND of our kindred ceased to be slaves, and the following LAW, became the law of Britain as far as her flag waves.

*Act of 3 and 4 William IV., chapter. lxxiii. § 12.*

“Be it enacted, that all and every the persons who on the first day of *August* one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four shall be holden in *slavery* within any such *British* colony as aforesaid shall upon and from and after the first day of *August* one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four become and be to all intents and purposes FREE and discharged of and from all manner of SLAVERY, and shall be absolutely and forever manumitted; and that the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the first day of *August* one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four SLAVERY shall be and is hereby utterly and for ever ABOLISHED and declared unlawful throughout the *BRITISH colonies, plantations, and possessions abroad.*”

This glorious victory of righteousness and truth over oppression and sin, was gained by the abolitionists of England, Ireland, and Scotland, talking, writing, printing, lecturing, and petitioning against slavery, year after year, till they gained it. The slaveholders of the West Indies raved against them like bears robbed of their cubs. They prophesied that abolition would ruin the country; they threatened that they would leave the British and join the United States; they pulled down the chapels for the worship of Almighty God, and “Lynched” the missionaries; they drove their slaves to insurrection by their cruelty, then hung scores

of them without trial, and then laid the blame to the abolitionists! But it all only helped on the cause and showed the British people that it was time the evil was removed. When the slaveholders saw that Parliament would pass a law to free the slaves at any rate, then they wanted *pay* for doing their duty, and pretended that the slaves needed to pass through a *preparation* for liberty. The friends of the slave were weak and foolish enough to *pay* them ONE HUNDRED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS and permit them to hold their slaves as a sort of *Apprentices* for six years after their emancipation, being obliged to work 8 hours a day for their masters. This was a great fault. But two of the colonies, ANTIGUA and BERMUDA, finding that they could get their compensation money quicker by freeing the slaves at once, did make them entirely free on the 1st of August. Thus 35,000 slaves were really made free on the great jubilee, and the rest were compelled to wear their chains under another name, till the year of our Lord *eighteen hundred and forty*. All have behaved themselves well. Those who were made free worked industriously for wages—those who were unjustly apprenticed worked peaceably for their masters *according to law*.

But while slavery has been abolished throughout the kingdom of Great Britain, there are TWO AND A HALF MILLIONS of slaves, still, in the republic of America. So, while we celebrate the release of 800,000 of our brethren in the West Indies, it is worth while for us to remember that there are more than THREE TIMES that number nearer home—many of them our own parents, or brothers, or sisters, or children. *What shall be done for THEM? WHAT SHALL WE DO?—DO?* We will hold up the great trumpet of LIBERTY, while our friends the ABOLITIONISTS blow such a blast in the ears of slaveholders that their knees shall smite together and their hands *let go!* DO? We will fill every continent and island with the story of the WRONGS done to our brethren, by the *Christian,*

*church-going, psalm-singing, long-prayer-making, lynching, tar and feathering, man-roasting, human-flesh-dealers of America!*—DO? We will *preach* the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, till it begins to be put in PRACTICE.

The plain common sense of the whole matter is this:—Slaveholders can hold our brethren as cattle—can take flesh off from their backs when they should put money in their pockets, only so long as they can keep the business *respectable*, in these free States at the North. Now, the abolitionists need only go on *printing*, and PICTURING, and LECTURING a few years longer, to make it the most shameful thing in the world to hold slaves. Slaveholders will be *ashamed of their sins*, when they come here, and will go back and knock off the fetters.

Let it be our part then, to help the abolitionists. We can help them in more ways than one. First, our *good character* will help them. Let us be men of peace, industry, integrity, temperance and unbending fidelity to our engagements. Let us rear our sons honest, industrious, intelligent—and above all, give them GOOD TRADES, and teach them never to be ashamed of their work, or their people.—Let us rear our daughters fit to be the wives of such sons—keeping all snug at *home*—and nursing a posterity that shall know how to maintain rights that their fathers have won for them. Let us *live down* prejudice and calumny, till our enemies shall talk less about throwing away, upon us, that precious companionship of theirs which *we* never asked, and our slanderers shall be glad to eat up their own lies.

Again, we can help them by our *money*. The abolitionists have stood so many mobbings, lynchings, tar-and-featherings and brick-battings in behalf of human rights, that we can trust them with our money, *while they continue to give as good an account of it as for three years past*. Yes, we can give money. Some of us, the colored people of the North, have paid to slaveholders, for the ransom of our-

selves, our wives and little ones, more than enough, ten times told, to abolitionize the whole land, and free all its groaning slaves. Let *them* keep, and welcome, the money to which they never had a *right*—the price of our flesh and blood,—we have *hands* to earn more, and *brains* enough to see where a few dollars of it may be laid out to good advantage. If *money* is all that is wanted, it shall be had, and honestly had too. The cause shall never go down for want of money, while there is an arm free, that once wore a fetter. No, let the Woolfolks, and Armfields, and Wade Hamptons; the Calhouns, and Pinckneys, and Mc Duffies; the Marcys and Everetts and Hills—let the whole host of slaveholding Governors, and Judges, and Priests know full well, that while there is an abolitionist to write, or print, or lecture, he shall not have to stop doing it for want of a fair and honest support. There walks not a colored man on the soil of this slavery-cursed America, so poor that he cannot, or so mean that he will not divide a crust with the dauntless defenders of HUMAN RIGHTS—the RIGHTS, not of us and our children merely, but of ALL MANKIND.

“ Shall every flap of England’s flag  
 Proclaim that all around are free,  
 From ‘ farthest Ind ’ to each blue crag  
 That beetles o’er the Western Sea ?

\* \* \* \* \*

Shall our own glorious land retain  
 That curse which Europe scorns to bear ?  
 Shall our own brethren drag the chain  
 Which not even Russia’s menials wear ?

Up, then, in Freedom’s manly part,  
 From gray-beard eld to fiery youth  
 And on the nation’s naked heart  
 Scatter the living coals of TRUTH.”

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS:

|                       |  |                 |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| SAMUEL E. CORNISH,    |  | HENRY SIPKINS,  |
| THEODORE S. WRIGHT,   |  | THOMAS DOWNING, |
| THOMAS VAN RANSALAER. |  |                 |

