

kept in mind that while in one sense we are free, yet in another sense we are not free. While it is true that no owner whips us, and no auctioneer sells us yet the hands of the oppressors have left their cruel work upon us. Centuries of bondage have not only deprived us of the advantages of freedom in times past; but have crippled our capacity to receive the blessings of emancipation. We are like prisoners who have so long been kept in dungeons that the clear light of day is almost painful when once more allowed to enjoy it. We have so long been treated as things that when we are elevated to the rank of citizenship we find it hard to exercise its privileges as wisely and well as would like. We have known neither the educational advantages of schools nor the religious enlightenment of christian teaching. We have not even been allowed to pick up the crumbs that fell from the spiritual tables of our masters. We were set free on the soil of our oppressors, without money, without land or property of any kind, destitute of schools and churches, and forced to meet on every hand the scornful contempt of the men whose grasp had been wrenched away from us by the shear force of arms.

Then I say while in one sense (a legal one) we were free, in another sense we were still dependent upon our former masters. In the eyes of the law we were equal, yet by the force of circumstances we were half in bondage and in a large measure this is still true. Then surely it is the duty of all good citizens, all right-hearted people everywhere to aid us in becoming free, not only in "Word but in deed, and in truth." We are anxious to have homes of our own, and in the midst of them to have schools and churches as our