

1481906 W.S.W.

ADDRESS.

THE condition and circumstances of the race of people of whom I am by blood *one*, and in the well being of whom I am, by the ties of kindred and the common feelings of humanity, deeply interested, sufficiently apologise, and tell the reason for my seeking this occasion of appearing before this audience, in this city. Not only the eyes and attention of *you*, our neighbors—but also of the councils of this great nation are turned upon us. We are expected to do, or to refuse to do, what the councils of this nation, and many private men are now asking of us—what many favour and advocate—yet also what many discountenance and condemn.

My relation to my kindred people being as you are aware it is, I have thought it not improper—rather that it was highly *proper*—that I should appear before you in my own person and character in behalf of my people and myself, to present some facts, and views, and reasons, which must necessarily have a material bearing upon our decisions and doings at the present juncture of our affairs.

Hitherto our cause has been advocated almost exclusively, though ably and humanely by the friends of human right and human weal, belonging by *nature* to a different, and by *circumstances* and *education*, to a superior race of men. The ability and humanity of its advocates however, does not do away the expediency, nor even the *necessity* of those of us who can, standing forth with our own pen and voices, in behalf of that *same right* and *that same weal* as connected with ourselves, which have been and now are by a powerful and perhaps *fatal* agency almost fatally jeopardized.