

# FREEDOM'S JOURNAL.

DEVOTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE COLOURED POPULATION.

VOL. II

NEW-YORK, MARCH 14, 1829.

WHOLE NO. 108

## GEORGE R. ALLEN'S ESSAY.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and improving the condition of the African Race.

GENTLEMEN:

When I consider that I have the honour of addressing so large an assembly of distinguished gentlemen of this enlightened country, and that I am only a poor little descendant of Africa; I am struck with fear, humility and awe.

In the first place, I return thanks to that Supreme Being, who has put it into your hearts to advocate the cause of our injured race, and to promote their emancipation from slavery.

What sound can be more delightful to the ear of a slave than the expression, "The Laws have made you free?" This is the happy case with us in the state of New York. Liberty is an invaluable blessing to us; and we often feel compassion for the thousands of our brethren in the South who are groaning under the chains of bondage, while we are enjoying the benefits of freedom, and one of the most important of these, I conceive to be education.

I have the happiness to belong to a school which was instituted by the Manumission Society of this city, about 40 years ago. There are about 700 scholars, male and female, belonging to this Institution; and although I am but twelve years old, I have made some progress in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, navigation, and astronomy.

The school has frequently been visited by gentlemen from the South and others parts of the country; and I and several of my schoolmates have been called up and examined by them upon the several branches that we were acquainted with, and they have always expressed themselves highly gratified with our performances. I trust the time is not far distant when the blessings that we enjoy shall be the happy portion of all our coloured brethren, and then the language in the following lines will have their full weight: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments were instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

That you may prosper in your arduous but glorious undertaking; and that all your labours may be crowned with success, you have, gentlemen, the wishes of myself and fellow schoolmates in the New York African Free School.

GEORGE R. ALLEN

New York, October 21st, 1828.

Having at the suggestion of some of the Trustees of the School under my charge, informed my pupils that the American Convention was soon to meet in Baltimore and intimated its objects and its labours; I proposed to the senior boys the propriety of their attempting something in the form of an Address from them to that body; promising to forward such essays as I should judge to be the most appropriate. I certify that the foregoing communication is the original production of the boy who has signed it, with no other correction or alteration than the erasure of a few superfluous words.

CHARLES C. ANDREWS.

The undersigned, members of the New York Manumission Society, appointed to draft an Address to the American Convention, have full faith in the above attestation of C. C. Andrews, and from what we have known of the performances of this, and other boys in his school, we are fully convinced that the said Address is the genuine, unaided production of George R. Allen, a very black boy of pure African descent, who is now between 12 and 13 years old, and was born in this city.

MAHLON DAY,  
GOOLD BROWN,  
THOMAS LEGGETT, Jun.  
WILLIAM I. STONE,  
ISR'EL CORSE.

New York, 10th mo. 21st, 1828.

## GEORGE W. MOOR'S ESSAY.

(To the Same.)

GENTLEMEN,

Will you suffer a poor little descendant of Africa to address you in behalf of myself and fellow schoolmates? I am but young; but when I consider what great things have been done for our race, and still are doing for them, I feel thankful. In the first place many of us are restored to our liberty, and secondly many enjoying education. Since I have been in school I have learned considerable of the several branches taught; namely, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, &c.

Gentlemen, since the last convention New York has been freed from slavery. You have the good wishes of myself and fellow schoolmates, hoping that you may prosper in your undertakings.

GEORGE W. MOOR, aged 16 years  
New York African Free School, Oct 21st  
1828.

## ELIVER REASON'S ESSAY.

(To the Same.)

GENTLEMEN,

I know address you in behalf of myself and my schoolmates, and you shall be a poor boy of my description, to address you thus.

How many years have we poor Africans been in chains of slavery, and how many have

not seen a day of rest in many years, how likely is it, that they have been stolen from their native country, when they were young, from their dear father and mother; there are so many in the southern States chained in slavery for no other crime, than the color of their skin? I thought to return thanks to the Almighty Being; for putting me into the hearts of such gentlemen as you, to condescend to take notice of us, and, in the second place; I ought to return thanks to the gentlemen that have taken into consideration the condition of our ill-fated people. May the Supreme Being reward you ten fold for the good you do for us, is the desire of an injured African.

ELIVER REASON

New York African Free School, Oct 21st  
1828.

## ISAIAH G. DEGRASS'S ESSAY.

(To the Same.)

GENTLEMEN,

I feel myself highly honoured by addressing you in behalf of myself and the African race. When I reflect upon the enormities which continue to be practised in many parts of our otherwise favoured country, on the ill-fated Africans, and their descendants, who are torn by the hands of violence from their native country, and sold like brutes to tyrannical slave holders in different countries, where they are held in slavery and bondage; I ought to return thanks unto Almighty God, for having put it into the hearts of such distinguished men as you, to undertake the cause of the Abolishing of Slavery; and I ought to feel myself greatly blessed for enjoying the many privileges I do; while there are so many in the southern States chained in slavery, who perhaps have left mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers to mourn their loss. I feel myself greatly blessed in belonging to a school which has been established for many years by the Manumission Society. The different branches that are taught in this school, are reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, navigation, astronomy, and map drawing. Our schools which now contain 700 male and female scholars, continue to be conducted on the Lancasterian system; and the improvement of the scholars is such as to be satisfactory to the trustees, and all visitors who come to the school. Next to the Supreme Being, gentlemen, you deserve the gratitude and thankfulness of our whole race. When I reflect on the great things that you have done for us, I can but with gratitude, thank you for all that you do, and I make my heart burn within me, when I think of the poor Africans who are torn from their homes and relatives, and sent to the possession and enjoyment of the

You gentlemen, who are advocates for the abolition of such, deserve the gratitude and thank of our whole race. May Divine Providence assist you in all your proceedings, in the wish of a descendant of Africa.

ISAIAH G. DEGRASS, aged 15 years.  
New York African Free School Oct 21st, 1828.

"It's a slavish life that we lead," said the Devil to the foreman, the other night, as both were rubbing their eyes over a dirty proof sheet at twelve o'clock. The Devil looked as if he believed what he said, when he stuck his grim visage through a wreath of lamp-smoke for an answer. "It's a slavish life that we lead," said all, high and low, rich and poor. None are content to be slaves, or able to be otherwise; so all use the universal privilege of complaining—and like our Devil, vent their spleen in words, which neither do nor can make one hair white or black.—*Literary Cadet.*

THE COTTON TREE IN CUBA.

As you approach the plantation La Carolina you discover one of the most beautiful and grand objects, that exuberant nature produces in this favourable situation, to gratify the eye; for it answers no other human purpose,—it is neither timber nor fuel. The cotton, however, I should not forget, which it yields in a very scanty crop, is sometimes used to stuff a pillow. One on the Santa Ana Estate towers a hundred feet towards heaven, sixty five of which, ascertained by admeasurement, are a smooth cylinder, without a limb or knot, twenty seven and a half feet in circumference, six feet from the ground and near the base, where it spreads itself in the direction of its principal roots, like a giant bracing himself against the tempest; the fluted trunk has been measured, forty six feet and a half. Were there nothing to be seen but this noble shaft, with its white smooth surface, it would excite admiration. But at the height already mentioned, it stretches forth its arms; of a size for timber, horizontally and symmetrically and forms a top, for width and grandeur worthy of the trunk below. It has been measured and found to cover a diameter of one hundred and sixty-five feet.

This immense tree is a world by itself, and is peopled by its millions. The wild pine apple colonizes its top. Bejucos, or vines, vegetate on its extended limbs, and run downward to the earth coiling like ropes on the ground, which the thirsty traveller, when water fails him in this land of rare springs, cut, and the sweet milky juice proves to him a delightful beverage. These vines, very possibly, answer another purpose of nature, who regards with tenderness her humblest offspring. The mice and rats and opossum, who might find it difficult to ascend the plain surface of the trunk, may easily ascend there natural sbronds, and drink out of the cups of the pines, which stretch their leaves to catch and concentrate the rains and dews in those natural reservoirs.—I said this tree was peopled by its millions. This is quite within bounds; you may see among its branches the commonweal of the comajen, and wood-louse. They are not peculiar to this tree. Their large black cities are

attached to the body or some limbs, or safely repose in some fork of the tree, where they are a Chinese population, innumerable. This insect, about the size of a flea, forms a covered way of a mortar of its own, down the trunk to the ground; and as they have different public roads, it is probably that some are for ascending, and others for descending, so that the travellers may not incommode each other. This insect is harmless, and their populous nests, are carried whole to the poultry yard, where I have seen hundreds young and old, enjoying the repast, with all the glee of turkey in grass-hopper time.

*Abbot's letters from Cuba.*

MYSTERY OF NUMBERS.

Pythagoras held numbers to be the principle of all things; and perhaps they are when frequently added together with 3 pre fixed. The two great principles of the sage were *monad* and *duad*, in other words *unity* and *quality*. A modern philosopher has come out in the Ontario Messenger in favor of the number *three*. He has roamed about in the store-house of his memory and pulled down from the shelves every thing young and old, good, bad, and indiffent, that bears a *trinal* character or aspect.

"Three was the number of the Graces, the Fates, the Furies, the Syrens, the Gorgons and the Grææcæ—those infernal bags, who had but one eye and one tooth among them, which they used to borrow by turns, as they were to see company or to chew their eard.

"Geryon had three bodies; Cerberus heads enough for them all, and Solomon as many opinions. There were three Triumvirates: Caesar, Pompey and Crassus; Augustus, Anthony and Lepidus; and Andrews, Beville and Carewe.—This last is formed by one Trighth too

"Apollo has his Tripod, and Neptune his Trident. One, two, three and away, was the word for starting at the Olympic races. And the ancients used to call *thrice* upon every corpse, to know if it could start any objections to its being interred. Which naturally leads me to Hades or Aides, the old fashion of distribution according to our good or bad deeds. It consisted of three provinces, Erebus, Tartarus and Elysium.

Heaven, Hell and Purgatory—it had its three judges too; Minos, Alacus and Rhadamanthus. Its three rivers too, Phlegethon, Cocytus and Acheron, with many other Triads too numerous and inconsiderable to mention."

"To this he might have added that the three wise men of Gotham went to sea in a bowl—that a sentry says "who comes there?" three times, before he sends a bullet after a man—that a note of hand has three days grace—and that a paper of tobacco costs three cents.

WANT OF ROOM.—Of all the wants that vex and perplex an editor, the want of room to gratify all classes of readers with something suitable to their taste, as well as to say all that he wishes to say himself on a thousand topics, is the most vexatious and perplexing. The old world, though it has not grown greatly of late, is still be

full of incident as ever. If it be not in universal war, as it was during the reign of Napoleon; it is about as deeply merged in universal trouble, with its foreign or national wars on one side of the map, and its civil and political dissensions on the other.—Hence every breeze brings us from that region a thousand reports that would fill nearly half as many newspaper columns.—Then if we turn to South America, the wheels of revolution are constantly in motion; and every day brings up new factions and cuts off the heads as well as the tails of old ones. Turning homeward, thirteen states have increased in our day to more than twenty; where there were ten towns thirty years ago, there are now thirty at least on the broad average. Here then, without looking abroad, the vanity and multiplicity of events, of daily occurrence, are sufficient of themselves to confuse and confound any man who should undertake to relate them, ever so briefly, in the columns even of a daily, much less those of a weekly or semi-weekly paper. What, then, with foreign news and domestic news; congressional and state legislative proceedings; elective messages, and parliamentary speeches; Adams men, and Jackson men; masonry and anti-masonry; murders, rapes, riots; fires, hurricanes, whirlwinds, floods, freshets, and famine; powder-mill explosions and bursting of steam-boilers; hail storms, thunder storms, and lightning conflagrations, with once in a while a slight shock of an earth-quake; and from these descending down to electioneering; squabbles, meetings, and countermeetings; plots and counterplots; assaults and batteries; broken heads, and bloody noses; successful candidates; libels, libel suits, caning and duelling; love's doings, and death's doings; suicides, natural exists, marriages feasts, funerals!—What, we repeat it is the editor, with all this mass of great and small affairs before him, to do for his own credit or the amusement of the public—

FOR WANT OF ROOM!—One reader's cries gives us more foreign news—another bellows out, no more of the Turks and Russians—they are too far off—we give us something nearer, home—we want to know how the Winnebagoes dandled before the great ones at Washington—and what is Old Hickory's majority over *Ebony* and *Topaz*—Not so much editorial slang, cries a night of the cable-tow—keep your slack-jaw to yourself, and give us more news of Congress and Constantinople.—The *d*—I take Congress and Constantinople exclaims an honest anti-mason warri with righteous zeal in a holy cause, flourish away with your editorial quill—give us line upon line, and column upon column—write down the kidnappers and murderers, "lasie the rascals naked through the world?" Before the virtuous zealot—a man alter our own heart—has got half through with his exclamation, steps Farmer Jenkins, a worthy subscriber, and asks very emphatically why we don't put in more *Agricultural*, and how came we to omit all about neighbor Tompkins's barn, which was burnt down by means of a careless sportsman's shooting at a ground squirrel on the roof—and the loss of Timothy Hodges's mill-dam, carried away by a freshet; and his fine yoke of cattle, *Daisy* and *Dob-*

*bie*, killed by lightning in the barn-yard? Before we have half explained to Farmer Jenkins, in rushes a poetical genius; "his eyes in a loe phrenzy rolling," and curses the paper; because the last number did not contain his pathetic and sublime lamentation on the death of his quince's *white muse*, which was omitted, by the bye for other reasons besides want of room. This is but a bird's eye view, of editorial perplexities, arising from—WANT OF ROOM. As for those which arise from another want—do ye think we mean WANT OF ABILITY?—it is best, perhaps, to be silent on that point, or we may hit somebody as well as ourselves; and to expose the family might be considered as bad an affair, as some folks consider the letting of the *maison cat out of the bag*!—We shall, therefore, be quiet, and keep the editorial puss snug in limbo; not that any of our particular friends, like the *Grand Turk's poet Laureate*, or the genius that NOAH calls "the Pink," would suffer by letting her out; for they are the wisacrees who know all things, past, present, and to come!—

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Was taught to write by the celebrated *Roger Ascham*. Her writing is extremely beautiful and correct, as may be, seen by examining a little manuscript book of prayers, preserved in the British Museum. I have seen her first writing-book preserved at Oxford in the Bodleian Library; the gradual improvement of her majesty's hand writing, is very honorable to her diligence; but the most curious thing is the paper on which she tried her pens; this she usually did by writing the name of her beloved brother Edward; a proof the early and ardent attachment she formed to that beloved Prince.

The education of Elizabeth had been severely classical; she thought and she wrote in all the spirit of the great characters of antiquity; and her speeches and her letters are studded with apophthegms, and a terseness of ideas and language, that give an exalted idea of her mind. In her private answers to their petition, to her majesty to marry, she has employed an energetic word. Were I (says she) to tell you that I do not mean to marry, I might say less than I intend; and were I to tell you that I do mean to marry, I might say more than it is proper for you to know; therefore I give you an answer, answerless!—*Curiosities of Literature.*

From the Medical Repository.

RAPID DISORGANIZATION OF THE HUMAN BONY.—On the night of the 16th of March 1802, in one of the towns of the state of Massachusetts, the body of an elderly woman evaporated and disappeared from some internal and unknown cause, in the interval of about one hour and an half. Half of the family had gone to bed, and the rest were abroad. The old woman remained awake to take care of her house. By and by one of the grand-children came home, and discovered the floor near the hearth on fire. All hands were made, a light brought, and means taken to extinguish it. While these things were doing, some singular appearances were observed on the hearth and the contiguous floor. There

was a sort of greasy soot, and ashes, with remains of a human body, and an unusual smell in the room. All the clothes were consumed; and the grand-children was missing. It was at first supposed she had, in attempting to light her pipe of tobacco, fallen into the fire, and been burned to death. But on considering how small the fire was, and that so total a consumption could scarcely have happened if there had been ten times as much, there is more reason to conclude that this is another case of that spontaneous decomposition of the human body, of which there are several instances on record. It is to be regretted the particulars have not been more carefully noted.

Napoleon's Bed-Room.—After Josephine had been divorced from Napoleon, it is stated in a volume of memoirs just published that "the Empress retaining for the Emperor an attachment, approaching to adoration, would not allow even a chair to be disutred in his apartment; and instead of occupying it herself, preferred being very indifferently lodged above stairs. Every thing remained exactly in the state as when the Emperor quitted his cabinet; a book of history placed on his bureau, with the page marked at which he left off; the pen with which he had been writing retaining the ink that, a moment later, might have dictated laws to Europe; a map of the world, on which he had been pointing out to his confidants his projects respecting the countries the invasion of which he meditated, and which bore marks of his impatience, occasioned probably by some silly comment; Josephine alone undertook the office of dusting what she called his relics; and she seldom gave any one permission to enter the sanctuary. Napoleon's Roman bed was without curtains, his arms were hung on the walls of the chamber, and various parts of male dress were scattered over the furniture. It seemed as if he were just about to reenter a place from which he had banished himself forever.

ORDINATION.

On the 5th instant, Dr. Theodora S. Wright, a recent Graduate of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, was ordained to the work of the ministry by the Albany Presbytery, as an Evangelist to labor in the first African Presbyterian Church of this city. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Samuel Nett. Ordination prayer by the Rev. John Blackford. Charge by the Rev. John F. Hawley.

NOTICE.

The cent Annual meeting of the Ladies Association which should take place in the present month is postponed until the Monday in April ensuing in consequence of the long continuance of cold weather. The long continuance of cold weather, and the dearth of suitable dresses, will necessarily have the effect of delaying the present month.

AGRICULTURAL.

TO LET.—Cornelius Henry has a new and handsome two story house, situated in New Africa, having a front five miles out of town, and a pleasant view of the city. It is for sale in call at D. M.





**BOOTS AND SHOES.****CHARLES MORTIMER,**

No. 107 Church-street, New-York,  
Respectfully informs his friends and the public generally that he still continues to manufacture *Boots and Shoes* of a superiority, at reduced prices.

generous public by their patronage have given him hopes that the manufactured by him was of a superiority, he hopes by more continued sales, and the employment of none but rate workmen, to merit a continuance of the same.

**BOOTS and SHOES** repaired at the most notice.

New-York, September 9, 1828.

**BOARDING & LODGING.****DAVID SEAMAN**

Respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that his HOUSE, No. 62 Leonard-street, (next door to Zion Church,) is still open for the accommodation of respectable persons of colour, with *Boarding and Lodging*, on the most reasonable terms.

His House is in a pleasant part of the city, and no pains will be spared on his part to render the situation of all who honour him with their custom, as comfortable as in any other house in the city, and at one half the expense.

New-York, Sept. 2, 1828.

**BOARDING & LODGING**

The subscriber respectfully informs his FRIENDS, and the public in general, that his House No. 23 Elizabeth street, is still open for the accommodation of genteel persons of Colour, with *Boarding and Lodging*.

P. S. In addition to the above establishment, the subscriber keeps on hand a quantity of the best Refreshments Oysters, &c. served up at the shortest notice. His house is in a healthy and pleasant situation, and he hopes by the unremitting attention that will be paid to all those who may favour him with their patronage, to be entitled to public favour.

DAVID JOHNSON.

Philadelphia, June 24, 1828. 64

**LEGHORN BONNETS.****MRS. SARAH JOHNSON,**

No. 551 PEARL-STREET, respectfully informs her Friends and the Public, that she has commenced BLEACHING, PRESSING, and REFITTING LEGHORN and STRAW HATS, in the best manner. LADIES dresses made, and FLAIN SEWING done on the most reasonable terms.

Mrs. J. begs leave to assure her friends and the public, that those who patronize her may depend upon having their Work done faithfully, and with punctuality and dispatch.

New-York, April 29, 1828

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY.**

ONE or TWO active BOYS, as Apprentices to the Shoe-Making business. Good recommendations will be required. Boys from the country would be preferred.—Inquire at No. 157 Broadway  
Sept 25, 1828

Economy is the Road to wealth—And a penny saved is as good as two pennys earned. Then call on the United States  
CLOTHES DRESSING Establishment,

**JAMES GILBERT,**

Who has removed from 411 to 492 Broadway, and continues as usual to carry on the Clothes Dressing in correct and systematical style; having perfect knowledge of the business, having been legally bred to it, his mode of cleaning and Dressing COATS, PANTALOONS, &c. is by STEAM SPONGING, which is the only correct system of CLEANING, which he will warranted extract all kinds of STAINS, GREASE-spots, Tar, Paint &c. or no pay will be taken.

N B The public are cautioned against the impotence of those who attempt the Dressing of clothes, by STEAM SPONGING, who are totally unacquainted with the business as there are many Establishments which have recently been opened in this city.

All kinds of Tailoring Work done at the above place.

All clothes left to be cleaned or repaired will be good for one year and one day—if not claimed in that time, they will be sold at public auction.

**AFRICAN FREE SCHOOLS.**

NOTICE.—Parents and Guardians of Coloured Children, are hereby informed, that a Male and Female School has long been established for coloured children, by the Manumission Society of this city—where the pupils receive such an education as is calculated to fit them for usefulness and respectability. The male school is situated in Mulberry-street, near Grand-street, to which is attached a female school, and another female school in William-st., near Duane-st.; all under the management of experienced teachers. The Boys are taught Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography and English Grammar—and the Girls, in addition to those branches, are taught Sewing, Marking, and Knitting, &c.

**TERMS OF ADMISSION.**

Pupils of 5 to fifteen years of age are admitted by the Teachers at the Schools, at the rate of twenty-five cents to one dollar per quarter, according to the circumstances of the parents; and the children of such as cannot afford to pay any thing are admitted free of expense, and enjoy the same advantages as those who pay.

Each school is visited weekly by a committee of the trustees, in addition to which a committee of Ladies pay regular visits to the Female schools. Care is taken to impart moral instruction, and such have been the happy effects of the system pursued in these schools, that although several thousand have been taught in them since their establishment (now more than thirty years) there has never been an instance known to the trustees where a pupil having received a regular education has been convicted of any crime in our Courts of Justice.

By order of the Board of Trustees.

PETER S. TITUS,  
RICHARD FIELD.

**BOARDING.****LEWIS HARRISSON,**

Respectfully informs the public in general, that he has opened his House for the accommodation of genteel persons of Colour, with *Boarding and Lodging*, at No 69 Mulberry street.

There shall be no pains spared to render their situation as agreeable as possible on his part.

New-York, July 25, 1828.

**THE FREEDOM'S JOURNAL**

IS PRINTED & PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY, BY  
Jno. B. RUSSELL, No. 149 Church-street,  
NEW-YORK.

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No subscription will be received for a less term than one year.

Agents who procure and pay for five subscribers, are entitled to a sixth copy gratis, for one year.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, except at the discretion of the Editor. All Communications, (except those of Agents) must be post paid.

**RATES OF ADVERTISING.**

For over 12 lines, and not exceeding 22, 1st insertion, 75cts.  
" Each repetition of do. 50  
" 12 lines or under, 1st insertion, 50  
" Each repetition of do. 25  
Proportional price for advertisements which exceed 22 lines.

N. B. 15 per cent deduction for persons advertising by the year; 12 for 6 months; and 5 for 3 months.

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England.—R. Dickinson & Samuel Thomas, Liverpool.

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**NOTICE TO BOOT CLEANERS.**

**SUPERIOR POLISHING BLACKING.**

(FROM LONDON.)

Which the subscriber offers for sale, wholesale and retail, at the lowest cash prices, by

N. VANLIEW, 550 Broome-street. All orders thankfully received and punctually attended to.