



as interested in the emancipation of woman and as ready to make sacrific  
es to effect it as were they themselves. The men and the women who fi  
nally succeeded in convincing the opponents of the resolution demanding  
the political enfranchisement of American women that their course they ad  
vised was the best. There are no words of praise we can bestow upon the  
great women and the illustrious men who so offended the sentiment and  
stacked the proprieties of this staid, inconsistently proper and hypocrit  
ical old world.

But if Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the woman manifested undacious courage and  
sublime contempt for the ridicule and contempt which she knew would be  
heaped upon her as a woman, how much more were such qualities and strength  
of character displayed by Frederick Douglass the ex-slave. It is doubt  
ful if the independence of spirit and the sense of justice were ever put  
more strongly to the test than they were on the day when he first commit  
ed himself to the pursuit of the fullest emancipation of the handicapped  
sex.

*I have always extracted from the fact*  
It has always been a source of great pleasure to me that Mr. Douglass  
was not only the one man in the first convention in which the one who was  
was conspicuous for his enthusiastic advocacy of the political emancipa  
tion of American women, but I have always taken keen pleasure in the  
fact that he found it in his heart to advance the cause of woman's suffrage with such  
thought that he did everything in his power to advance the cause of woman  
order and zeal. In no half hearted way did he accept the truth of the new  
suffrage through his paper, "The North Star." It is scarcely an exaggera  
tion to say that Frederick Douglass's paper was about the only one that  
nearly every one of the leading newspapers of the country were sharing  
which a complimentary editorial of the Seneca Falls meeting appeared.  
libes and jeers at the men and women who participated in the Seneca Falls  
meeting, there was one newspaper published in Rochester which heartily  
condemned the leading spirits in the new movement and warmly espous  
ed their cause. And this newspaper was Frederick Douglass's North Star.  
In its issue July 10, 1840 the editor in a leading editorial among oth  
er things expressed himself as follows; after declaring that he could not

do justice to our own convictions, or to the excellent persons connect  
ed with the infatigable movement if we did not in this connection offer a few  
remarks on the general subject which the convention met to consider and  
the objects they seek to maintain <sup>and the</sup> editor of the North Star expressed him  
self as follows; A discussion of the rights of animals would be regarded  
with far more complacency by many of what are called the wise and good of  
the land than would be the discussion of the rights of women. <sup>many who have</sup> Standing as  
at last made the discovery that the negroes have some rights as well as  
other members of the human family, have yet to be convinced that women  
have any. Standing as we do upon the watch tower of human freedom, we can  
not be deterred from an expression of our approbation of any movement, how  
ever humble to improve and elevate the character of any members of the hu  
man family. In his autobiography Mr. Douglass explains how he first became  
interested in woman's suffrage as follows; observing woman's agency, deve  
lopment and efficiency in pleading the cause of the slave, gratitude for this  
high service early moved me to give particular attention to the subject of  
what is called "Woman's rights", and caused me to be designated a woman's  
rights man. I am glad to say have never been ashamed to be thus designa  
ted. To Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton he owed his conversion to the cause,  
never. "In a conversation with Mrs. E.C. Stanton, when she was yet a  
young lady, and an earnest abolitionist, she was at the point of setting  
before me in a very strong light the wrong and injustice of this exclusi  
on of women from the right of choice in the selection of the persons who  
should shape the laws and thus shape the destiny of all the people irre  
spective of sex. Writing to Mrs. Stanton Feb. 6, 1840 Mr. Douglass called  
her attention to the fact that he gives her credit for his conversion to  
the cause of woman's suffrage as follows; You will notice that I don't forget  
to walk with you from the house of Mr. Joseph Southwick, where you quiet  
ly brought to my notice your arguments for woman's good suffrage. That is  
forty years ago. You had just returned from your European tour. From that



is now Columbia Theatre but what was then called Waterrett Hall.  
I can see his handsome, kindly, brown face crowned with a shock of snow  
white hair, as with the grace and courtesy of a Chesterfield he bowed his  
pleased acknowledgement to the royal Chautauque salute and the other heart  
demonstrations the women made. At the close of the meeting, when Mr. Douglass  
descended from the platform he motioned me to wait for him, while he  
stepped to talk with some of his friends- a request with which I cheerfully  
complied on that occasion as on all others when he honored me by pre-  
ferring it. As we walked from the hall Mr. Douglass extended me a cordial  
invitation to lunch with him. Alas that we can not know on rare occasions  
what a day will bring forth. If such knowledge were vouchsafed us, how often  
would we make sacrifices to accommodate or please a beloved friend.  
Having been indisposed for a long time I felt obliged to decline Mr. Douglass's  
kind invitation. But how often have I regretted since then that I  
did not remain in that inspiring, kindly, kindly presence another short  
hour, and so with a courtly sweep of a large, light hat he happened to  
wear Mr. Douglass bade me good bye, saying as he did so that he was sorry  
that I would not come to see him appease his own hunger, if I did not care  
to take lunch myself. About nine o'clock that same evening a friend came  
to my house to tell me that Mr. Douglass had suddenly expired at his resi-  
dence on Cedar Hill just as he was telling Mrs. Douglass about the cordial  
reception accorded him by the National Council of Women. It has always  
seemed to me so fitting that a large portion of Frederick Douglass's last  
day on earth should have been spent at a meeting of an organization found-  
ed for the purpose of advancing the interests and promoting the welfare of  
women- a subject in which he had been so genuinely interest- a cause which  
he had advocated so effectively and enthusiastically for so many years.  
If Frederick Douglass were here in the flesh to day I am sure he would  
urge us to buckle on our armor with fresh courage and renewed zeal to

is now Columbia Theatre but what was then called Waterrett Hall.  
I can see his handsome kindly face crowned with the shock of snow white  
hair as with the courtesy and grace of a Chesterfield he bowed his pleased  
acknowledgement to the Chautauque salute and to the hearty demonstrations  
which the women had made. Seeing me standing in the aisle, as he descended  
from the platform Mr. Douglass motioned me to wait for him, while he stepped  
to talk with some friends- a request with which I cheerfully complied  
on that occasion as on all others when he honored me by preferring it.  
As we walked from the theatre Mr. Douglass declared that he was very sorry  
and extended me a cordial invitation to take lunch with him.  
Alas that we can not know on rare occasions what a day will bring forth.  
That sacrifice one would make and how one's own feelings would be set  
aside to please or accommodate a well-beloved friend. Having been indisposed  
for a long time and being unable to enjoy food I declined Mr. Douglass's  
kind invitation to lunch with him alas, how often I have regretted that I  
could not remain in that inspiring, kindly, kindly presence another short  
hour and so with a courtly sweep of a large white hat he wore on that  
10th of Feb. bade me a cheerful good bye, saying as he did so he  
was sorry I would not go with him at least to see him appease his own  
hunger. About nine o'clock that same evening one of my friends called at my  
home to tell me that Mr. Douglass had suddenly expired in his home, Cedar  
Hill at seven o'clock that evening while he was relating to Mrs. Douglass  
the cordial reception accorded him by the members of the National Council.  
It has always seemed to me so fitting that a large portion of F.D.'s last  
~~day on earth should have been spent at a meeting of an organization found-~~  
rick Douglass's life should have been spent in thinking and talking  
ed for the purpose of advancing the the interests and promoting the wel-  
about the promotion of the welfare of women, a subject in which he had  
fare of women- a subject in which he had been so genuinely interested and  
been so deeply interested and for which he had so faithfully worked all as  
a cause which he had advocated so effectively and enthusiastically with  
life. And if Frederick Douglass were with us here in the flesh to day, he  
would urge and push. And if Frederick Douglass were here in the flesh to day,  
could plead with us to buckle on the armor and go forth to fight the  
I am sure he would urge us to buckle on the armor and go forth to un-  
rattle the giants of prejudice and prescription on account of sex and race with  
the giants of prejudice, prescription and persecution on account of race

renewed vigor and fresh zeal. The fight he made for freedom should help us to resolve that neither principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth nor any other creature should separate us from the love of our cause nor frighten us from discharging the duties and responsibilities which rest upon us to day.

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whistle the giants of prejudice, prescription and persecution on account of sex or race, wherever and whenever they rear their hideous heads. In his own unrelenting fight from the degradation and curse of slavery to the blessings of freedom Dr. Douglass has set us an example of resolution, determination, faith and hope which we should do well to imitate. Catching the spirit of that great and good man let us resolve that neither principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth nor any other creature shall separate us from the love of our cause or frighten us from the discharge of these obligations and duties toward it which rest upon us to day.