

Read in Music Hall

Hampton No H. Jan 24 1868  
Mrs Child

Dear Ancestress

The invitation  
to the Subscription Anniversary is received, and  
it would give me the highest pleasure to to be  
present and join the cordial greetings, participate  
in the rejoicings for what has been achieved, and  
listen to the inspiring word that shall fall from  
the lips of those whose commission needs - Go  
speak my words in the ears of this people whether  
they will hear, or whether they will forbear. I  
shall surely be with you in spirit, for though  
locally separated, my heart has long been drawn  
in sympathy towards those who here been labor-  
ing for <sup>the</sup> Emancipation, of the bondman, for the  
regeneration of this nation, and the redemption of  
the world; and in the distance my spirit often  
looks towards you and says,

"For I to your Saviour belong,  
that Saviour who came to seek the lost, lift up

She bowed down, deliver the oppressed:— and  
say to the guilty friendless sinner, Go—sin no  
more.

Much has been achieved and it  
was meet that this New Year should be ushered  
in with rejoicings for the pre-advent of Freedom;  
and at your Anniversary you will perpetuate the  
Thanksgiving anthem. But never, I apprehend,  
did one of these annual gatherings occur at a  
more momentous crisis; never did you assemble  
to meet demands more imperative for receiving  
for vigorous action, and unflinching persistency  
in urging the claims of Justice and Humanity.  
How instructive to trace the analogy between us  
and ancient Pharaoh! At first he said haughtily  
and defiantly, 'Who is the Lord? I will not let you  
go. But Omnipotence said, We will see:— all  
the world shall <sup>know</sup> that I am the Lord. Stroke upon  
stroke fell upon <sup>the</sup> offender; he begins to relent,  
and the first conception is—But who shall go?  
Then another plague, and he says, go ye that are  
men, let all the rest remain. Yet another plague, and  
he says, Go yourselves and take your little ones, but

let your flocks and herds be stayed. Eternal Justice and Impartial Love said through Moses, We must serve the Lord with a feast, and not a hoof shall be left behind. To bring them to this point they had been three days enveloped in darkness, so that they saw not one another, nor rose any from his place. Now let us see how modern Pharaoh has done. For thirty years he has been proudly saying, "I know not the Lord that sent these abolitionists. I will not let the negro go — he is my property — God made him for a slave — fit for nothing else!" But in the procession of events he learns that he is standing on a volcano, — that there is an eruption — the foundations are upheaving; — he feels the strokes of the Almighty, and begins to consider whether it is not better to let some of them go, — at least enough to meet a "military necessity". Little by little he yields as the plagues in succession one after another fall upon him, disaster — defeat — and darkness. We now in our history seem to have arrived about to that point, where Pharaoh said to Moses, Go all of you — but not the flocks and herds. Liberty is now proclaimed to almost four millions of our bondsmen, but there is a remnant still held —

the flocks & herds are stayed;— without these the  
feast cannot be served;— And the darkness—  
are ~~not~~ we now enveloped in its folds? Where  
is there light? Can any one see it? Is it light enough  
for the President, the Cabinet, or the army to see  
the way before us? How many days have they been so  
in darkness— darkness which is felt, not any one  
from his place? Is this picture a mere fancy  
of a heated brain? If not, are these coincidences  
accidental? Rather they show the presence & the  
working of an Almighty Deliverer. If this picture  
rational, true, we may see that this is not the  
hour for misgivings, but from this hour of darkness we  
learn something of our present position, of the future  
that is at the door, gird ourselves anew to watch and  
wait, make ready for that night of the Lord, now  
at hand which is to be observed in all generations  
for when midnight is fully come, the Lord will  
go out and smite all the first-born of Pharaoh  
and execute judgement upon all the Gods  
of Egypt. Let us not look for this deliverance in  
daylight, for at midnight, Behold the Bridegroom cometh  
therefore as the darkness thickens and gathers around us  
let us rejoice, for Behold he standeth at the doors