<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Manuscript version of Frederick Douglass speech, written in an unknown hand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call Number</strong></td>
<td>JWJ MSS 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Published/Created Date</strong></td>
<td>circa 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Title</strong></td>
<td>Walter O. Evans collection of Frederick Douglass and Douglass family papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rights</strong></td>
<td>The use of this image may be subject to the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) or to site license or other rights management terms and conditions. The person using the image is liable for any infringement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent of Digitization</strong></td>
<td>Complete folder digitized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Container information</strong></td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Generated</strong></td>
<td>2021-07-02 18:49:11 UTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terms of Use</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://guides.library.yale.edu/about/policies/access">https://guides.library.yale.edu/about/policies/access</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>View in DL</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/17369760">https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/17369760</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fellow Citizens: This call to address you on this sad occasion, is one in which I find it almost impossible to respond. If you have deep grief in the loss by death of Abraham Lincoln, and feel in it a severe stab at our Republican institutions, I feel it on all those accounts, and more. I feel it on account of the race to which I belong, and the deep instinct which that good man took on the freedom and elevation of my race. It has been well said already, that this is not an occasion for speech-making. I have scarcely been able to express a sentiment to any of my friends who have taken my hand and looked sadly in my eyes today. The most that I could say, the most that any one could say, is a dreadful calamity has befallen us, a heavy calamity has befallen on a nation! and this is a day for silence, meditation and tears.

As has been repeated in our hearing, I never ently, fulsomely participate in the hope and relief expressed here, that though a noble man, one of the noblet that ever trod the earth, has fallen by the hand of the assassin, though the President of the United States is gone, the Republic is safe, and Liberty is safe. (Applaud) The human spirit naturally turns from calamities like these, and endeavors through its
tens and anguish to see if possible some
slight of hope, some spark of promise, may
come out of this tremendous evil. I think
it not inconsistent to discover over this grim-
catastrophe, through the events that rise
from it, the beautiful rainbow of promise over
it all. But the other day, it seemed as if
this nation was in danger of losing a just
appreciation of the great crime of this rebel-
line. It struck one, that a few days ago,
we were manifesting almost as much
thankfulness to Gen. Robl. E. Lee for concur-
ing to Gen. Grant, as to Gen. Grant, who com-
pelled him to surrender. (Applause) It seems
so one that next to Gen. Grant, Gen. Robl.
E. Lee, was becoming the most popular of
Americans. (Applause) Since the rebellion
beginning to be forgotten, we began to talk of
amnesty and magnanimity and oblivion.
Applause. Republic, it is said, have short mem-
ories, and I was afraid the American people
might forget what has passed, and it may
be that the inculcable Wisdom of their arts
could the destiny of nations. This drawing of
the most precious of the nation’s hearts, Lord,
le to bring us back and restore us to that
just equilibrium, it is necessary at some
attain, if the nation is to have rest from
rebellion and an undisturbed path for this much of manheded among us. It strikes me, I can see all this, and while I mourn the loss I mourn I cannot. How I mourn! I hardly dare attempt to describe. It was only a few weeks ago that I lost in the gentle one of President Lincoln; it was only a few weeks ago that I lost in the hand, only a few weeks ago. I have his kindly voice uttering these memorable words, that will go down in history and be read with increasing admiration from age to age:

"Peremptorily, do not hope, solemnly do not pray, that this mighty struggle of earth may soon pass away, but if God wills it to continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another, down to the sword, as once said three thousand years ago, so still must it be said, that "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." (Emphatic applause)

Will any it be said, and I repeat it, as you have heard already, that of treason worse to gain anything, by this atrocity Burnett, bell Black assassination, it will be awfully, deep, pointed. To say we never before, the North is a unit. (Applause) To-day, we never before,
the American people will not exact indemnity for the past—that cannot be indemnity for the death of one brave man in battle. Can it be indemnity for the slowly. murder, our sons, and brothers in Southern prisons. Can it be? But this we are entitled to, if we cannot have indemnity for the past, we must see to it that we have security for the future. (Applause) And it teaches Americans this lesson, as it will teach us, as I believe.

We mourn that noble man, whose fate it was to be suddenly taken out of existence, yet I feel in it all that there will be the compensation that in the bloody wounds of Abraham Lincoln are shall find the salvation of this country. God save our called his good man. He was as God save our called his good man. (Applause.) But I, not to speak or attempt to speak. I said to my son that if I should be called to speak here, I might say something very foolish. I might say something in the depth and ecstasy of my grief that could offend or injure. I hope I have not done so, I am speaking for the cause, the country, and liberty, and let me remark that hereafter justice will require the people of the United States.
not to despise any hand that can be uplifted in the
defence of the country, and refuse its assistance. Let us
see to it that in the coming reconstruction that we
are about to make not to be too much in haste; not
to be too much in haste; to nurse the spirit that was
born to Beth, to treason and assassination. And
d scheme are a sport, the South with us, and bring
our southern enemies beneath the folds of the flag.
see to it that are bring southern friends also, to coun-
terpoise their enmity. We are in such a condition
to southern opinions and prejudices, that we should
forget that justice to theergus, in this contest, is
for, for the sake of the
rebels are swept off, as they will be (appearing)
there will spring up in the South, in the stirs of
of those who are expelled, others to take their place.
These traitors shall be brought to their luckless
sons, the same spirit which has waged this war
of the rebellion, who will endanger the lives of
every United States Marshal, every United States
Judge, every United States Collector, and every
United States Postmaster, and every man bear-
ing the insignia of the United States, in any
t of the rebel states will be liable to be struck
down, precisely as we have been struck of
President Lincoln, and as our beloved Secretary
if State has been struck. What shall be done
to prevent this state of things? Give equal and
exact justice to every loyal man in the South, without regard to his color or past condition.
Knew one man in those States by his complexion, but knew every man by his loyalty
and wherever there is a loyal man, treat him as a countryman, a clansman, a citizen, in
the great cause. (Applause.)
When we make peace with the South, let us not remember our enemies and forget our friends;
let us not disfranchise our enemies and disfranchise our friends. Clothe every loyal man
with equal rights, and the black man shall
wave your flag with his iron arm, and hold
it aloft everywhere in the South, and defend
it against all traitors. The black men will
run through fire, and through fire and sword, and en-
counter hardships and peril and death to
reach our pickets and give information, and
warn of danger. We will bind up the gash of
our soldiers escaping from Southern prisons,
during the orderly day, and give them shelter
by night, and guide them through the darkness;
they will build castles of sand, and
compacts of granite to uphold the Government,
but they will give you compacts of their own
living flesh to battle the enemies of the
country. (Applause.) Inadequate is all that
can be said in this hour of grief, but I think
you fellow citizens, for the privilege of mingling
any sorrow, any tears and any hopes with yours,
and to unite with you in expressions of love
for the good man who has fallen a martyr
to the great cause of Human Liberty. [Applause]