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 these accounts, and more. I feel it on account of the race to which I belong, and the deep interest which that good man took in 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 any hand and looked sadly in my eyes to day. 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 toil.

As has been repeated in our hearing, I never truly, feelingly participate in the hope and belief expressed here, that though a noble man, one of the noblest that ever trod this 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 mind naturally turns from calamities like these, and endeavors through its
tear and anguish to see if possible some
glimp of hope, some spark of promise, may
come out of this tremendous evil. I think
it not inconsistent to discover even this giv-
ing cataclysm, through the events that arise
from it, the beautiful rainbow of promise over
it all. But the other day, it seemed as if
this notion was in danger of losing a just
appreciation of the great crimes of this rebel
civil war. It struck me, that a few days ago,
we were manifesting almost as much
thankfulness to Gen. R. E. Lee for surrender-
ing to Gen. Grant, as to Gen. Grant, who com-
pelled him to surrender. (Applause) It seems
to me that next to Gen. Grant, Gen. R. 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 inevitable wisdom of time can
consume the destinies of nations. This drawing of
the most precious of the nation’s hearts, blood
is to bring us back and restore us to that
just equilibrium, it is necessary at what altitude
attain, if the nation is to have rest from
rebellion and an undisturbed path for the much of manhood among us. It strikes me I can see all this, and while IまとめThis Nown I mourn I hardly dare attempt to describe It was only a few weeks ago, that I looked into the gentle eye of President Lincoln: it was only a few weeks ago that I shook his hand, and only a few weeks ago I heard his kindly voice uttering these memorable words, that will go down in history and be read with increasing admiration from age to age:

"Recently, dears, I hope, recently, do not say that this mighty struggle of ours may soon pass away but if God will it to continue until all the iniquity 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 with the sword, as one 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 if treason hopes to gain anything, by this atrocious assassination, it will be awfully disappointed. To-day, 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 daugh-
ter of our brave men in battle, and indemnity for
the slowly murdering our sons
and brethren in Southern prisons. That can't
be; but this we are entitled to, if we cannot
have indemnity for the past, we must sue 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 all that there will be the compensation
that in the bloody wounds of Abraham Lincoln
we shall find the salvation of this country.

God may we call him, god, may he be as
the sons have a god, too. And if "an honest
man in the noblest work of God," we must have
no concern for rest of the soul of Abraham Lincoln.

(Applause) But I out not to speak or attempt
to speak. I said to any son that if I should
be called to speak here, I might possibly say
something very foolish; I might say something
in the depth and ecstasy of my grief, that
would offend or injure. I hope I have not
done so. I am speaking for the cause of my country
and liberty, and let me remark that hereafter
justice will require the people of the United State
not to despise any hand that can be uplifted in the
defence of the country, nor refuse its assistance. Let us
see to it that in the coming reconstruction that are
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
when are bring back 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-
terpoint their enmity. We are no such difference
in southern opinions and prejudices, that we should
forget that justice to the wrongs, in this context, is
safety, to the nation. For after the fall heads of the
rebellion are except off, as they will be (appearing)
they will spring up in the South, in the steps
of those who are expelled, others to take their place.
These traitors shall be brought to their luckless
sins, 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-
ning the insignia of the United States, in any
of the rebel states will be liable to be struck
down, precisely as we have been struck as
President Lincoln, and as our honored Secretary
of 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. Know one man in those States because he is an American, but know every man by his loyalty and character. There is a loyal man, hail him as a countryman, a citizen, a freeman, 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 enfranchise our enemies and disfranchise our friends. Clothe every loyal man with equal rights, and the black man shall wave our flag with his iron arm and hold it aloft everywhere in the South, and defend it against all traitors. The black man will run through fire, and toil and sweat, and in counter hardships and peril and death to reach our pickets and give information, and warn of danger; he will band up the feet of our soldiers escaping from Southern prisons, bring them food by day, and give them shelter by night, and guide them through the darkness; they will build castles of sand, and ramparts of granite to uphold the Government, but they will give you ramparts of their own living flesh to huddle the enemies of the country. (Applause.) Inadequate is all that can be said in this hour of grief, but I think
your 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]