WILLIAM C. NELL, on rising to announce the exercises, remarked, in substance, that the programme for the evening was a wide departure from the elaborate and novel presentation, for many months contemplated, but which, by force of circumstances, he had this year been compelled to forego. The occasion was one which should always commend itself to the patriots and philanthropists of America, and in a signal manner to those whose complexions and condition allied them to him whose name and fame they had assembled that evening to honor. And especially at this hour in our country’s history, when the all-absorbing question was, “What shall be done with the colored man?” there is a significance in pointing to what the colored man has done in the nation’s trial-hours, eminently entitling him and his posterity to an equality of rights.

The page of impartial history will yet be illuminated with his deeds of patriotism and valor, commencing with Crispus Attucks in State street, March 5th, 1770, whose example of gallant leadership and martyrdom in the cause of impartial liberty has been emulated by other colored Americans, in every battle on land and sea, through the wars of 1776 and 1812; and though, shameful to relate, there is still to be found, here and there, an unscrupulous press to disparage and ignore the claims we truthfully and proudly associate with “the Man and the Hour;” yet the satisfaction is ours to acknowledge that, by Hon. Henry Wilson, in his recent speech in the Senate of the United States, and also by several members of the Massachusetts Legislature, justice has been duly awarded, which we trust will, ere long, so enlighten
public sentiment that, despite the influences contributing to disfranchise and alienate us, the patriotic deeds of our fathers shall be gratefully remembered, and our own rights respected.

At the conclusion of Mr. Nell’s remarks, there followed appropriate Classical Readings and Declamations, including extracts from the recent speeches of Hon. Charles Sumner and Hon. Henry Wilson, in the United States Senate, against the Crittenden Compromise, and in vindication of Colored American citizenship. Also a debate, in which the volunteer aid of members of the “Union Progressive Association” was a prominent feature. These exercises were interspersed with choice vocal and instrumental music by several ladies and gentlemen, whose efforts were highly appreciated by the audience.