duties, new obligations, new responsibilities, and we trust
new energies and new purposes. We realize and accept
the fact, that, we have no wealth save horny hands, no
skill but what untaught nature gives; that we must work,
must acquire property, must educate our people, and make
for ourselves and our posterity undying characters—re-
putations which will grow brighter as time with rapid
whirl rolls on the ages.

We know the position we occupy in Kentucky; we
know that we do not stand upon the same legal platform
with the whites: we do not desire nor do we expect
social equality; we know that there is a social barrier
which we cannot overstep even if we would. We know
that some of the best friends we now have, lately held our
brothers in bondage, and when the chain was snapped
asunder, by no consent on their part—acquiesced in the new
order of things.

We have faith in the intelligence and integrity of the
great mass of the American People, as well the people of
Kentucky as the other states, and are fully persuaded,
that they will yet do us justice. We believe that when
they have settled down to a realization of the change
which does exist in our relations, they will rather help than
retard us in our desire and efforts to elevate ourselves.

We see in the earnest endeavor of some of our late
largest slaveholders, now foremost in the cause of human-
ity in efforts for the amelioration of our condition, a bright
omen, a happy augury of the future.

We do not believe that the great commonwealth of Ken-
tucky can afford to let us live and drag out a miserable
existence amongst her people, steeped in ignorance and
degradation; we can see in the enactments of the past
Legislature even, a faint glimmer of the coming day,
and believe firmly that they will grant us ere long our
just and natural rights.