

We cannot do better than publish, as our leading article, the following letter from this eloquent advocate of human rights. Mr. Douglass can sympathise with us in our financial difficulties. His "own trying experience of sixteen years" is the history of every periodical published by colored men. It was so with the *Freedom's Journal*, published in New York, from 1825 to 1828; it was so with the *Colored American*; Thomas San Ransallear, of the *Ram's Horn*, felt the burden; Stephen Myers, Dr. David Ruggles, Martin R. Delany all felt and suffered the "grinding anxiety incident to being in debt" from newspaper enterprises; and we here, in the Golden State, are laboring under the same grievous embarrassment.

We thank our friend Douglass for his words of cheer and encouragement—they come like balm to the wounded spirit. He says truly, that "our cause is one the country o'er," and we honestly believe that the downfall of THE ELEVATOR would not only be an injury to our cause in California, and would throw us back ten years in this State, but its effect would be felt throughout the whole country:

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, )

April 28, 1868. )

MY DEAR SIR:—I have just read in THE ELEVATOR your remarks on the close of your third volume. Your three years history calls to mind my own trying experience of sixteen years. For this length of time, sustained mainly by a few friends, I, like yourself, endeavored to serve the cause of my people through the agency of the Press. I cannot boast that I served them with any great ability, but I can say I served them faithfully, and could have served them more ably and effectually had they supplied the needful money to keep my paper free from debt, and my mind free from the grinding anxiety incident to being in debt. I regret to see that you, away off in the Golden State, are suffering in the same way. You have enough who will praise you, but few who will pay you. I don't know what you think of this matter, but I think there is little hope for us in this country or in any other, no matter how favorable may be the conditions, while we, as a people, fail to appreciate the power of the Press, and to stand by our advocates. When we have once educated our people to this duty and privilege, we have already achieved success.

I am glad to see you still battling bravely and hopefully to this end. I remember, with pleasure, my first knowledge of you. It was gained from the *Colored American*, thirty years ago—the first publication by colored men I ever saw—and you were one of its editors. I cannot tell—no living man can tell—what of joy and hope I felt when, newly from slavery, I looked for the first time upon the *Colored American*. "Can this be true?" thought I. "Is this really the work of colored men?" Slavery and slander had done their work. They had made me doubt the ability of my race. I could not wholly believe, at first, that the articles I found in the paper were written by colored men. Meeting with such men as Dr. David Ruggles, Dr. Brown, William P. Johnson, Samuel Cornish, Theodore S. Wright, Dr. James McCune Smith, and hearing their conversation, brushed the scales from my eyes, and opened a new world of possibilities to my view.

Since that time I have never entirely lost sight of Philip A. Bell, nor lost faith in the future of our people. Tried and true friend of our common cause, among the first of our race to assail with your pen (mightier than the sword) the malignant ramparts of slavery and caste, having survived so many of your early associates, and witnessed the overthrow of slavery, may it also be yours to see the blackman made equal before the law, and our people enfranchised, from the Lakes to the Gulf and from sea to sea! If any word of mine can avail anything, I earnestly exhort your readers and friends to stand by you and your paper till this great work is accomplished. I know your proud spirit, and your unwillingness to ask anything for your own sake, but upon reading your reflections upon the close of your third volume, I could not well help sending you a word of cheer in the good work to which you are devoting your talents. Our cause is one the country over, and a victory over the forces marshalled against us in California is a victory for our cause in our whole country, and everywhere else.

Yours truly, FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

Philip A. Bell, Esq.