

<sup>1</sup>The wretchedness of slavery, and the blessedness of freedom, were perpetually before me. <sup>2</sup>It was life and death with me. <sup>3</sup>But I remained firm, and according to my solution, on the third day of September, 1838, I left my chains, and succeeded in reaching New York without the slightest interruption of any kind. <sup>4</sup>How I did so--what means I adopted,--what direction I travelled, and by what mode of conveyance,--I must leave unexplained, for the reasons before mentioned.

<sup>5</sup>I have been frequently asked how I felt when I found myself in a free State. <sup>6</sup>I have never been able to answer the question with any satisfaction to myself. <sup>7</sup>It was a moment of the highest excitement I ever experienced. <sup>8</sup>I suppose I felt as one may imagine the unarmed mariner to feel when he is rescued by a friendly man-of-war from the pursuit of a pirate. <sup>9</sup>In writing to a dear friend, immediately after my arrival at New York, I said I felt like one who had escaped a den of hungry lions. <sup>10</sup>This state of mind, however, very soon subsided; and I was again seized with a feeling of great insecurity and loneliness. <sup>11</sup>I was yet liable to be taken back, and subjected to all the tortures of slavery. <sup>12</sup>This in itself was enough to damp the ardor of my enthusiasm. <sup>13</sup>But the loneliness overcame me. <sup>14</sup>There I was in the midst of thousands, and yet a perfect stranger; without home and without friends, in the midst of thousands of my own brethren--children of a common Father, and yet I dared not to unfold to any one of them my sad condition. <sup>15</sup>I was afraid to speak to any one for fear of speaking to the wrong one, and thereby falling into the hands of money-loving kidnappers, whose business it was to lie in wait for the panting fugitive, as the ferocious beasts of the forest lie in wait for their prey. <sup>16</sup>The motto which I adopted when I started from slavery was this--"Trust no man!" <sup>17</sup>I saw in every white man an enemy, and in almost every colored man cause for distrust. <sup>18</sup>It was a most