

# **THE FREEDMEN'S BOOK**

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The freedmen's book by L. Maria Child

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**L. MARIA CHILD**

**THE FREEDMEN'S  
BOOK**



THE  
FREEDMEN'S BOOK.

BY L. MARIA CHILD.

O dark, sad millions, — patiently and dumb  
Waiting for God, — your hour, at last, has come,  
And Freedom's song  
Breaks the long silence of your night of wrong.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.



BOSTON:  
TICKNOR AND FIELDS.  
1865.

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TO

THE LOYAL AND BRAVE

CAPTAIN ROBERT SMALL,

*Hero of the Steamboat Planter,*

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY

L. MARIA CHILD.

## TO THE FREEDMEN.

I HAVE prepared this book expressly for you, with the hope that those of you who can read will read it aloud to others, and that all of you will derive fresh strength and courage from this true record of what colored men have accomplished, under great disadvantages.

I have written all the biographies over again, in order to give you as much information as possible in the fewest words. I take nothing for my services; and the book is sold to you at the cost of paper, printing, and binding. Whatever money you pay for any of the volumes will be immediately invested in other volumes to be sent to freedmen in various parts of the country, on the same terms; and whatever money remains in my hands, when the book ceases to sell, will be given to the Freedmen's Aid Association, to be expended in schools for you and your children.

Your old friend,

L. MARIA CHILD.

## CONTENTS.



	AUTHOR.	PAGE
IGNATIUS SANCHO . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	1
EXTRACT FROM THE TENTH PSALM . . . . .		12
PREJUDICE REPROVED . . . . .	<i>Lydia H. Sigourney</i>	13
BENJAMIN BANNEKER . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	14
ETHIOPIA . . . . .	<i>Frances E. W. Harper*</i>	24
THE HOUR OF FREEDOM . . . . .	<i>William Lloyd Garrison</i>	25
WILLIAM BOEN . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	26
ANECDOTE OF GENERAL WASHINGTON . . . . .		31
PRAYER OF THE SLAVE . . . . .	<i>Bernard Barton</i>	32
TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	33
THE ASPIRATIONS OF MINGO . . . . .	<i>Mingo, a Slave*</i>	84
BURY ME IN A FREE LAND . . . . .	<i>Frances E. W. Harper*</i>	85
PHILLIS WHEATLEY . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	86
A PERTINENT QUESTION . . . . .	<i>Frederick Douglass*</i>	93
THE WORKS OF PROVIDENCE . . . . .	<i>Phillis Wheatley*</i>	94
THE DYING CHRISTIAN . . . . .	<i>Frances E. W. Harper*</i>	96
KINDNESS TO ANIMALS . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	97
JAMES FORTEN . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	101
THE MEETING IN THE SWAMP . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	104
A REASONABLE REQUEST . . . . .	<i>Peter Williams*</i>	110
THE SLAVE POET . . . . .	<i>George Horton, a Slave*</i>	111
RATIE . . . . .	<i>Mattie Griffith</i>	114
THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST . . . . .	<i>James Montgomery</i>	123
PROGRESS OF EMANCIPATION IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES . . . . .	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	124

\* The names of the colored authors are marked with an asterisk.



THE LAST NIGHT OF SLAVERY	<i>James Montgomery</i>	146
MADISON WASHINGTON	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	147
EXTRACT FROM THE VIRGINIA BILL OF RIGHTS		154
PRAISE OF CREATION	<i>George Horton*</i>	155
FREDERICK DOUGLASS	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	156
HOW THE GOOD WORK GOES ON		176
DEDICATION HYMN	<i>J. M. Whitefield*</i>	177
A PRAYER	<i>John G. Whittier</i>	178
WILLIAM AND ELLEN CRAFTS	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	179
SPRING	<i>George Horton*</i>	205
THE GOOD GRANDMOTHER	<i>Harriet Jacobs*</i>	206
THE COLORED MOTHER'S PRAYER		219
WILLIAM COSTIN		220
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	221
THANK GOD FOR LITTLE CHILDREN	<i>Frances E. W. Harper*</i>	226
SAM AND ANDY	<i>Harriet Beecher Stowe</i>	227
JOHN BROWN	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	241
THE AIR OF FREEDOM	<i>Frances E. W. Harper*</i>	243
EMANCIPATION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	<i>James Madison Bell*</i>	244
THE LAWS OF HEALTH	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	246
PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMA- TION OF EMANCIPATION	<i>Frances E. W. Harper*</i>	250
NEW-YEAR'S DAY ON THE ISLANDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA	<i>Charlotte L. Forten*</i>	251
SONG OF THE NEGRO BOATMEN AT PORT ROYAL, S. C.	<i>John G. Whittier</i>	257
EXTRACT FROM SPEECH TO COL- ORED PEOPLE IN CHARLESTON	<i>Hon. Henry Wilson</i>	259
EXTRACT FROM SPEECH TO COL- ORED PEOPLE IN CHARLESTON	<i>Hon. Judge Kelly</i>	261
BLACK TOM	<i>A Yankee Soldier</i>	263
LETTER FROM A FREEDMAN	<i>Jourdon Anderson*</i>	265
COLONEL ROBERT G. SHAW	<i>Eliza B. Sedgwick</i>	268
ADVICE FROM AN OLD FRIEND	<i>L. Maria Child</i>	269
DAY OF JUBILEE	<i>A. G. Duncan</i>	277

## THE FREEDMEN'S BOOK.



### IGNATIUS SANCHEO.

BY L. MARIA CHILD.

**T**HIS was the name of a remarkable African, who excited a good deal of interest in his day. His father and mother were stolen from Africa and put on board a slave-ship in 1729, which was one hundred and thirty-six years ago. He was born during the passage, and when the vessel arrived at Carthagena, in South America, he was baptized by the name of Ignatius. His mother died soon after, and his father, seeing no means of escape from slavery, killed himself in a fit of despair. The man who took possession of the little orphan, and claimed to be his master, carried him to England, and gave him to three unmarried sisters who lived at Greenwich. He was then about two years old, a bright, lively, funny little creature. As he grew older, he showed such an inquisitive mind, said so many droll things, and was so full of mischief, that the ladies named him Sancho, after a very comical character in a famous old Spanish novel. He was very eager in the pursuit of knowledge; but this commendable disposition was not approved by the ladies. They thought that all a black servant had occasion to know was how to obey orders, and that it was not necessary or proper for him to learn to read and write. But nature had given Ignatius a very lively

mind, and a very susceptible heart, and neither of them could be kept quiet. He early plunged into love affairs, and was always overrunning with fun and frolic. Doubtless he was a great trial to the respectable maiden ladies, who were training him for a servant; and he, on his part, thought them very sour, severe, and disagreeable. Sometimes, when they were angry with him, they reminded him that he had been a slave, and threatened to send him into slavery again. This excited uneasiness in his mind, and kindled resentment.

The Duke of Montagu lived in the neighborhood, and his attention was attracted by the bright, frank countenance of the black boy. He entered into conversation with him occasionally, and was so much struck by his intelligence and wit, that he told the ladies their servant was a remarkable lad, and that his earnest desire to improve his mind ought to be gratified. They persisted in their opinion that knowledge was a very improper and dangerous thing for a black servant. But the Duke introduced him to the Duchess, and they both encouraged him to learn to read and write. They lent him books, and were greatly entertained by his bright remarks concerning what he read.

It was a great grief to Ignatius when the friendly Duke died. He besought the Duchess to receive him into her service, and she consented. He remained in her household as long as she lived. At her death, she left him an annuity of about one hundred and fifty dollars a year; and he had three hundred and fifty dollars, which he had laid up from his wages. He might have made this sum the foundation of a comfortable little property. But nature had made him very full of fun and frolic. He had such lively manners, and uttered so many pleasant jokes,