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Free at last by Jane S. Collins

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JANE S. COLLINS

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By MRS. JANE S. COLLINS

Author of "Emma's Triumph" and other Stories,
Etc., Etc.



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By MRS. JANE S. COLLINS.

To the
noble Mother of a
brave son, who gave his life that the slave
might be free, this book is
affectionately dedicated by the Author.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

IN presenting this book to the public, no apology is offered for selecting, as my themes, subjects that have been used over and over again. The slave problem is settled, but the drink is still an unsolved question before the American people.

My interest in the colored people dates from early childhood, at the family altar, where the Father of Mercies was daily asked, "That the yoke might be broken, and the oppressed go free."

In the *National Era* I read to my father the stirring speeches of Congressmen, and I heard the subject of slavery discussed in the pulpit and on the platform. At the opening of the war I saw the gathering forces on the border land; heard the cry, "To arms"; visited the sick in the hospital; made shirts

and scraped lint for the wounded. I rejoice that my father's family would not accept of slaves left them, but set them free.

To-day, the stars and stripes float over "this land of the free and home of the brave" more united than ever, through suffering.

Scarcely had this war-cloud passed over when the gathering forces of women, as well as men, engaged in a mighty conflict with a more terrible foe. Mothers and sisters kneeled on curb-stones, pleading for protection to their boys from the saloon. The eloquent Gough, and gentle women pleaded in their behalf.

The cry comes from the millions of Anglo-Africans at our doors, in the South land, "Come over and help us." Shall they be evangelized and raised to a higher plane of civilization?

To assist in this work, is the design of this little book.

J. S. C.

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