

Remarks of Mrs. Martha Tucker.

I was born in Prince Edwards, Virginia, and we came from there to Raleigh, N.C., when I was a little child. When we came there were no railroads, nothing but gunboats, old stages, but no railroads were running in that country at all.

My master was a contractor of buildings. He built the big capitol of North Carolina. We stayed there awhile, and I was not much more than 12 years old when he sold me to Mr. Dupey, and after awhile he sold me to William Tuttle, then I was sold twice after that. They sold my mother, they sold my brother and they sold my father and they sold all I had, and then I had <sup>no</sup> one to look to but the white people, and so I grew up with them and got old enough to get married and then they sold my husband, so now I have nothing. Well, after they did that, then I had the enemy to fight the best I could, while the shells and the cannon were heaving in sight, and I had to fight and crouch, and the only I could get along with my owners was to go to the woods and stay there and whip them out. My owners were sometimes very good to me and sometimes very cruel, and as I said, the only way I conquered them was to stay in the woods and whip them out. Well, after that they were good to me and I stayed there awhile and they talked about selling me. They wanted to sell me because I was the best servant they had. In my childhood, the President that knew was old John Brown. They had him

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up and there was a mighty hot time, and there was talk of having a war, and then they had old John Brown hung in the air, and he hung up there until the ladies began to get frightened of him and they had to cut him down. Well, old master got might nervous, and we were all going to be set free, but the mistress would not hear of it. Old master did not live long after John Brown died. He was very good to me, but the children were very bad to me and the only way I got the best of them was to go to the woods and stay in some old corner and they sent the bloodhounds after me. I stayed in the woods and they never did get me, and then the blue jackets came along later and freed us. The folks wanted me to stay with them then, but I did not stay long. When I was a child, I remember the way they named a boy after Van Buren, President at that time. I remember old Harrison's election. I remember when they had the prisoners marching along there were fifty and sixty and one hundred of them, and some of them would be chained and had an iron bolt and chain around the ankles, and they would be marching from town. Well, some of them would be crying and some of them would be singing and playing the banjo. But that is all passed away and I am glad. I have had some real good times and some horrid times, which I will not undertake to tell. They are all past and gone and I am thankful that I am here tonight.