

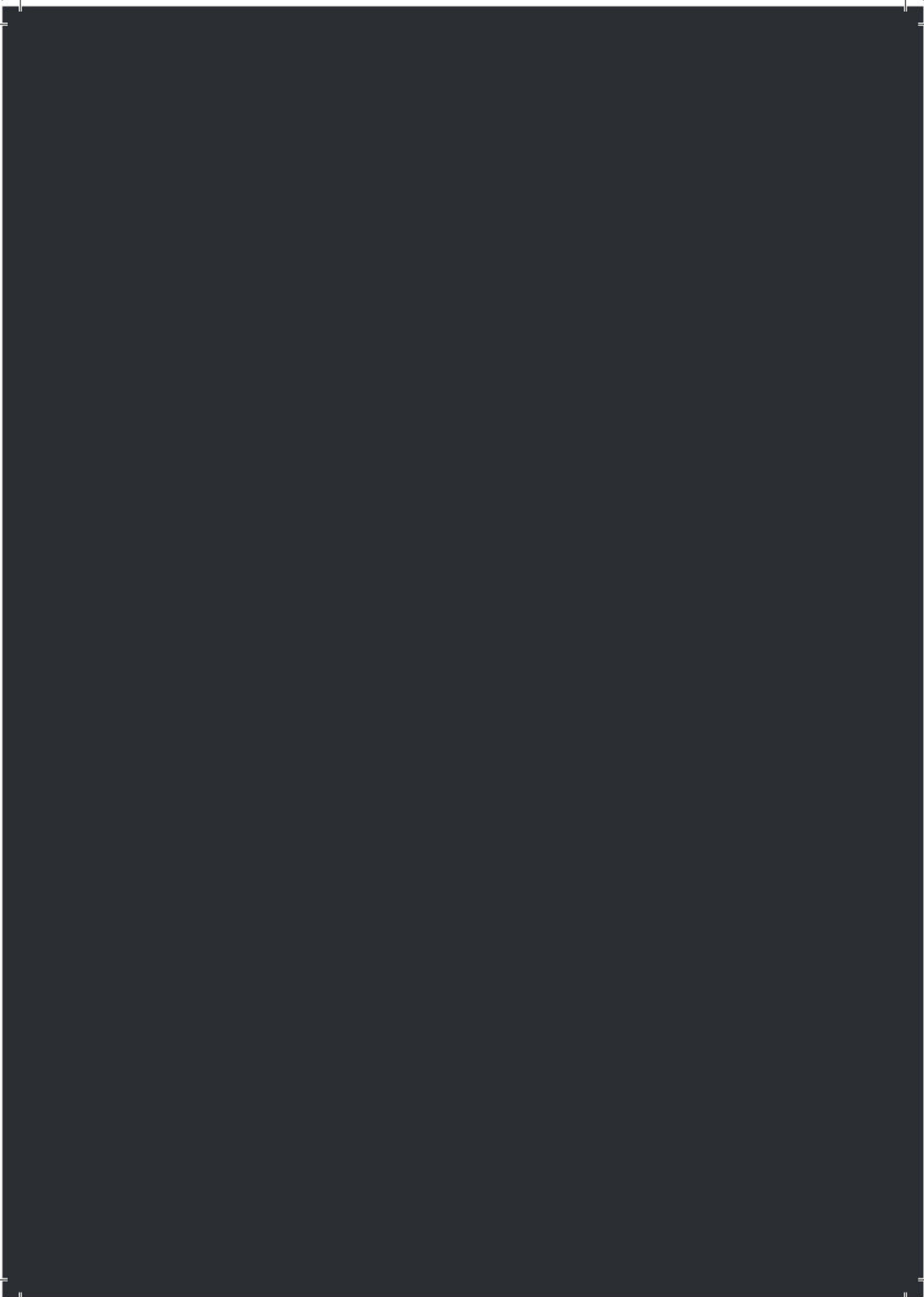
Frederick Douglass

ABOLITIONIST | REFORMER | STATESMAN

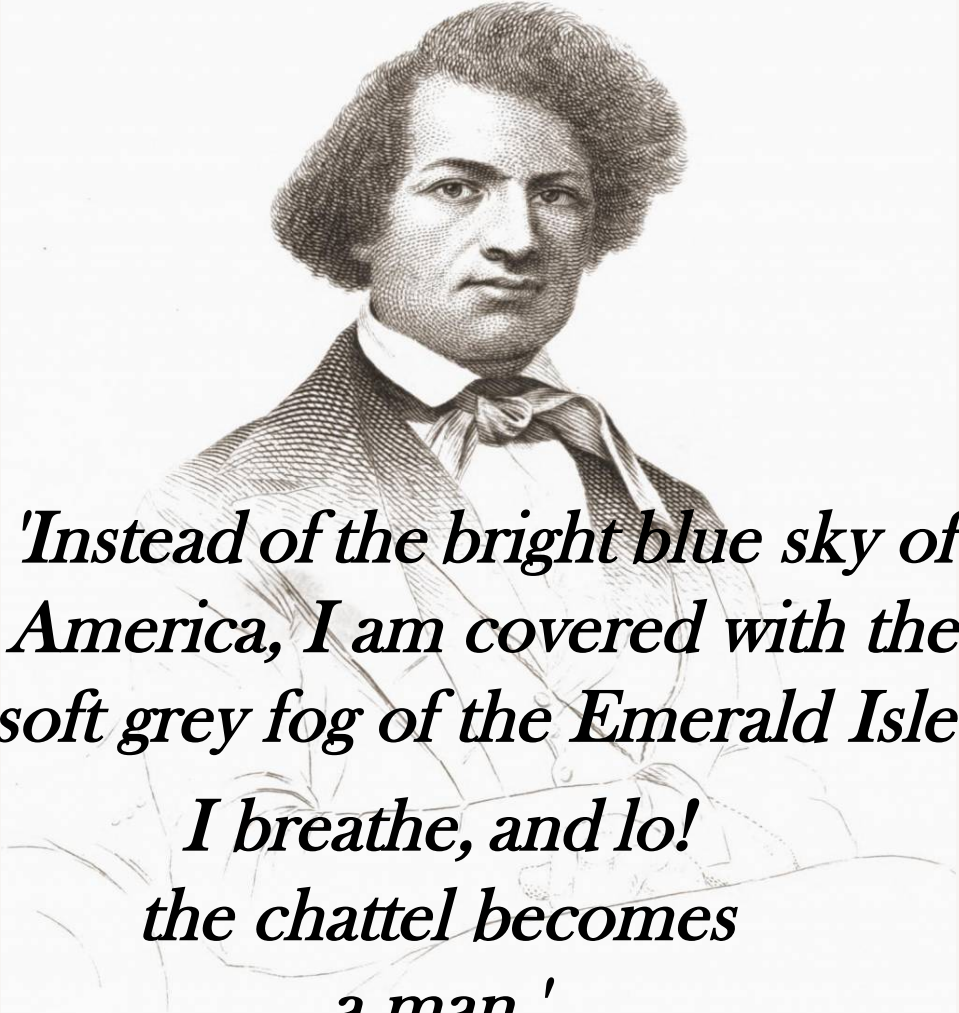
FEBRUARY 1817 OR 18



20 FEBRUARY 1895



Frederick Douglass in Ireland

A black and white engraving of Frederick Douglass, showing him from the chest up. He has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a dark, textured jacket over a white shirt and a dark cravat. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer with a serious expression.

*'Instead of the bright blue sky of
America, I am covered with the
soft grey fog of the Emerald Isle.
I breathe, and lo!
the chattel becomes
a man.'*

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass, born into slavery, became a pivotal figure in its abolition. His drive for education, and his will to escape his bonds, led to an extraordinary life, seeing him serving as adviser to President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War.

During Reconstruction he became the highest-ranking Black official of his time and advocated for full civil rights for Black people as well as for women. He also lays claim to being the most photographed man of the nineteenth century!

Cork's Anti-Slavery Society dated back to 1826, and along with the very active Ladies branch, were a cross-denominational group, who brought in speakers, raised funds, and sent material aid to the Boston Anti-Slavery Bazaar.

Frederick Douglass, invited for such talks, arrived in Cork on the 10th October 1845. His stay was originally intended to span 10 days, but he enjoyed Cork so much it stretched to some 3 weeks. He gave 12 talks and lectures over this period, took a temperance vow from Father Mathew, and made good friends, particularly with the Lord Mayor Richard Dowden.

"And never shall I think of Cork—without—remembering that yourself and the kind Friends ... constituted the source from whence flowed much of the light, life and warmth of humanity which I found in that good city."

Letter to Richard Dowden, 11th November 1845

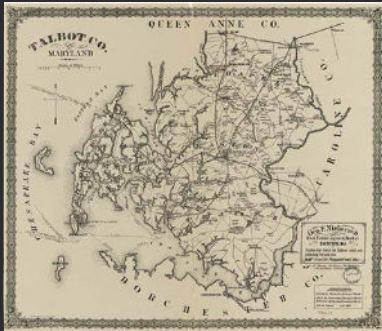
Much advertised in the press, Douglass' appearance at the Imperial Hotel on the 23rd of October 1845 was a huge success, with the speech he gave widely published and disseminated afterwards.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS.
Our readers will perceive by our advertising columns, that this eloquent Anti-Slavery Advocate will deliver an Address to-morrow, at the Imperial Hotel. He is undoubtedly a man of genius—a man of high mental gifts—whose mental and physical powers are all harmoniously developed. All who would wish to see how the gifts of nature can triumph over the most disheartening circumstances, ought to avail themselves of the opportunity which to-morrow offers. FREDERICK DOUGLASS has published a Narrative of his Life, of which the American press, as will be seen by our Advertisement, speak in the strongest terms of commendation. It gives an insight into the workings of the Slave system in America, which cannot elsewhere be obtained in so concise and interesting a form; and should be in every one's possession—especially as the profits arising from its sale sustain Mr. DOUGLASS in his career of usefulness in these countries.

TAKE A GLIMPSE INTO THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF

Frederick Douglass



BORN INTO SLAVERY, IN FEBRUARY 1817 OR 18, FREDERICK'S FIRST YEARS ARE SPENT IN TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND.

1817-18



DOUGLASS ESCAPES SLAVERY TO NEW YORK. HE MARRIES ANNA MURRAY

1839-44

1826-38

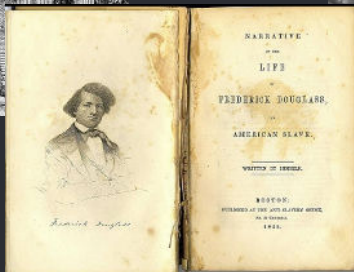
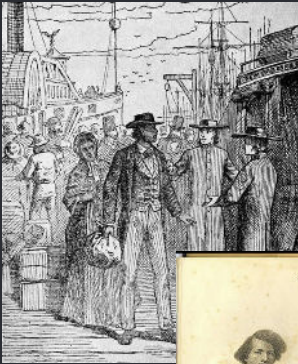


SENT TO WORK FOR THE AULDS IN BALTIMORE, HE ASKS SOPHIA AULD TO TEACH HIM TO READ AND WRITE. SHE DOES SO UNTIL HUGH AULD STOPS THIS, BELIEVING THAT EDUCATION MAKES SLAVES REBELLIOUS. DOUGLASS READS JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' ANTI-SLAVERY MANIFESTO, AND LEARNS OF THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT.

1845



'NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AMERICAN SLAVE', IS PUBLISHED, REVEALING DETAILS WHICH COULD LEAD TO HIS ARREST. HE TRAVELS TO IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN AND DIVES INTO A SERIES OF LECTURES AND TALKS.



ON 23RD OCTOBER 1845, IN 'MR MCDOWELL'S GREAT ROOM', NOW THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS LOUNGE, FREDERICK GIVES HIS SPEECH 'AMERICAN PREJUDICE AGAINST COLOUR' TO MUCH ACCLAIM AMONGST LOCAL DIGNITARIES AND CONCERNED PARTIES.

DOUGLASS IS DELIGHTED TO MEET DANIEL O'CONNELL, HIMSELF A LIFELONG ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING ABOLITION OF SLAVERY. HE TRAVELS AROUND IRELAND SHARING HIS MESSAGE, ARRIVING IN CORK 10TH OCTOBER 1845.



AMONGST OTHERS, FREDERICK MEETS WITH FATHER THEOBOLD MATHEW, AND HIMSELF TAKES THE TEMPERANCE OATH.



AFTER A 3 WEEK STAY, FREDERICK LEAVES CORK CARRYING A GOLD RING, THE GIFT OF MAYOR DOWDEN, AND A SONG WRITTEN IN HIS HONOUR BY LOCAL BARD DANIEL CASEY. A POSSIBLY APOCRYPHAL TALE TELLS THAT WHEN DOUGLASS DIES IN 1895, HE IS WEARING THE RING FROM CORK.



AFTER 19 MONTHS, FREDERICK DOUGLASS CROSSES BACK OVER THE ATLANTIC ON THE STEAM SHIP CAMBRIA. HIS ARDUOUS LECTURE CIRCUIT HAS BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE, RAISING FUNDS, CONNECTIONS, AND AWARENESS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC



HE ARRIVES IN BOSTON A FREE MAN, HIS LIBERATION, SOMEWHAT CONTENTIOUSLY, HAVING BEEN BOUGHT BY BRITISH FRIENDS FOR £150



ON THE 20TH FEBRUARY 1895 FREDERICK DOUGLASS ATTENDS A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN WASHINGTON D.C. AFTER HE RETURNS HOME HE SUFFERS A HEART ATTACK AND DIES.

HIS HOME, CEDAR HILL IN ANASCOTIA, WASHINGTON, D.C. PURCHASED IN 1878, CAN BE VISITED TODAY AS IT IS THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.



1847

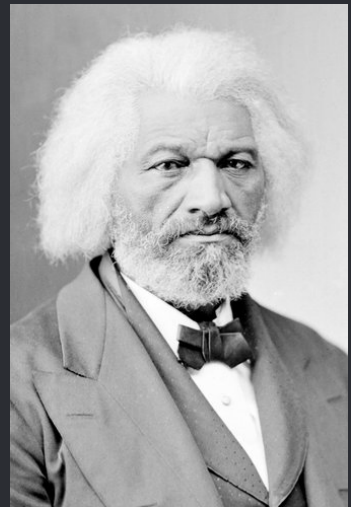
1895

1848-94

FREDERICK DOUGLASS GOES ON TO BE A PIVOTAL FIGURE AND STATESMAN. HE ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE AT THE FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION, SHELTERS FUGITIVE SLAVES IN HIS HOUSE AND BECOMES PART OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

HE CONTINUES IN A LIFETIME OF ACTIVISM, AND SEES THE PASSING OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN CONGRESS (1862), THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION (1863) AND A SERIES OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTS PROHIBITING VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON COLOUR. DOUGLASS IS APPOINTED U.S MARSHALL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (1877), AND LATER, RECORDER OF DEEDS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

HE TWICES REVISITS IRELAND AND BRITAIN, AND NEVER FORGETS HIS TIME HERE.



On 28th October 1845, in St Patrick's Hall, Cork, the words '*Céad Míle Fáilte to the Stranger*' were '*posted in conspicuous areas of the room*'. A large and lively crowd gathered to enjoy an evening of entertainment in Douglass' honour. As per usual, he spoke eloquently on the cause of the American slave, to cheers and shouts of approval.

Local Bard Daniel Casey wrote a song which was performed to the tune of 'Old Dan Tucker', and Douglass '*also sang a song in favour of abolition*' to the same tune, '*to the infinite amusement of the company*'.

TO FREDERICK DOUGLAS,
THE CELEBRATED FUGITIVE SLAVE.

Sung at the Soiree given to him, at St. Patrick's Hall, Monday, Oct. 25th,
1845.

AIR—"Old Dan Tucker."

STRANGER, from a distant nation
We welcome thee with acclamation,
And, as a brother, warmly greet thee,—
Rejoic'd in Erin's Isle to meet thee.

CHORUS,

Then "cead mille failte" to the stranger,
Free from bondage, chains, and danger.
"Cead mille failte" to the stranger,
Free from bondage, chains, and danger.

Who could have heard thy hapless story
Of tyrants—canting, base, and gory;
Whose heart throbb'd not with deep pulsation
For the trampled slaves' emancipation.

Then "cead mille failte," &c.

Oh! why should different hue or feature
Pervert the sacred laws of Nature,
And every tie of feeling sever,—
The voice of Nature thunders "Never!"

Then "cead mille failte," &c.

Then, borne o'er th' Atlantic waters,
The cry of Erin's sons and daughters
For freedom, shall henceforth be blended,
Till Slavery's hellish reign be ended.

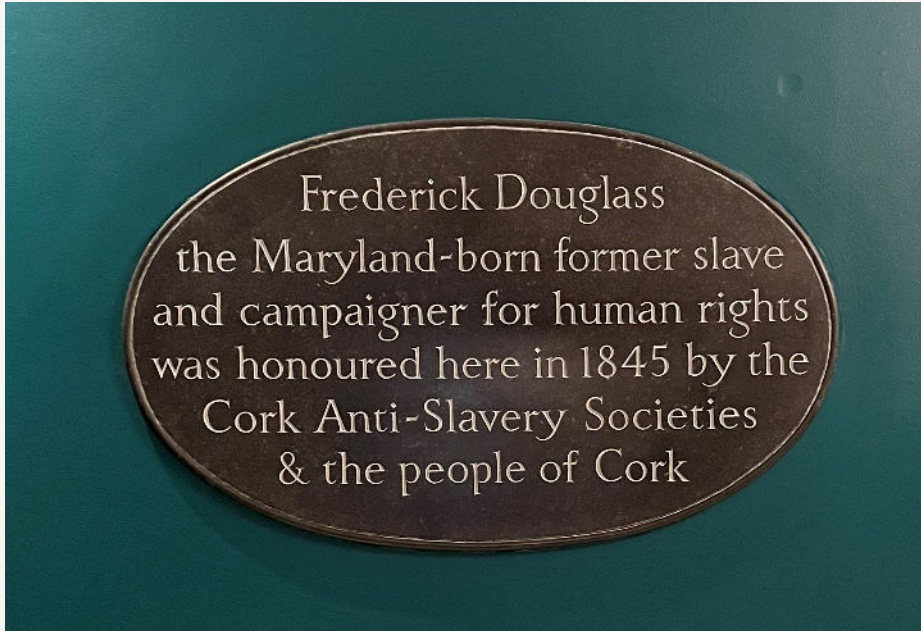
Then "cead mille failte" to the stranger,
Free from bondage, chains, and danger.
"Cead mille failte" to the stranger,
Free from bondage, chains, and danger.

"Every true word spoken, every right aim levelled against slavery in this land will effect wonders in the destiny of the black slave in America"

Frederick Douglass,
'American Prejudice
Against Colour',

At Cork's Grande Dame

On the 23rd October 1845, The Imperial Hotel hosted a meeting in which the famous orator gave a speech called 'American Prejudice Against Colour'.

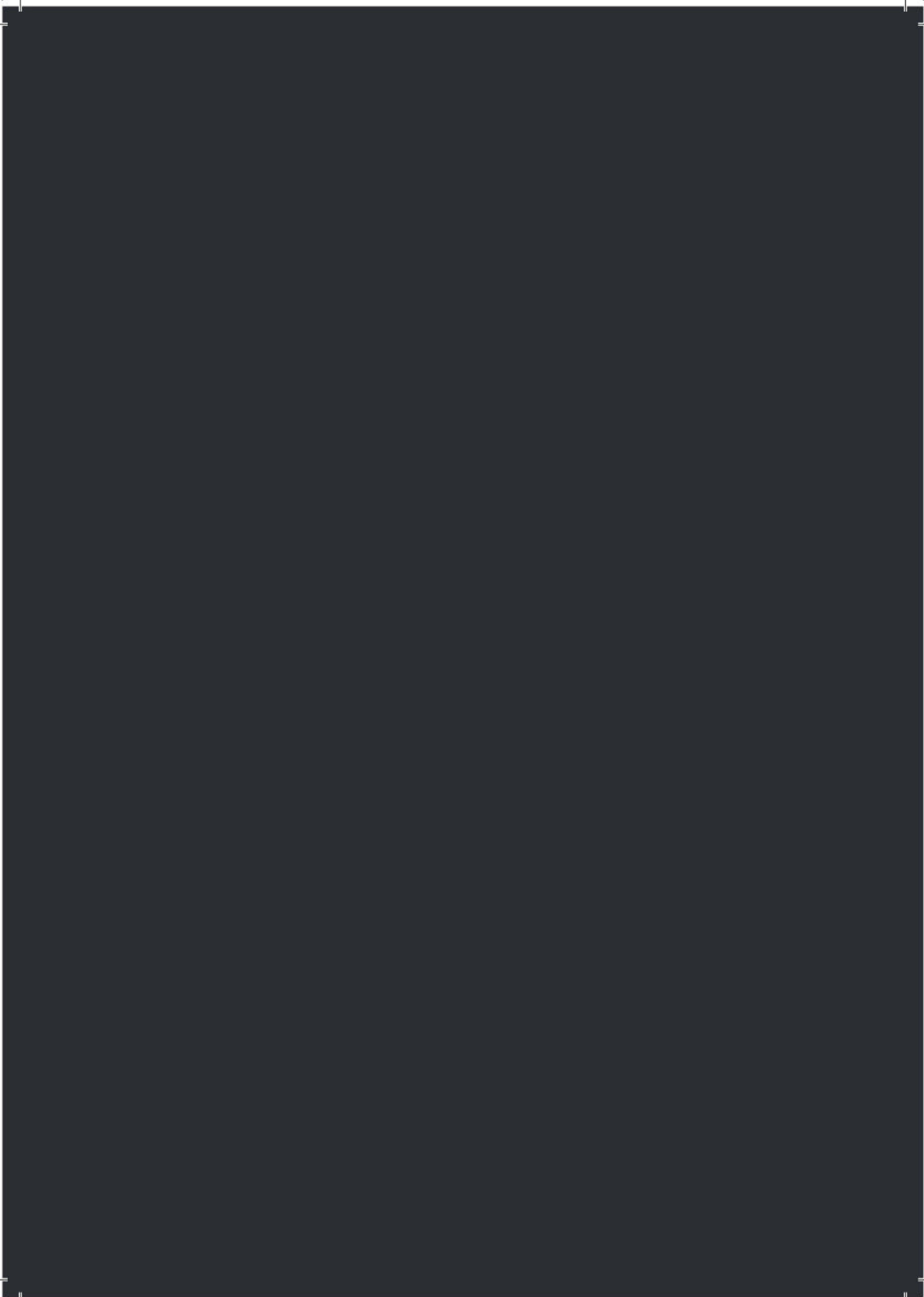


2012 Commemoration

OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

A plaque commemorating the historic visit of Frederick Douglass was unveiled in The Imperial Hotel on August the 1st 2012.

Made of polished limestone, it is the work of Cork sculptor Matthew Thompson.





+3 53 21 4274040 | WWW.IMPERIALHOTELCORK.COM
76 SOUTH MALL, CORK, T12 A2YT