

Boston Mar. 1. 1839.

Dear Friend:

The Executive Committee of the N. E. Non-Resistance Society at a meeting recently held, voted, that letters be addressed to all persons known to have adopted the principles of Non-Resistance, or who are favourable to their free discussion, stating the claims & the wants of the Society, & requesting such pecuniary aid at their hands as the cause requires. It is in obedience to this vote that this letter is addressed to you.

It is unnecessary for us to enlarge upon the objects of the Society. They are briefly set forth in the Declaration of Sentiments, which we have put forth to the world & in the Constitution of the Society. We have neither time nor space to expatiate upon the infinite importance of the principles we hold, & which we would fain apply to the business of the world as well as to the regulation of our individual hearts & lives - principles, the adoption or rejection of which, will in our opinion determine the happiness or the misery of the human race throughout all time, & whose influences will reach beyond the bounds of time & stretch far into the endless ages of eternity. The law to which we have submitted ourselves, through obedience to which we have found rest to our souls, whose light burden & easy yoke we have combined together that we may, in all love, persuade our brethren to take upon themselves, is that paramount law of our being, to bring to light & exemplify which, the Son of God came into the world and, after a life of privation & persecution was at last nailed for our advantage to the bitter cross; - even the perfect & peaceable law of Love. We are confirmed in the belief, that this is the great law of our Nature, by beholding in the world around us the mournful signs of the ruin which men have brought upon themselves by refusing to obey it. We see it in the vaunted, yet vain, schemes of Government, which they have devised for their own protection - combinations, which crush the poor & ignorant offenders, while they elevate wealthy & instructed criminals to the rank of the makers or administrators of their laws. We see it in the corrupt church, which make our land a spiritual desolation. We see it in an ambitious and self-seeking Clergy, who claiming a title from Heaven to lord it over the consciences of their ~~brethren~~ ^{brethren}, pervert ~~and~~ ^{souls} from the right way, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men; - teaching that the impartial Father of all the dwellers upon the earth, sanctions the enslaving & imbruting of His own children; that He permits the traffic in the poison which consumes the bodies and the souls of men; that He is not displeased at the indulgence of ambition, covetousness & revenge, provided they be displayed in certain modes of man's own appointing; that He allows, nay commands, man to lay his brother,

if urged to the deed by the resistance of sudden evil, if the
doom of death be pronounced by a tribunal of mans erection, or if
he be ~~commanded~~ ^{called upon} by the authorities of the land to do battle with the
enemies, whom he is commanded in all cases to forgive & love.
We see it in the licentiousness & vices of private life & in the pub-
lic profligacy & corruption that disgrace this age. We discern
it in the anarchy & violence which disturb our domestic peace and
in the hoarse murmurs, presaging the approach of war, which are
heard muttering along ~~the~~ ^{our} frontier.

For all these evils, which have fallen upon men through their
having forsaken the law of love, we see but one remedy - & that
is, immediate repentance and an instant return to their allegiance.
It is to urge upon all men this only way of safety, that we have asso-
ciated together. It is that we may be enabled to do this work vigor-
ously & efficiently that this application is made to you by us. Standing,
a small company of men & women, banded together to war with spirit-
ual weapons against the evil that is in the world, encompassed on
every side by the bitter opposition of the powerful in church & state, cruelly
misrepresented & that too by men from whom we might have expected, of
whom we do still expect, better things, derided by the unthinking, feared
& hated by the sagacious, to whom can we look for support & assistance, besides Him
who is our strength, but to those who have assumed the same cross with ourselves
and to those who regard our warfare, though from a distance, with eyes of
sympathy & interest? To all such we confidently appeal. We want increased
means for propagating the truths we hold dear. Our efforts, hitherto, have been cramped
by the narrowness of our resources. Still we have printed & circulated many tracts,
have established The Non-Resistant, & have constantly employed an indefatigable
& devoted agent in the field. With added means we can exert a vastly great-
er moral force. Able & devoted men are ready to enter upon the work, if their subsis-
-tence can be secured to them. We have materials for a mighty array of tracts, the one
ready to take the field & with great effect if the ^{services} ~~means~~ of this holy warfare be furnished
upon those who have embarked in this great enterprise & upon those who wish it ^{well}
as we rely with confidence for our supplies. Upon you, dear friend, especially
depend for pecuniary & other help. We know that the mere statement of our nec-
-essities is all that is needed to open your purse & heart. They who have professed
before the world their devotion to this holy cause, or their sympathy with it, need
no laboured appeals to excite them to a spasmodic generosity, or to overcome the self-

weakness which they have renounced before God. But we pray, you not to delay your contribution. If this faint appeal have awakened in your breast a resolution to cast in, of your abundance or of your penny, into the treasury of the Lord, let not the holy impulse depart without accomplishing the purpose of its mission. "Hold the fleet angel fast until he bless thee." Do not withhold your gift because it must needs be a little one. Remember the widows mite. Remember, too, that not many noble, not many wise, not many wealthy have been called to this odious reform. Give according to your means, yet beyond them, being assured that it will be recompensed unto you a hundred fold. Above all do what you do quickly. We cordially invite you to remit forthwith such an amount as you feel called upon to give, directed to either of the subscribers, or to Charles K. Whipple, treas. Should it not be convenient to transmit the money immediately, we would ask you for a pledge to be redeemed before the annual meeting in Sept. We would further entreat you to urge upon all your neighbors, who think with you on this momentous subject, the duty of sending in their funds. We pray you neglect not this request.

We have not space to urge upon you the claims of the Non-Resistant. We know it is not necessary. Should you remit more than the subscription price (\$1.) we shall place your name upon the subscription list, if it be not already there. We hope & are confident that you will exert yourself to extend the circulation of our organ among your friends & neighbors - as well those that are willing to hear as those that have received the faith. We hope you will regard yourself as a voluntary agent to procure subscribers to it - not forgetting the indispensable condition of payment in advance.

We make no apology for this long letter. We know its object & our motives will commend themselves to your heart.

Hoping to hear speedily from you, we remain, Dear Friend,
affectionately yours,
in the bonds of peace & love,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Maria W. Chapman.

Edmund Quincy



George W. Benson.

Brooklyn.

Connecticut



Received of the Treasurer of the
Board of Directors of the
City of New York

the sum of \$1000.00
for the purchase of
land for the
City of New York

1850