

(Copies of two letters to Dr. Amos Farnsworth of Groton)

See June 6, 1840

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Boston March 31, 1834.

Dear Sir,

You may readily suppose that my heart is cheered whenever and wherever tidings are brought to me of the advancement of the sacred cause of emancipation. Especially am I pleased to learn by your favor of the 27th instant, that the spirit of freedom is stirring in your patriotic town and that you are soon to organize an antislavery society. Public sentiment enlightened and consolidated, may as easily abolish slavery as intemperance or any other prevalent evil; and as, in order easily to lift a heavy load men must unite their physical strength - so they must bring their moral influence together in associations for the removal of the incubus of slavery which is crushing us to the earth. In all cases of reform, the difficulty lies not in the magnitude of the evil to be overcome, but in the hostility, or ignorance or lukewarmness of the people. As soon as the people of England resolved that slavery should be abolished in the Colonies, the work was achieved, and the slaves are now rejoicing in freedom.

The antislavery cause in this country has been caricatured and made hideous by its enemies; and, consequently many excellent people, who are yet ignorant of its principles oppose it as something very terrible. All that they need is correct information to make them its most strenuous friends, for their hearts are really full of sympathy for the oppressed.

I regret that I can give you no encouragement of my being able to
comply with your kind invitation to deliver an address in Groton
[My editorial duties and my extensive correspondence consume so
much of my time, and are increasing so oppressively, as to make my
absence from Boston a matter of extreme difficulty and much perplexity.
Invitations are crowding upon me from various quarters; but I shall
be necessitated to decline every one of them - I must either give
up lecturing, or get some one to supply my place as editor of the
Liberator.] Perhaps some arrangement of this kind may be made
hereafter - All that I can promise now is, that I will endeavor to
visit you the first convenient opportunity -

I presume Mr Child gave you a forcible address.

Begging you to
convey my thanks to the gentlemen in whose behalf you write, and
tendering my best acknowledgments to you, I remain,

Yours, respectfully
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Dr. Amos Farnsworth.

Samuel Hall, Brookline.

(Charles Dr. Farnsworth's daughter)