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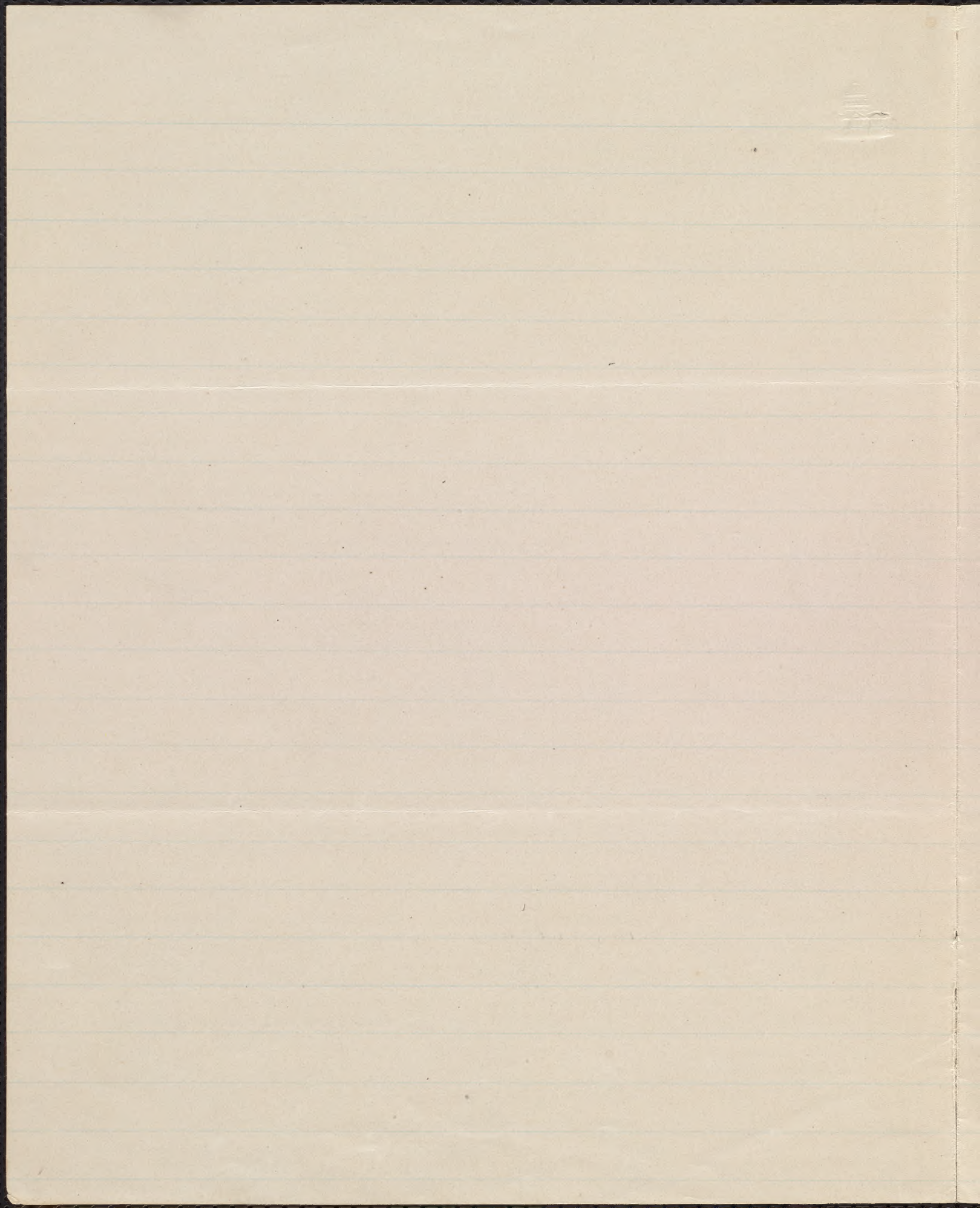
Boston, Dec. 2, 1848.

My dear friend May:—

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I am very sorry it so happens that I cannot be at your anti-slavery gathering to-morrow at North Brookfield, as it is a long time since I visited that town, or have met the friends of Worcester County in Convention; but, positively, I am neither mentally nor bodily fitted, at this time, to participate in any public meeting. My water "crisis," in the development of humor and boils, is very annoying, though I trust in the end it will be very serviceable to me. I must "wait a little longer," before it will be prudent for me to leave home even temporarily. Besides, three of my children are on the sick list, with colds and coughs and some fever—Wendell, Charles and Fanny—and they need my care and presence, though not seriously ill.

All I can do is to hope that your meetings will be well attended, and your discussions judiciously adapted to the place in which you are to assemble. There is a great deal of prejudice against us in North Brookfield, and very little knowledge of what we desire and seek. Under such circumstances, the injunction of the Saviour, to "be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves," is worthy of special observance. I would hide no part of the truth, of course; yet I think it would be wise to



explain our own positions, religiously and politically, as to the good cause in which we are engaged, rather than to deal in much severity of speech towards those who are not yet with us. When we know there will be a spirit present, on the part of some hearers, that will readily pervert what may be unguardedly or hastily spoken, it is at such times, on such occasions, and in such places, we should be specially careful of the manner in which we present and advocate our views.

As for the "Free Soil" movement, I am for hail- ing it as a cheering sign of the times, and an unmistakable proof of the progress we have made, under God, in changing public sentiment. Those who have left the Whig and Democratic parties, for conscience sake, and joined that movement, deserve our commendation and sympathy; at the same time, it is our duty to show them and all others, that there is a higher position to be attained by them, or they will have the blood of the slave staining their garments. This can be done charitably, yet faithfully. On the two old parties, especially the Whig Taylor party, I would expend — pro tempore at least — our heaviest ammunition.

Hastily, but faithfully yours,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Samuel May Jr
Boston.

Boston, Dec. 2. 1848.