

Dear Sir,

Pray receive my warm thanks for your
 goodness in granting a request which ^{in very} I hardly
 ventured to make. The Article for the Liberty Bell and
 your ~~valuable~~ letter accompanying it have been safely
 received. The Article will not fail to be copied in the
 Liberator & Standard & all the best Doubles in
 many other papers which though they do not even
 claim to be Anti Slavery will yet feel the importance of
 satisfying public curiosity any thing respecting a
 subject of such general public interest.

I regret that you have not succeeded in sending
 you the address of the Executive Com. for the

Society. Many years ago Mr Garrison announced his determination never to take office under this Government while it required an oath which the whole country understood to be an agreement to put down slave insurrections - return fugitive slaves - & to allow the slaveholder 3 votes for every free of his slaves, in support of the system. ~~There probably are not a thousand of the inhabitants of our whole land who.~~ Mr Wendell

Mr Edmund Quincy many years since when Everett was governor of Massachusetts declined to resign the office of Justice of the Peace because he could not conscientiously take the oath to sustain these

to Mr and Mrs
 Amos

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of allegiance, - a general promise ~~not to submit~~
 the government, with the understanding that ~~in case it does~~
 of ^{new &} ~~the~~ ~~oath~~ ~~of~~ ~~iniquitous~~ ~~assumptions~~, on the part of government
 our Supreme judicial court ^{as} ~~is~~ the legal interpreter,
 & our ^{Statesmen &} people as the subjects all declare with one
 voice that it is a compromise between freedom &
 slavery, without which the union never could ^{have}
 existed & cannot continue to exist. This is the concern
 tion that ~~shalls~~ ~~the~~ ~~ardor~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~Statesmen~~ - philanthrop
 ic & zealous as ~~they~~ ~~may~~ ~~be~~. Opposite the abolitionist
 in Congress sits ~~the~~ ~~slaveholder~~, & it is not his bluster
 or his hoarse ~~roar~~ ~~that~~ ~~seals~~ ~~the~~ ~~lips~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~abolitionist~~
 when the slaveholder declares ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~system~~ ~~shall~~ ~~re-~~

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and other obligations of the Constitution. Mr. Gane's
Jackson has recently done the same. Mr. Wendell
Phillips & Mr. Jackson both declined a nomination
to the ^{highly} office of ~~Governor~~ by the 3^d party,
because they could not in their view of conscience
promulgate anti-slavery principles while they at the
same time were politically slaveholders, by being
& part with this slaveholding government. They swear
to support the Constitution as it is, ~~as it is~~ till it
is altered, & as it is, it is the great organic law under
which slaves are held in the U.S. It is not like our declaration
of independence, which you justly praise as anti-slavery
& which is an expression of the abstract opinions of the
framers of the Constitution. It is not like your oath

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mean one of them that ~~meant~~ "how can I
imagine ^{this voice} Clarkson ^{in response} - "So help me God, I will."
This is what takes place when a man professing
abolitionism ~~enters upon~~ ^{enters upon} the becomes a portion
of the government. Who believes him sincere?
No body. He is counted as a partisan, not
as a Philanthropist. & Whigs & Democrats
see that ~~he is~~ ^{he is} but as one of them. If this
is already ~~the~~ ^{the} case, in the comparative ignorance
of a ~~lottery~~ ^{single} way to christianise than by ascending
the ~~ceasars~~ ^{ceasars} throne - of a direct road to abolition
there. Through the Senate chamber what will be
the effect hereafter, when the thought shall be

with confidence to ~~your~~ ^{my} lofty & noble soul: which ⁵
I cannot for one moment imagine to myself ^{such a one}
as standing before the administrator of the oaths of
office in any of our Congresses or legislatures.
* When ~~that~~ ~~Speaker~~ ~~functionary~~ says "will you
sustain the slave system by giving ^{to the slave holder} the slave ~~system~~
3 notes for every five of his slaves - to the owner
of a thousand human chattels a power to keep them
so while shall weigh down a township of Abolitionists
near here ^{they} unparalelled by this guilty allegiance:
will you suppress ^{every attempt of those} ~~any~~ ~~insurrection~~ of those oppressed
brethren to gain their freedom? - will you return

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[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.]

Some ^{& those greatly beloved} of its members ^{think} ~~think~~ ^{the} slavery best pro-
moted by voting for a slaveholder to office, if
he will do their anti-slavery political work. Some
are for holding the balance ^{between} ~~between~~ ^{the} ~~two~~ ^{two} great political parties, ^{by} ~~by~~ ^{separating} ~~separating~~ ^{their} ~~their~~ ^{votes} ~~votes~~ ^{on} ~~on~~ ^{abolition} ~~abolition~~
nominations, while others are in favor of a
permanent ^{anti-slavery} political party. The American Society
welcomes them all to its platform
gives great comparative approbation to the
last of these ways, as approving of the first as delusive
& the second as self-defeating, in the nature of the
causes, and all ^{possessing} less efficacious likelihood of efficacy now
than the nation sees the direct & immediate way

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he written ^{as it were} upon the clouds, so that every eye
shall see it? Let the Abolitionists be but constant
& true - refusing to admit that good may come -
refusing a guilty participation in the warm hope of
thereby inducing reformation - refusing their strongest
moral sanction which by ~~co-operation~~ ^{political union} with the
~~the~~ slaveholder they give, to the destruction of their
moral efficacy of their anti-slavery teachings, -
& they may trust the very slaveholder to vote
right on this question. He must come up to the
ground they leave.

In taking this position, ^{as the highest & best} the American Society
is by no means intolerant to the views of its opponents.

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main eternal at the South. It is the humiliating
fact that the abolitionist ~~now~~ ^{here} yet burns with the
shame of ~~that~~ oath to that same effect which he has
taken with the slaveholder that keeps his lip so
so silent. "I am an Abolitionist" a man may
perchance be found bold enough to say in Congress.

What are you here for, then, is the reply from
the South. How could you swear to that compact
this compromise which allows slavery ^{in half the States} ~~at the~~
South, if you are here to subvert it? You ought
instantly to quit a seat which you can only
reach by paying your own soul. I be he what he
may in other respects, in this the slaveholder is right.

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"you are here" he says - "to make laws for Alabama
& Louisiana, & you sit here to do so, under oaths not
to make them against Slavery for that is guaranteed
to those & to the other slaveholding states." What
can the Northern man reply, though his ^{North} Constitu-
ents press hard upon his heels with the sternest demands
for anti-slavery action on his part? Nothing -
The power of John Quincy Adams even
sinks in this conflict of anti-slavery feeling
with that deadly palsy of a pro-slavery oath.
He throws himself upon the rights of discussion &
petition: upon the ^{whole empire} rights of man - the slave's right
to freedom he ^{cannot} ~~does not~~ throw himself - for it has been voted.

bartered away ^{for a hollow coalition} in the political arena, & year 4
after year the bargain is confirmed & renewed.
Shall it any longer be so? After many years
of thought, earnest prayer & legal examination
in no spirit ^{merely} of ^{unphilosophic} ^{as a body} ^{last} ^{year} ^{meeting}
fanaticism, the Society came to the same con-
-clusions which for so many years have
~~governed~~ ^{guided} the ^{conduct} ^{of} ^{some} most active & influen-
-tial members; and the address it was my privilege to
send you was the one in which they show the
righteousness, the reasonableness, & the safety &
ability of their position. I could gladly dwell ^{at least}
~~there~~ all these. But I leave their consideration

Dear Mrs Leaman,

With many
thanks in behalf of the
cause for your kind
offer of making up the
shells, I send a specimen
of what I have.

If anyone kind here
whenever should fall short,
I have none.

Very truly yours

Oct. 13th

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