

To Mrs. Foster

Boston, July 28, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

217 It was my wish and intention to have had a private interview with you at our Framingham celebration on the 4th inst., in order to talk over various matters; but I saw no opportunity ^{fairly} to do so. presented itself. In the forenoon, Mr. Phillips was busily engaged in conversing with you, at great length; in the afternoon, though I looked for ^{you} through the audience, I did not see you, and was therefore unable to execute my purpose. ^{in the N. E. Convention,}

I have been waiting, ^{hoping to hear from} ~~you in writing,~~ ^{as I think I was entitled to} ~~hear~~ ^{from you in writing;} but as you ^{have} presented an unbroken silence up to this hour, I ~~would~~ take it for granted you do not mean to break it until you first hear from me. So I will not wait any longer.

I have said that I think I was entitled to hear from you, because I understood that you ^{felt} ~~feel~~ grievously wounded in consequence of what fell from my lips at the Convention; and because you ^{left} ~~fled from~~ my house, (when I was coming down stairs to greet you as usual) in a manner that indicated a highly ^{excited} ~~inflamed~~ state of mind, - ^{anxiously} ~~refusing~~ ^{as you did to see me,} ~~to take me by the hand, or even to see me.~~ You "sober second thought," I was confident, would lead you to see that you had

acted in a manner not ~~so~~ justified compatible
with ^{either} true self-respect, or personal fidelity to
~~myself~~ ^{friendship}. Why did you thus shun me? If you
had any grievance to complain of, why did you
^{not} tell me of it to my face? For, remember, you
have neither said nor written a single word to me,
whereby I could even surmise that your feelings
were wounded. Why, ~~you~~ ^{then, have} do you ^{make} the revela-
tion to others, and not to me? ^{And why} Why should I be
left to obtain through others, what you ought to
have frankly ^{and truth} communicated to me? Is this
becoming an old friend? I think ~~it~~ ^{was,} not.

It seems to me that your duty, ~~to~~ ^{was,}
when you called that morning at my house for
Alba, plainly to say in substance - "I was not
able to be at the closing closing meeting of the Con-
vention last evening; but my husband, on
~~my~~ returning from it, gave me such an
account of your remarks, in regard to myself,
as to excite my grief and astonishment. But,
inasmuch as he may have misinterpreted or
misunder^{stood} ~~took~~ you, though ~~the~~ ^{the} excitement of the
~~decision~~, I desire to know what you did say,
or intended to be understood as saying; for
I cannot believe that ^{you} would intentionally say
or do ought to impeach my integrity of char-
acter, in the prosecution of the anti-slavery
cause." Had you taken this course, an expla-
nation might have been made on the spot, to the
removal of all those painful feelings which
have followed as a consequence of theomis-
sion. ~~But so~~

Now, as you charge me with nothing,
face to face or by letter, what can I plead?

I learn that you believe or suppose
that I attributed to your intentional dishonesty
in the manner of procuring money of promi-
nent members of the Republican party! Such a
thought never entered my mind. It is true that
~~I felt the course pursued by you~~ I endeavored
to show the inconsistency and practical wrong-
fulness of your course, ^{as it seemed to me} without calling you by name,
however; ~~impeaching your motives~~, but I neither
impeached, nor meant to impeach, ~~the~~ ^{integrity} your
personal integrity. God forbid! I believe you
to have ^{been} ^{been} always ^{been} actuated by the highest and purest
motives, however lacking in judgment or consist-
ency. Of all the women who have appeared upon
the historic stage, I have always regarded you
as peerless — the moral beam of the world
— and do have expressed myself to friends, far
and near, again and again. My admiration
of your character and moral heroism, of your
self-sacrificing spirit and exhaustless philan-
thropy, has been limited by nothing but the power of
speech to express it. Our friendship has been
intimate and unbroken for more than a century of
a century; and no one out of my family has been
nearer or dearer to me than yourself. My heart
has grown liquid with emotion as I have seen
your self-denial, courage, perseverance, and
in making yourself a life of sacrifice upon the
altar of bleeding humanity. How, then, was it
possible for me to accuse you of intentional

wrong doing? Or how was it possible for you
so readily to come to the conclusion that that
was what I did, and intended to do?

I have not time to add more, as
I must leave for Higham in the course of
a few minutes. But let me assume that,
widely as you and Stephen may differ from
me, and ~~plainly as we may~~ on various
points, I believe you both to be actuated
by the highest considerations, and that
you would both prefer death to the
performance of any action, for the pro-
motion of any object, which, in your judg-
ment, involved ~~any~~ criminality.