

To
Mrs. Foster

Boston, Sept. 8, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

219 Your letter in reply to mine of July 25 is just received. You have taken a long time in which to shape it — so long that I had given up all expectation of hearing from you on the subject. Of this I do not complain. I only regret to perceive that it shows no abatement of heat, inflammation, exasperation of mind on your part; for if I were your enemy, instead of an old and attached friend — if I had purposely intended to wrong ^{or} and injure you, instead of "unintentionally" having done so, as you admitted in a former letter — I do not see how your apparent alienation of ^{spirit} ~~mind~~ and sharpness of manner could easily be heightened. ~~But this concerns your own peace~~ This gives me unfeigned pain; ~~and surprise~~; but it concerns your own peace of mind, much more than it does my own, and I can only deplore the revelation.

You send me twenty closely written pages to prove that you are a woman of integrity of purpose in your anti-slavery labors! As I have never

"intentionally" designed to impeach your integrity, it is
a useless effort.
~~labor lost.~~ After a careful perusal of all that you
have written, and all that has transpired, I have no
"retraction" to make, no "apology" to offer, because I
do not see or feel that I have been a wrong-doer.

I will not attempt to make an elaborate re-
ply to the various ^{points} things in your letter, for I am ^{sadly} per-
^{convicted} that nothing will satisfy you, except "re-
traction" and "apology;" and this is a demand I
cannot comply with, for the reasons above stated; though
there is nothing I am ^{not} ready to do for you within the
bounds of reason and self-respect. Yet, I will
^{briefly} refer to two or three ^{particulars} points; and then, so far as I
am concerned, bring this correspondence to a final close.

On the first page of your letter, you group
together various expressions of mine, detached from their
connection, ^{touching} in regard to my judgment of your
state of mind and course of conduct. As they stand
in my letter, I see nothing to alter. It seems there
must be no criticism of any thing you may say or
do, for it is at once tortured into a personal affront.
The sensitiveness which you feel and exhibit ^{in the} in regard
to ^{some of personal} any kind of censure should ^{teach} ~~show~~ ^{admonish} you to be

more cautious in impeaching the motives and actions
of others, who may be as sincerely acting up to their
light, and as faithfully attempting to perform their duty
as they understand it, as yourself. Believing that
you were suffering under "a morbid condition of mind,
or some mental hallucination," for the time being,
~~respecting~~ I frankly and charitably said so, meaning
to give you no offence thereby. Why I thought you
had "acted in a manner not compatible with ei-
ther true self-respect or personal friendship," I fully
stated in my former letter, and I need not go over
that ground again.

I did not need to be reminded that,
~~even~~ even since its organization, you had not opposed
either Republicans or the Republican party for their
pro-slavery acts. Neither have I been lacking in fidelity
in that direction, according to my rule of judgment.
Of that I did not complain in my censure of your
course in obtaining funds for our Anti-Slavery treasury.
To say of a party that it does not aim to abolish ^{is weak, timid, unpromising - that} slavery,
but only to stop its advancement into new
territories, and to repel the aggressions of the Slave
Power, ^{upon Northern rights and interests,} and therefore is ^{only} dealing with a side issue,

and is not an anti-slavery party, is one thing; but to attempt to get it branded as either the worst enemy or the most dangerous obstacle to our course, by the Am. A. S. Society, after soliciting ^{and obtaining} its ^{prominent} leaders money for the treasury of that Society, on the ^{special} ground that ~~on~~ the result of its expenditure in the lecturing field would be a diminution of "Protestant ~~Democracy~~" and ^{a consequent} increase of "Republican-ism," as well as ^{to} ~~advance~~ ^{advance} the A. S. cause in any direction, is quite another thing - as widely different as the noon of day ^{is} from midnight. And herein I think your conduct has been blame-worthy, as well as that of some others.

The case, in a nut-shell, stands thus. ^{special} Your last financial effort was made in this city and vicinity, at a time when there was a general ~~total~~ collapse in business ^{affairs,} when there was universal distrust, when money could not be ^{obtained} ~~had~~, except in small and limited loans. No period ^{seemed} to be more hopeless in regard to obtaining funds for our unpopular movement; all the members of your Board deemed it to be so; even your own indomitable spirit almost quailed, and saw and confessed the desperateness of the case, though resolved to make the attempt. Now, by what process did you propose to touch the feelings and excite the self-^{denying} ~~sacrificing~~ liberality of the leading Republicans, ^{in order to} ~~by way of~~ securing their ^{pecuniary} co-operation? Was it to go and charge them to their faces with being hypocrites, murderers, ~~or~~ economists, or even obstacles in the way of our noble cause ~~to~~ ~~that~~ - then solicit their money, and assure them it

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should be expended in branding them with the terms
aforesaid, by the very Society they were asked to aid?
No. Had you done this, you would assuredly ^{have} "paid
your labor for your pains," and been regarded ^{by them} either
with ^{disspleasure} indignation for your ^{presumption,} affront, or pity for your
weakness. ^{On the contrary,} But you did no such thing. You
said to me and the Board - "I will show them
that, in helping us, they will help the growth of the Re-
publican party" - [not the growth of the greatest obsta-
cle, ~~or the most dangerous enemy,~~ ^{one} more to be
feared and deprecated than any thing the South can
do] - "I will remind them of the fact, that where there
is the most of ultra abolitionism, there the Republi-
can ^{party} finds its strongest support as a philosophical
consequence - I will point them ^{particularly} to the black belt
(Democratic) in Pennsylvania, Illinois, ~~and~~
Indiana, and other parts of the West, and tell
them that, if they will help us, we will ^{endeavor to} whiten
it out before the Presidential election of 1860."
This was your plan, ^{and substantially your language,} and it made you enthusias-
tic, and confident of success. You acted upon
it to the letter, and the result was, in various
instances, liberal donations, ^{in good faith,} to our treasury, from

well-known Republicans. All this was right and proper. I entered into your plan with all my heart, and rejoiced that you succeeded so well.

You compromised nothing, though ^{I have reason to believe} you then waived all ^{personal} controversy as to the relative position of the Republic to our own movement.

At last came the N. E. A. S. Convention, at which Wm

Wm and Stephen, and Parker, were particularly, in my judgment unjustly, severe upon the Republican party, ^{as well as upon} and such men as Dr. Cheever and his associates; you ^{all} sought, with no little heat, to obtain the passage of a resolution, branding that party as more dangerous, and therefore more to be feared and assailed, than even Satanic Democracy itself; and there was no lack of insinuation or accusation that the Standard and Liberator, ~~both~~ and even the Executive Committee, ^{if not the Society,} ^{being conservative,} were going backward, and growing unfaithful to the demands of the hour.

This resolution I resisted as a matter of conscience and consistency, ^{and fair dealing.} Your zeal to get it adopted,

in view of your last financial operations in Boston, appeared to me the grossest inconsistency, and elicited the ^{censure} ~~rebuke~~ I gave, without

however,
naming you or any other person. That you
were justified to yourself, I did not doubt; but
I could not find any justification for your
course, under the circumstances. Nor do I think
it would be justified "on 'change," or by any im-
partial jury. Certainly, while you are in such a
state of mind, I should not ^{feel justified in} be willing to appoint
you, or any other person similarly affected, as
a financial agent of the A. A. S. S.

(1) You ask ^{me} why I did not in private
remonstrate with you, ^{and} ^{say} "Why, on the contrary, did you
go into a public assembly, made up of the friends and
the foes of the cause, and there impeach me?" My
reply is, that I met the emergency when it arose,
and as it seemed to me duty to the cause de-
manded. I may have been unfortunate in the lan-
guage I used; ^{and it may have been susceptible of an interpretation I did not} but ^{unhappily,} ^{mean to give it,} ^{wrong,} if I did you any injustice,
you are right in conceding ~~that~~ it to have been
"unintentional."

To your reminder, - "You certainly will
not plead that you had not opportunity most
ample to speak to me on this subject, for I had
made your house my home for weeks, while I

was specially employed in making these solici-
tations," - I reply, true; but, at that time, there
was no ^{special} call for criticism; and I was glad,
as well as ^{the members of the Board,} the Executive Committee, to see you in
a frame of mind toward the Republican party
that indicated a more broad and philosphi-
cal view of ^{the various} phases of the Anti-Slavery strug-
gle. Nor did I dream that you would so soon
be led ~~to~~ into such ^{injustice} ~~strangeness~~ and inconsistency.

You refer once more to my ^{expressed} disappointment
in not hearing from you at the outset. You ask -
"Why should I have written to you? I had nothing to
communicate. The offence of which I complained
was public, and already well understood by you.
Why should I have repeated what had already been
better done by others?" To this my reply is, that
I have given you the reasons in my ^{previous} ~~former~~ letters
why you should have written to me, ^{in the first instance,} and those
reasons you have not met. "The offence of which
I complained was public." But you made no com-
plaint - at least, none to me. So far as ~~any thing~~
from ^{uttering} ~~expressing~~ a word in my behalf, or sending me
a line, indicating that you felt I had done you

an injury for which reparation ought to be ^{publicly} made,
you preserved a long, unbroken silence - except as
you made others acquainted with your feelings. I
insist that this was neither fair nor above-board; and
that it was not for me to gather up hearsay ^{gossip} ~~letters~~ in
so grave a matter. It was your duty, alike to us both,
to call me to account, in a friendly spirit, by a direct
communication. ^{But if} "If you had nothing to communicate,"
what had ^I to answer? It was a "public" matter, for-
^{if it was of such vast importance to your future}
sooth! ^{usefulness in the A.-S. cause,} Then why did you not take a "public" medium -
^{A promptly} the Liberator, for instance - and ^{with} ~~ask~~ ^{to be relieved from} ~~for the desired~~
my false impression that my remarks may have made upon ^{my}
~~at my hands?~~ ^{Why do you decline doing}
~~it now?~~ But, to this day, had I not opened the
present correspondence, I ^{have} ~~should have had~~ no rea-
son to suppose that I should ^{have heard} ~~be~~ ⁱⁿ a syllable from
you on the subject, either by epistle or word of mouth!
Is this what is due from one tried friend to another?
Is this a specimen of ^{your usual} ~~anti-clerical~~ fidelity? And
why do you decline accepting the overture con-
tained in my last letter?

You take fresh offence at my saying
that your plea of ^{an} want of time to ~~see me~~
~~to~~ say "farewell" when you left my house in such
haste, was "hardly satisfactory," & in view of all the cir-
cumstances; and you sharply bid me ask Mrs. Good-
rich sundry questions concerning your movements
that morning, prior to ^{your} reaching the depot, in order to
be convinced that you were not in a state of ~~ex-
citement~~ ~~as you were~~ ~~leaving~~ ~~toward~~ ~~myself?~~ ^{two ex-}
^{ited} ~~frames~~ ~~of~~ ~~mind~~ ~~to~~ ~~see~~ ~~me.~~ I need do no such
things. I am willing and glad to accept your explanation

as to my mistaken impressions respecting your feelings on that occasion.

I could comment upon many other points in your letter, but I forbear - having already written more than I intended. I deeply regret this collision, but am consoled to know it was none of my seeking. I will make no parade of the feelings which I still cherish for you, in spite of all that has transpired, but only subscribe myself, as hitherto,

Your faithful friend and co-worker
in the cause of the oppressed,

A. K. F.

W. L. G.