

To
Parker Pillsbury

Boston, June 3, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

244 A whole week has transpired since I received your explanatory letter into my hands, when I did not mean to allow twenty-four hours to elapse before answering it. So much for continual interruptions and engagements.

At our annual meeting in January, I was surprised at what seemed to me the sombre and discouraging views of the state of our cause ~~as~~ taken by Mrs. Foster, Mr. Higginson, and yourself; and, in order to give a more cheerful tone to the meeting, I indulged in a little pleasantry - not dreaming of giving any offence, or exciting any feelings, in any breast. On leaving the platform, however, Mr. Higginson followed me into the ante-room, and exhibited a good deal of excitement - accusing me of attacking him personally, and attempting to throw ridicule upon him. All that I could do was to propose ^{for vindictive criticisms} a test that I had not singled him out, as he had declared, and that I only aimed to throw a little sunshine upon what I thought was a depressing state of the atmosphere.

He did not seem willing to accept my explanations, but left me in an inflamed mood of mind, averring that I had made him the special target of my ridicule - &c. I was greatly surprised at his sensitiveness, and especially at his unwillingness to receive my statement as satisfactory; but I could do no more in the premises.

In the afternoon of the same day, you made a rejoinder to my speech - a speech which I understood you to say you did not hear - wherein you held me up to the audience, ~~as~~ (so I understood your remarks at the time, and so did all with whom I then conversed,) as sniffling out for scurrilous abuse and low ridicule Abby Kelley Foster; and intimating that, at some future day, in view of "her cracked voice and gray hairs," hardly worn herself out in the service of the slave, it would be no very pleasant recollection to me that I had sought to make her a laughing-stock - &c. Your aim ~~seemed~~ seemed to be to excite for her the deepest sympathy of the audience, and ~~consequently,~~ ^{the most indignant} strong feelings of condemnation against myself. I thought you manifested a perturbed state of mind, and a good deal of personal feeling on the occasion. No single occurrence ever took me more by surprise, or filled me with greater astonishment; no ~~code~~ rebukes ever seemed to me more uncalled for, no impeachment

more gratuitous and unjust. At the conclu-
sion of your remark, I rose, and, expressing
my surprise at what had fallen from your
lips, and that you could conceive it possible
for me to hold up to ridicule the "cracked
voice and gray hairs" of one I so loved and
honored as A. K. J., (who has not a gray hair
in her head, I am told,) I emphatically disclaim-
ed the charge, and cast it from ~~me~~ wide as
the poles asunder; ~~and~~ saying that if you had
heard my speech, you could not possibly have
~~such~~ ^{thrown} such an imputation upon me. Mrs.

Forster followed me, exonerating me from the
imputation, and declaring that she took no offence
at my language. Under these circumstances,
I was greatly surprised and pained that you did
not come forward, and express your gratification
to find that you had got a wrong impression
of what had fallen from my lips in your
absence from the meeting; ~~and~~ I felt
your silence most keenly.

In your letter, you say that you
protested against ~~the~~ ^{the} construction I had
placed upon your ~~own~~ criticism, both while
sitting upon the sofa behind me, and afterwards
openly in remarks ~~before~~ before the meeting. To
this, I can only say that I have no recollection of
any distinct disclaimer on your part as touch-
ing the substance of your ^{imputation} ~~reproaches~~ - (that is,
holding up to ridicule, with her "cracked
voice," &c.) She herself, at the close of the anni-
versary, begged me to ~~throw it all into~~ ^{overlook it,} ~~oblivion,~~

apologizing for you that you were sick, and con-
sequently ^{in a} somewhat morbid state. I followed her
advice, and let it pass; though, (as Mr. Phillips told
you, (not only without my consent, but in opposition to
my express injunction ~~to the contrary~~ say nothing to you on
the subject,) I very keenly felt the ^{some at} unmerited re-
buke you gave me ~~at~~ on that occasion.

Referring to this unpleasant collision,
(which to me came "like hail from a clear sky,")
you say, "Now it seemed to me at that time,
that I was the injured party. You put most
severe & unjust words into my mouth, which
I did not utter, could not utter, and then
commented upon them with very great harshness,
indeed." Though I may not have ^{given} your lan-
guage verbatim, do ~~you mean~~ ^{I understand you} to say that you
did not represent me as acting ⁱⁿ an unfeeling & cruel
and cruelly satirical manner toward Abby? — nor mean
any such thing? What, then, did you mean and
say? ^{How is it that every body present understood whom I did?} How you recall your words? For what
was I censurable? I used no names, ^{I cast no personal reflections,} but only spoke
of the unusually lugubrious speeches that had been
made that day, and tried to relieve the sombre
shading of the picture — nothing more. The effect
was certainly instantaneous — the relief uni-
versal.

I heartily accept the expression of
your "deep regrets and deeper sorrow" that you
should have "seemed" to do me injustice; and
as I do freely say that I am not less regretful
~~that~~ ^{if} I have at any time, in your judgment,
misrepresented or misinterpreted your words or
actions. It has not been in my heart to do so;
and I sincerely wish "by-gones to be by-gones."

I would on another subject. You say - "From my stand-point, and with my experience, I am compelled to differ with you in my estimate of the Republican party," ~~and~~ ^{etc.} and you add - "Certainly, I cannot possibly regard that party, as you pronounced it, 'the hope of the country.'" This quotation does me gross injustice, and I am sorry, to see it in your letter. It is part of a dislocated sentence - a fraction of a very cautious and definite statement. After saying, "My hope is in the Republican party," I added with emphasis - "Mark me! not the Republican party ^{as} ^{now} it stands, or as to its non-extension in policy, but as to its materials, - embodying as it does the intelligence, virtue, moral sentiment, and political ^{U.S.} feeling of the North, - in contrast ^{to} the thoroughly demoralized, pro-slavery ~~spirit~~ Democratic party, which is ready to do any thing demanded by the Slave Power; and so, out of those materials, working up ^{the Northern mind} to our stand-point of Disunion." If I had said, "My hope is in the Republican party," and left the remark unexplained, I should have falsified all my declarations against it, in regard

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The first part of the paper is devoted to a
discussion of the various forms of
the word "proof" and the different
meanings which it has acquired in
the course of time. It is shown that
the word has been used in a great
variety of senses, and that the
distinction between the different
senses is not always clear. The
author then proceeds to discuss the
question of the burden of proof, and
shows that it is not always on the
party who asserts a proposition that
the burden of proof lies. He then
discusses the question of the
standard of proof, and shows that
it varies in different cases. Finally,
he discusses the question of the
evidence required to establish a
fact, and shows that it is not
always necessary to prove a fact
beyond a doubt.