

New Bedford 9th mo 30 1842

Dear Deborah,

Had I not have gone to the Agricultural Fair last week at Meyners, and business prevented I should have answered your letter ere this - I was very glad to hear from you - so long a time had elapsed that I began to think you were absent from home - Well knowing that your name Deborah, signified "Bee", as I once wrote you respecting your industry, I did not once suspect I would have you to think that you had the least bit of the "tortoise" fever. It is well I did not suspect so, for your letter would have caused my delusions to vanish. We had an exceedingly pleasant time at the Fair. Saml Thwaiter & Mary & Fanny and myself - instead of going in the car, I am kindly invited us to ride with him in his carriage - it was a beautiful day and I never saw a finer exhibition of fruit - the stock did not seem to me as good as common. All along the route the trees were loaded down with all sorts of fruits - how strange is it not that while Nature is so bountiful with all her gifts that Man, sinful Man should be waging war against his brother Man - and yet he is only reaping the whirlwind he has sown.

What a desolation this war is causing, and yet it seems almost necessary, to bring the Nation to its senses - it is trials, troubles, and sorrows that cause us to reflect and see that our trust is not in ^{to be betrayed} man, but in the great principles of Love, Justice, Equity & Fraternity, and Christianity, and when we are fully convinced of this, then shall we have better Rulers & Leaders as the exponent of our ideas. Death has been making his rounds here as well as on the Battle Field. - Little over two weeks ago, my cousin Caroline Kempton died - her death at last was rather sudden - we thought she might have lived till November but the day before she died she began to have great difficulty in her breathing, and suffered greatly till about twenty minutes before she died, when she passed away quietly, and almost imperceptibly being sensible to the last. She looked very natural after death though much emaciated. Mr Potter spoke most beautifully, and comforting at the funeral. - Yesterday our Friend Isaac C. Taber died after a short illness of a week or ten days. He had an introversion of the intestines and suffered excruciatingly - for several days he was under the influence of Anodynes & Chloroform - he has overworked himself, and is another victim to this accursed war - day and night has he worked indefatigably - till prostrated

Nature finally gave out - Geo. T. Baker died
a few weeks since - a great blessing - he has
been sick several years - His daughter Mrs
Turkin takes boarders among the number
is my Aunt Phoebe Horton who ~~removes~~
there ~~from~~ Horatio Ferniptons after Caroline's
death - Ned Reynolds a young man about 25 years
old, who was nephew of the former Mr Spooner
and lived there till he went to sea, died at
John R. Shortens about a month since of
Consumption - Last you may not have heard
I will now inform you that Judge Oliver Prescott
aged 55 is engaged to be married to Helen
Howland aged 25 daughter of James Henry
Howland - some difference in their ages - 30
years - Her father used to go to school to the Judge
and his the Judge's Mother in law (Helen's Step Mother)
is six months younger than his wife - I received
a letter from Aunt Lotta Chapman of 33 West week
before last speaking in the highest terms of Col
Maggi both as a Soldier & an Abolitionist and
how he had infused his principles of Freedom
into the whole Regt - I had the letter printed
in the Standard it was so good - I should have
sent you a copy, but I sent one to Wendell Phillips
asking him to have it printed in the Liberator or
Standard if he thought it would do any good
and you will see it there, if not I can show it you

Col Maggi thinks every thing of Mr Forte and
I feel very well satisfied in getting Mr Forte
the place - The Col thinks every thing of Col
Bates who is now Col of 12th late Webster's Regt.
He was promoted as Major of Col Maggi's
Regt but after Webster's death was again pro-
moted to the Colonney of that Regt - He was but a
short time with Maggi who regrets being obliged
to lose him - I think Col Bates is a Weymouth
man - Just think of John C Wyman the Capt
that now is under Maggi being Provost Marshall
of Alexandria - I saw the copy of Correspondence
between Stanton & Secy War & Gen Andrew - both of them
holding the 33^d in the highest estimation - The Regt
is going with Gen Sigel's Division - I rec^d a letter
from Capt Thos R Rodman 38th Regt - he is at Camp
Cram near Baltimore - has been sick with the
dysentery - is slowly recovering - says he is surprised
to find so much abolition sentiment among
the men of the Regt as well as among the Marylanders.
Major Wm Logan Rodman of same Regt is well - Sarah
Ann continues the same - Rest of our family are all well.
Thornton Briggs has enlisted - Sarah Thornton Gilbert corp
is poorly, going to Baltimore Thursday - she is a little better
now - Ferrisden, formerly a strong Democrat & now Editor of
the Mercury has come out a strong Anti Slavery man, takes
the highest ground. Tell Mr Chapman, I did not do any thing about
selling up the meeting we talked of - for the reason that after my return for
2 or more weeks there were no meetings, every night - now Sumner
is going to speak the State & Phillips will lecture before our Lyceum