

(Incomplete)

From Anne Warren Weston.

(21) To S. May Jr

Anne W.  
Weston

Weymouth. July 29. 1853

My Dear Friend

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I acknowledge in the most thankful spirit your generosity. If I ever have the opportunity, ever have the wherewith for a letter of supererogation I will certainly remember this good long letter of yours & try to do us much for you. I hope to have time to write you some what at length before the mail goes out, but to be on the safe side, I will treat of the most important business first.

The rain would have prevented my coming in town Wednesday, even had I known the business that was before the Board. This is the view that I am inclined to take of the best course to pursue. I think it would be well for you & Garrison to make a short, concise & forcible state ment, avoiding all appearance of being one of a party in a controversy, about which the public were to decide, but assuming the ground of a willingness to make a simple state ment either at the request of Goodell or any body else in respect to the most



exceptionable parts of the book. After a  
general declaration of our sense of the unpopu-  
lar & unfair & censorious spirit of the whole  
volume, as far as the latter edition of the  
Am Soc is concerned, I should state as its  
most objectionable part, its account of the  
division of the Soc in 1840, the transfer of the  
Emancipator &c & should decline to bring forward  
a single tittle of evidence other than your  
own statements, referring <sup>all interested</sup> ~~you~~ to the various  
public documents of the Society, especially  
including such documents of yours as have  
been from time to time endorsed by the Am  
& Map Societies. I should strenuously refuse  
to go into any controversy <sup>as a Poem</sup> with Goodell, think-  
ing it does him too great honour with a pro-  
cedure. I should state things here & so,  
& that we had not the least intention of going  
into the discussions of false hood & calumny  
propagated about us years & years ago &  
which have been fully answered & exposed.  
It is not only a great deal too much to  
expect that we shall pay a man to circu-  
late false hood about the Society, but a

great deal too much to expect these by  
going into a lively controversy afresh, we  
shall stimulate the sale of such, by  
attracting to it anew a public attention long  
since wearied of its denunciations of people have  
been crying out long since "Why not let  
this controversy drop?" It has been dropped & I  
should not pick it up only so long as while  
I specified, to speak plainly, the most palpable  
lies & imposture lies, & said they were lies.  
The party whom I shall appear to be addressing  
are abolitionists more recently interested in  
the cause, for certainly new organizers  
& others have all the information they need  
, the subject is one that a few slavery public  
concern little about, so that the folks really  
interested must be those just coming  
as it were into the cause & of course, inter-  
ested in its antecedents.

Second. Do you think it might be  
a good thing, that is proper enough to  
invite Lord & Lady Ellesmere to the 1st  
of August celebration? It has just dropped



into my mind. He is connected with a family at present bearing an A. S. character. The celebration is of W. J. of emancipation which for aught I know he favoured by voice & vote; I cannot therefore see any propriety in asking him, tho' he is here in a public capacity somewhat. If he answered civilly it would plague the pro slavery world & if he did not why so much the worse for him. I can't say those I think he would dare to come. Surely we might fairly suppose that all respectable English men would be glad to unite with us on such a day. Do you see any objection to this? I should not want to do any thing absurd like the City of Boston when they asked Lord Cochrane to celebrate the 4th of July.

I was so abominably stupid as to gather from your letter that a son of Mr. Cushman was here & wrote accordingly to Lewis. The Liberator explained how it was. I believe I concluded that it could not be Mr. C. himself, because writing so often, he had as it were sent no compliments. We shall be very glad indeed to see you & him at Weymouth. Perhaps I shall be at Framingham if the day is just right, & I feel strong & of good cheer. If so we can settle on some day, or if I don't come I will write. I should be glad to have him to