

Miss A. W. Weston

Anti-Slavery Fair.

Faneuil Hall.

1838

J. W. Higginson

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Brookline. December 28. 1838.

Dear Miss Weston

You will remember that in my note I left myself a loophole of retreat. I am sorry to say now, that I do not feel, on the whole prepared to speak. The truth is, that I am so unpractised an orator that I cannot speak &amp;amp;amp; with any emphasis or effect, that I without either a considerable preparation or a very strong stimulus. The former is at present out of the question; the latter is I find also wanting. I do not feel personally inspired with any message for those whom I should meet at the Fair; I have nothing demanding utterance which will not be better uttered by others; & I shrink from coming.

I am sure you will attribute this to its true motives. Y

you were opposed, & I could defend
the good cause from its opponents;
or if I opposed you & could defend
it from its friends: I would
come, & shld. have strength to come
& speak, perhaps, not without efficiency.
But there is no danger of ^{your} ~~my~~ being mobbed
or your mobbing me; my wife is not
needed to expect anything, great or small;
& I feel the need of some stimulus,
to save me (if I spoke) from doing
great injustice both to the merits of
the cause & to my own love of it.

This may seem to you somewhat
= factory - but if you will imagine yourself
in my place, you will probably easily
perceive that good will alone will not
make a speech - & I have not, at
present, anything to say.

With best wishes for the success
of this Fair & all your efforts
I am very truly yours
J. W. Higginson.

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