

Fort Lee July 17th 1838

Dear Anna

I hope my letter will not be altogether unacceptable because it contains a negative to the request contained in the resolution about my returning to Mass. I do truly rejoice that I have been there, it was a season of improvement to my own heart & mind & had no other benefit resulted I should be grateful for the privilege of laboring in the A.S. cause amongst you - Now dear it rather strikes me that one reason you mention for my returning, viz. that a door is open for the public labors of women, in Mass. renders it less necessary that I should be there than elsewhere, the door is open the field has had one ploughing & those who take the plough next will find the soil more yielding I think - I do not know but my business is simply to open doors, or do the first rough work - If I know my own heart I am as anxious to help the cause as when I was engaged in lecturing & I pray to be preserved in a state of watchfulness & prayer that I may know if my heavenly father calls me again to public labors - At present I feel contented & happy & grateful in our sweet retirement which the Lord has abundantly blessed and we all desire to use the leisure we may be favored with in acquiring further information & preparing for future usefulness - Theodore & Angelina have not said one word to sway my conclusion, we all regard individual duty as too sacred for us to touch & leave each other entirely free to follow the indications of Gods providence - I do not know what the Lord designs for me in future, I only know that now he says "in quietness & confidence shall be thy strength - With love to thy sisters believe me thine for the slave Sarah M. Grimké" - A. Kelly I hope will be released from her school ere long & be at liberty to prepare herself for a public lecturer -

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I think we do not
help it at the Convention
& and surely the women of Massachusetts are able to enter in & carry on the work - My Kelly doubtless

July 17. 1838.

L. M. Grinter.

Anti Slavery.

Anne W. Weston

Ms A 9. 2. 10 p 37A