

Thingham Oct. 22, 1842.

Dear Caroline,

I intended to write to you, as I promised, immediately after the Fair was over, but I have been ill ever since. Not very sick, but too languid & inert to undertake any thing that I was not absolutely obliged to do, & though I still have a great deal of lassitude & weariness, I have determined that another day shall not pass without my making an effort to write. A long continued bowell complaint has caused this helplessness of which I complain, brought on by the hot and damp weather of the month of Aug. & perhaps too much exertion at the same time. But I am now getting better & hope soon to feel my usual strength & spirits. I presume you have heard the sum that was taken at the Fair. The Committee had ~~827~~ 214 dollars after all expenses were paid, 200 they sent to the Mass. So. although I have never seen it acknowledged. I felt quite satisfied with the money, although I did not with the people. It is a shame & a disgrace that 9 tenths of Thingham stayed at home. The money came from the Abolitionists, in and out of town. Since the Fair business has been closed, we have had ~~not~~ an excitement among ourselves, a sort of new organization movement, & where it will end I know not. The first of the movement was a meeting appointed by Mr. Lincoln out of the <sup>A. S.</sup> Society, without consulting the President, for the purpose of discussing the Church & clergy question, as there were some members who felt that if the Society as a body went against the Ch. they could not remain with it. So on the evening appointed, there was a pretty full meeting - many present whom we seldom saw at our regular meetings. Mr. Lincoln brought forward a set of resolutions. The first

declared that we could not give our support to a Minister who apologized for slavery &c. & then went on to say that we believed that there were those who were faithful in their prayers for the slave, which they were faithful in their other duties for the improvement of their fellow beings &c. & we would express our confidence in them, & our deep conviction that they are co-workers with us in our spiritual growth &c. — The second?

Resolved that we are bound by strong ties to the true Church of Christ — and that although there are some in the nominal Church, who are not true to the principles which they profess as disciples of Jesus — We cannot feel that we are responsible for their errors of opinion or judgment, if we have been faithful as members of a true Church — and while there may be in the Church differences of opinion on the subject of slavery as well as on other important subjects, we trust that by expressing our opinions fearlessly and in a Christian spirit we shall exert an influence on all who name the name of Christ to induce them to be true to themselves and the religion by which they profess to be governed.

Resolved, that we will urge the observance of the Sabbath as a season of meditation and of spiritual improvement and that we believe in the necessity of institutions for the promotion of religion & good morals, & look to them as means of removing all injustice and oppression of our land, & of causing all to be true disciples of Jesus — Resolved that slavery as well as all the sins of our land is to be removed by religious sentiment — a sense of right in our Community. We therefore appeal to Christians and urge all to act in a Christian spirit leaving all to pursue that course by which in their judgment the desired end may be attained. Intended, my friend, to give you the spirit of these resolutions & I began so with the first; but they are such a curious medley, & contain so many contradictions that I found I must write out the last ones in full. After they were read at the first meeting Mr. A

remembered that the spirit of intolerance was at the bottom  
of this movement that he applied it to no one but it was  
a spirit that was in us all, if we were not continually upon  
our guard. Mr Lincoln immediately replied that he was the  
author of this movement although before he had told us that the Baptist women  
at that it was not a spirit of intolerance &c. &c. It was urged by  
those that wished these resolutions to pass, that Boyle, Remond  
& others had been here & lectured against the church & clergy  
& people had the impression that all the so. were against the cler-  
gym that we ought to pass these resolutions to show that we were  
willing to support christian institutions, &c. &c. Those opposed  
to them thought that they were entirely uncalled for, that  
people out of the society know that every member save  
one, goes to church regularly & help support the cler-  
gy, that they said this merely to have some excuse not to  
work with us &c. &c. We appointed a second evening to talk over the  
matter, & Mr Smith offended Mr Lincoln again by saying that  
the resolution about the sabbath was probably written in  
consequence of one of our members not going to church. Mr  
Lincoln soon left the house & said that he should not belong  
to the Society another day, so long as Mr Smith was President.

A third evening was appointed to discuss the Resolutions, &  
though they stayed until eleven o'clock they came to no decision  
& I think they are about equally divided although they have  
never got ready to try the question. I feel that it may break  
up the So. but it will not destroy any anti-slavery life. We are  
holding rather interesting meetings every week on Great Plains  
Don't you pity Sydney off in Indiana, who cannot eat swines  
flesh. I think he will be glad to get home again. Poor Remond,  
how he must suffer for his dark skin. Maria has been to  
Dunbury & made a visit since you were here. She has brought  
some cambric to make some aprons for the Fair at New Years  
& Mr Smith went yesterday to look out some places where  
he can get the running ever green for trimming. Mary  
Lincoln leaves the Academy at the end of this term. Abner  
Baker is building him a house adjoining his father's

Ms. A. 9. 2. 17. 98

is to be ma  
has bought the  
three feet & is  
house. I wish you  
time. I am afraid  
a long time. Move  
with this scribble

will soon. Capt. Whittemore  
Norton's house has raised it  
making it into a fashionable  
would write to us if you have  
& shall not see you again for  
sends her love, & accept mine  
of a letter.

Yours Achina A. S. Smith

Prof.  
New Bedford  
Mrs. Caroline Weston

Oct 22nd  
Evelina A. S. Smith



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