

Leicester
Sept. 28 '68.

Dear Cousin S.

I send you, at length, the promised documents, &c. which relate to the attitude & course of the American Unitarians towards Slavery. I have confined myself, therein, strictly to their public position and action, & have only selected prominent cases & instances of those. If you want ~~more~~ ^{the} private sayings, &c. of Unitarian Ministers, I could furnish you with some such.

I send 4 different papers, or sets of papers, viz:

- (1.) Preambles & Resolutions which I offered at Worcester Autumnal Convention, in 1842, (H. Ware Jr. being present) - & which were put aside.
- (2.) A sketch of the origin, forwarding, & reception, of the British Unitarian Ministers' Address on Slavery, - 1842-44.

- (3). The action (or non-action) of the Amⁿ. Unitⁿ. Association in May, 1844.

- (4.) This is a document which I made up in 1853, and sent to my excellent friend Dr. Estlin of Bristol, Eng^d. at his request. When he had made such use of it as he desired, he returned it to me, as I had requested him to do, — Make whatever use of this you please, and bye & bye please return it to me, — as I have endorsed upon the document itself.

I should also like to have the "Notes of Discussion in Ann^d. Meeting, A. N. A., May 1844," returned to me, when you have done with them.

The other two need not come back.

Whatever use you make of these, I sh^d. prefer to have it in your own language, either adopting mine, or substituting your own.

I put all these papers in your hands, to be used as you think proper. Do not feel constrained, on my account, to do anything with them. The responsibility of the "Reminiscences" is your own, and no one has a right to call on you to do this, that, or the other, - as they might if you were avowedly writing a history. - You know my own opinion, & that of some others (as J. J. Bowditch), to the effect that there should be more use of names. In the case of Drs. Gannett & Putnam, ^{for instance,} it would be fair to add that in later life their views were modified somewhat, & that the latter, after the Rebellion broke out, took a strong, public, & persistent position against any longer sparing of Slavery. I really don't know as Dr. Gannett has done anything more than hold his tongue of late, & give some countenance to efforts to educate freedmen.

Refused to speak, with a disgraceful cowardice and twice-serving, which ought not to be forgotten or glossed over, by any servant of the truth.

The Unitarian body, considering its position, as not entangled with any alliances, pro-slavery ~~alliances~~, nor hampered by any ecclesiastical organization, and considering its avowed doctrines & characteristic principles, has been, in my judgment, pre-eminently guilty on the subject of the Enslavement of the Millions in our land, with its attendant wrongs, cruelties, & horror.

That fact is susceptible of the clearest demonstration; and that fact I confess I do want to have specifically & unqualifiedly stated in your papers. Let no honor be withheld from the (so prominent & noble) exceptions. Neither let the main truth be withheld, or uttered doubtfully.

They ought to have spoken for God our Father, for the All-loving Saviour & Elder Brother, and for Humanity, as embracing the equal Children of God with themselves, "as one Man." And they did not - the