Leicester, March 26. 1861.

Dear friend Webb;

I wrote to you from Boston last week – a few hurried lines – to say that I was forwarding to you a Box of books, tracts, &c. &c. The box was sent by Str. "Palestine" from Portland, bound to Liverpool, and is addressed to the care of S. R. Graves, Baltic Building, Liverpool. I also wrote to Mr. G. to notify him of the coming of the box, & therein enclosed my letter to you. I am writing to him again (by tomorrow's Str. fr. N. York) in order to send him a Bill of Lading of the box; on acct. of a furious snow-storm blocking all railroads & for some 36 hours putting a stop to communication, I could not get the said Bill from Portland in season to go in my first letter to Mr. Graves. I take therefore the advantage of the opp.y to write to you a little more fully. And first, of the contents of the box, (sufficiently adverted to perhaps in the hurried note above mentioned) – There are 1. A large supply of Old Standards for your file; for the greater part of them consist of selections from the old lot which C. Johnson found, as I wrote you, in a certain Pennsylvania garret. These I think will go very far tow'ds rendering your file complete. If my mem.y is now correct you have the following Vols. complete Vol. 3. 4. 15. 16. and all after 17. You require but a single number of each of Vols. 5. 6. 7. 8. & 17. Of Vol. 1. you need 9 Nos.; of Vol. 2., 4 Nos.; of Vol. IX., 3 Nos.; of Vol. X. 2 Nos.; of Vol. XI. 2 Nos.; of Vol. XII. 2 Nos.; of Vol. XIII. 9 Nos.; of Vol. XIV. 4 Nos. – The prospect of getting these, or any considerable part of them, is a faint one, but

we will not give it up yet. If you have any more of the little printed slips - (but they! they have lost their use, so many being supplied -) but if you should choose to print a few more, indicating exactly what are wanted, and would send me a dozen, or 2 dozen of them, I will make distribution of them in such ways as may bring out a few more, - probably the most of what are wanted. I believe I have told you that I know a lady who has vols. 18. 19. 20. (and now 21.) nearly complete, which she is ready to give where they are needed and will do good. - (2.) The box next contains about 175 copies of the tract "The Fugitive Slave Law and Its Victims". These we desire to have distributed where they will be likely to be read. I have put about a doz. of each of them in the parcels to Mary Estlin and Eliza Wigham, who will put them about, I suppose, in Bristol & Edinburgh. (3.) There were also some copies of W. Phillips's Speech on "Personal Liberty Law" of Massachusetts, Mrs. Child's "Right Way, Safe Way", Garrison's "Infidelity of Abolitionism", (all there, if I mistake not); a few copies, sent by the author (David Lee Child) of a Memorial to our Legislature on the Pers'l. Lib. Law. (4.) Eight copies of "Linda" - by Mrs. Harriet Jacobs; - 5 of them in your hands for Antislavery libraries - the other 3 sent to Leeds Young Men, to E. Wigham, & to M. Estlin. (5.) Several parcels put up by W. C. Nell, one of which, he told me, contained a "Linda" for you. - There is also a tardy copy of Olmsted for one of the Libraries. (6.) There are 10 copies of a photograph of John Brown, which you can sell for 2/ each; 50 cts. is the retail price here. They are mine; I took them to help his brother Frederick Brown, and paid him myself, rather than call on the A.S. office. If you

sell anything of them, you can account to me at 40 cts. each, which is what I paid, and all I want. And, please take notice, I beg you not to consume time, or take trouble, in any efforts to sell them. Any unsold may ~~come back to me~~ be given away, where they will be valued. It is said to be an excellent likeness of him, as he was a few years before the Harper's Ferry attack. — I shall be glad to hear of the safe arrival of the box.

Many thanks for yr. kind note of Feb. 16th & for yr. appreciation (much beyond its merits, I am sure) of my letter to you, an extr. from which you took such pains to get into the "Thunderer". You will understand I did not receive this note of yours, until my box for you was nailed up, and awaiting the carrier to take it; else I would have put the Atlantic Monthly, you ask for, in it. I really do not think it worth sending; it is not sensible, nor smart, nor witty, nor in any sense whatever worthy of Lowell; still you may like to see how silly a learned & wise man may sometimes be, and perhaps I'll send it. The publishers' clerk (the one having specially to do with the Monthly) told me that he knew it was dashed off in great haste, by Lowell, who must perforce write something for that No., and was rather at a loss how to furnish the spice just then needed. — M. W. C.'s lines in the Liberator were directed at the man, & at his past, rather than at any real force in his article. I believe he has wanted, for years, to "cut" the Abolitionists, — having got into the smooth, dignified, self-complacent, and change-hating Society of the College & its Boston circles. No man there can possibly be identified with Anti-Slavery without losing caste, & submitting to much slight & indignity;

Lowell has gone over to the world, and to "respectability", – of course becoming an adherent of a Conservative Church! Think how basely, & for what mean, low ends, the names of Christ & his Church are used! Dr. Howe's wife is n[illegible] responsible for some of those attacks on Phillips w[illegible] were attributed to her; and so far as she may hav[illegible] been ungenerous & captious at any time towards him, (he h[illegible] never in any way resented, or replied,) she made very large amends in a letter to the Tribune, written immediately after an late Annual Meeting, (which Mob & Mayor broke up,) and which appeared on the [illegible] page of a subsequent Standard, where you will fi[illegible] it without difficulty; – She speaks very grandly of Phillips there, tho' deprecating his allusion to a physica[illegible] stripe. Dr. Howe himself is a very staunch and thorough going Antislavery man; – he has never ~~quite~~ liked our movement, originally objecting to it because it had so little fight in it. But he has stood by Phillips well in this trying winter, repeatedly acting as one of his body-guard. I should not (myself) covet R. H. Dana Jr's praise. He has gone far lower, in politics and pro-slavery concession, than Lowell; has publicly (in the recent election) declared that Fugitive Slaves sh^d be given up, – that no law, or other distinction sh^d be put in the way of delivering up any slave, once proved to be such. The Republican Party will reward him it is said, by making him U. S. District Attorney for Mass^a – which is doubtless what he made his speech for. No more shameful and outrageous case has happened, under the infamous Fugitive Law, than the recent one at Cleveland Ohio, where Republicans took the matter into their hands,

and have the whole glory of returning poor Lucy, young & lately-married, into slavery.

Vol

I am sorry to hear how dull your business affairs are. The same is the universal cry here. In the uncertainty which overhangs our future, few are willing to launch out into any new, or very extended, business operations; but it seems rather strange to me that yr. country shd. be so much affected. I see the Times contends that England might lose its United States trade almost entirely, without being crippled, or essentially interfering with the amount of its productions and sales; and it proceeds to prove it; but still I think it somewhat exaggerates ~~the~~ its case. I don't believe that British manufacturers of iron, woolen, & linen (to say nothing of cotton) will agree with it. Yet I have never supposed that Amn. trade with G. Britain was sufficient to cause anything like a serious or general depression, if withdrawn. And I trust you will find other markets, (indeed not lose ours), & especially that you will grow cotton elsewhere, (Prof. Stowe was right in urging that on yr. attention years ago, tho' he gave it too exclusive an importance,) and, in so doing, strike a mighty blow at Slavery here. — I have no time to speak of the singular weakness, hitherto, of our new Administration. Very true they are placed in a very difficult position — intentionally so by the scoundrels who composed the last Administration; but they are disheartening the North by their shilly-shally course.

Ever truly Yours
Saml. May Jr.