

65- Anti-Slavery Office,  
New York, 19 May, 1862.

To the Executive Committee of the American  
Anti-Slavery Society:

Dear Friends,

The enclosed letter from  
Parker Pillsbury raises a question  
of editorial duty respecting which  
I am constrained to ask your ad-  
vice, or instruction. The first para-  
graph contains a bitter, and, as I  
think, gross reflection upon one of  
the ablest and truest friends  
of the cause; and the whole letter  
is predicated upon what I regard  
as a false assumption, viz: that

Leading men in our ranks believe  
that the work of <sup>the</sup> Abolitionists is  
"accomplished."

I am anxious to treat all  
the friends and agents of the cause  
not only with perfect fairness, but  
with magnanimity, and to do  
nothing that shall even seem to  
be inconsistent with the freedom  
of speech and of criticism that  
has always characterized our move-  
ment; and on the other hand I  
am exceedingly reluctant to make  
the paper a vehicle of unfriendly  
imputations by one ~~friend~~ <sup>champion</sup> of the  
cause upon his associates. I might  
print this letter without comment,  
but some of the persons alluded to

might ask to reply. I might print it  
with comments that ~~would probably~~ <sup>might or might not</sup>  
~~obviate~~ any wish on the part  
of others to reply. Or I may reject  
it altogether. My only anxiety is to  
do what is best for the cause.

It is right to say that I  
have written to Mr. Pillsbury a  
kind letter of remonstrance, asking  
him to withdraw his communication,  
but telling him at the same time  
that I will print it if he insists  
on my doing so, unless otherwise  
instructed by you.

Yours, faithfully,

Oliver Johnson,

Ed. A. S. Standard.

