

Wm Lloyd Garrison
Apr 6. 1863

Boston, April 6, 1863.

Dear friend May: 57

Your cousin writes to me from Leicester, that he learns that Theodore D. Weld lectured in Syracuse, a few days since; and as our Executive Committee are very desirous that he should be one of the speakers at the approaching anniversary of the American Anti-Slavery Society, in the Rev. Dr. Cheever's church, I send a note for him, at a venture, informing him of their wishes — thinking it very probable that, if he is not in Syracuse, you will know where to send it, so that he get it with the least possible delay. It is possible he may have gone to visit Gerrit Smith, at Peterboro', where he has a son who has long been a poor invalid. Weld has never appeared on a public platform in the city of New York, and we trust he will now be disposed to come forward.

How pleasant it would be to me, and to many others, to see you at that anniversary! But as between that and the New England Anti-Slavery Convention, — if you cannot be present at both, — I would prefer to have you at the latter, as your visit would be much more enjoyable.

How slow is the progress of the army and navy in subduing the rebellious South! I have no faith in Halleck, Grant, or Banks, to say nothing of others. The policy of the Administration is singularly paradoxical and self-defeating. Think of such men as Fremont, Butler, Sigel and Phelps laid upon the shelf, to propitiate the "copper-head" element of the North! No wonder the Proclamation of January 1st has produced so little effect at the South. But, perhaps, the more blindness and hardness of heart, — the more involved and desperate the struggle, — the more sure is the liberation of our enslaved countrymen. Freedom is to be won by judgment, not by repentance.

No matter where a Pharaoh exists, or where a Moses and Aaron demand, in the name of the Lord, that he should let the oppressed go free. They will be driven from his presence, and he will require plague after plague before he will give up his prey.

How vulgar and brutal, and yet how fearfully prevalent, is the spirit of colorphobia at the North! I am shocked to see how an all-wise God is constantly mocked and outraged in the person of the unoffending negro, even by those who claim to be refined, humane and Christian. Slavery has done a deadly and most atheistical work in engendering this spirit. It is to the soul as leprosy to the body.

The mildness of the past winter was any thing but favorable to the general health. As a family, we have had our share of illness. I have suffered a good deal from my implacable enemy, ^{the} catarrh. Wife, Wendell, Fanny and Franky have had the diphtheria, but not of a malignant type.

We are now all once more in usual health.

"Aunt" Charlotte Coffin calls to see us frequently, and is now at Dix Place, "as usual," she desires me to say — to which I will add, "as usual" assisting wife in the most indefatigable and disinterested manner, making her presence not only always most agreeable, but in every possible way truly serviceable. Wife often says that no such helpful visitor as herself ever comes within our doors. Charlotte sends her warmest love to you all, and reports all well at Roxbury.

How nobly George Thompson has labored to sustain our cause in England, and baffle the plots of the secessionists in that country! The friends of our Government ought to send him a handsome testimonial. I am about to make an effort in his behalf.

Give our household love to your dear wife and children.

Rev. S. J. May. Ever lovingly yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.