

Boston, March 1, 1841.

Dear Friend:

75- As usual, I find myself driven into a corner at the very time, to use a nautical phrase, when I want the most "sea-room." Our mutual friend Joseph Adshhead leaves immediately in the steamer for Liverpool, and I must communicate all I have to say in the course of five or ten minutes. I have had no opportunity to converse with him since his unexpected arrival in this country, as he has been on the move continually; and I am yet ignorant whether he came in reference to the British India movement, or for some other object.

I am very much obliged to you for your letter by the Britannia, and do not regret, on the whole, that bro. Collins has concluded to remain until the sailing of the steamer of the 4th inst.; though I trust he will not miss coming at that time, for his presence here now is indispensable. In whatever he has been called to encounter, on your side of the Atlantic, by the evil spirit that reigns there, as well as here, in the anti-slavery ranks, I deeply sympathize with him. The attempt of Nathaniel Colver to injure his character is exciting among all the true-hearted friends of our cause among us an intense feeling of indignation and abhorrence; and in the sequel it will be sure to recoil upon the head of that unhappy man. Equally abortive will be the effort of N. C. to affect my religious character by his absurd and monstrous statement to Joseph Sturge, that I have headed

an infidel convention. Even supposing the charge were true, I should like to know by what authority British abolitionists, as such, undertake to judge me, for this cause, on the anti-slavery platform. I need not say to you, that the charge is both groundless and malicious; that my religious views are of the most elevated, the most spiritual character; that I esteem the holy scriptures above all other books in the universe, and always appeal to "the law and ^{the} testimony" to prove all my peculiar doctrines; that, in regard to my religious sentiments, they are almost identical with those of Barclay, Penn, and Fox; that, respecting the Sabbath, the church, and the ministry, Joseph Sturge and I (if he be a genuine Friend) harmonize in opinion; that I believe in an indwelling Christ, and in his righteousness alone; that I glory in nothing here below, save in Christ and him crucified; that I believe ~~that~~ all the works of the devil are to be destroyed, and our Lord is to reign from sea to sea, even to the ends of the earth; and that I profess to have passed from death unto life, and know by happy experience that there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. The truth is, N. Colver has a mortal antipathy to all the distinctive views of Friends, and he regards them all as infidels: yet he writes to Joseph Sturge as though he fully agreed with him as to the nature of the Sabbath, and as though I held to purely infidel views on this subject!! Why does not Joseph Sturge, as an honest man

and a sincere friend to the anti-slavery cause, (I will not refer ^{to} his former professions of personal friendship for me,) inform me by letter of what he has received from N. Colver and others, touching my religious character? Why does he not express a wish to hear what I can say in self-defence? I confess, I am grieved and astonished at his conduct, and am forced to regard him much less highly than I once did. By the next packet, I hope to be able to address a letter to him on this subject.

I am sorry, very sorry, (and very much surprised, too,) that bro. Collins should have applied to the London Committee for aid or approbation. It was an error of judgment, simply; but, after what we, who sent him out, have said of ~~the~~ Committee, it looks upon the face of it like an ~~error~~ ^{position}. We supposed he would make his appeal to the abolitionists at large, and take his chance accordingly. I fear, also, that he may ~~have~~ not have been so guarded at all times in his language as could have been desirable, respecting the transfer of the Emancipator - a transfer that was certainly very dishonorable, and wholly unworthy of the character of those who participated in it. Yet I doubt not that the mission of J. A. C. will do much for our persecuted enterprise.

For what you have done to aid him, we all feel under the deepest obligations. May Heaven reward you a hundred fold! Fear not that truth shall not triumph over falsehood, right over wrong, and freedom over slavery.

The box, containing the Annual Reports, &c., failed to be got ready for the steamer, and so ~~they were~~ ^{it was} forwarded in a packet-ship from New York. Please let our friends in Scotland and Ireland have copies of the Report - also O'Connell, Bowring, Ashurst, Hewitt, ^{Buxton, Clarkson,} Thompson, &c. &c. See that all the members of the London Committee are supplied. The duties upon the box must have been heavy; and if J. A. C. did not pay them, let me know what they came to, and our Society will forward you the money. We do not expect or desire you to be at any charge for the same.

March /
1841

Wm. -
Melrose Press
or

Elizabeth Pease,

Darlington,

England.

Care of Joseph Ashhead, Esq.

I send you a few extra Liberator's for distribution, containing the action of our State Society upon N. Colver's charges, and also sundry speeches by Bradburn, Colver, and others. The sheet can be cut in two. Send it where it may be most needed - one to Sturge in particular.

We hear pleasing intelligence from Mr. and Mrs. Chapman at Hays. His health is better, and they are both in fine spirits. Wendell Phillips and wife are now probably at Leghorn. The fate of the Amistad captives will soon be determined. J. Q. Adams is now pleading their case in the most powerful manner. It is impossible to predict the result. - My best regards to your father and mother. - There is no one in the world that I have a stronger desire to see again than yourself. Yours, gratefully,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison