

Jefferson Ashtaibala Co. O.
March 1st 1863.

Dear Friend May,

Your reply to my letter of Feb 10th is before me, and I thank you for your attention to the questions asked.

I think I am fully aware of the responsibility I assume in speaking to you of Parker Pillsbury, and will tell you why I think of him as I do. In doing so I know the probability of my being misunderstood, and incurring the censure of those whom I justly respect, and who I know would not willingly do me or any other person a wrong ~~at all~~. I know also what has fallen under my observation may not impress others as it has me, especially those who have only known him as a devoted Anti Slavery Lecturer, slandered and malign-ed without stint or measure by those whose sins he has opposed and condemned.

His talents zeal and continued labors,
have won for him the esteem of those whom
you and I most respect, and they will be
slow to believe that with all his good qualities,
he can do what I know he has done.

Slowly and most unwillingly have I come
to the conclusions that I have, and with what
justice you can determine when you know
the causes.

Three or four
seasons that Pillsbury came west, he travelled
with myself and wife, in this state, Indiana, and
Michigan. I travelled with my own
carriage, and hence we had every opportunity
necessary to become acquainted with each
other. and by repeated conversations I
learned that he utterly repudiated the present
system of marriage. On this question we could
never agree for I could not see in it the
evils that he did, while I did see that the
most baneful consequences must result from
its abrogation. After we fully understood
each others views the question was not often
referred to between us. Yet I could not fail

to see the unhappy influence he and others
of our Lecturers had exerted, in the families
where they had exercised the most influence.

Discontent, alienation, and ruin, has been
the result. What is called Free Love was
advocated by Pillsbury and others, who while
reproaching the name elaborately enforced
the sentiment. If you have a file of the
Anti Slavery Bugle, you can see that Pillsbury
in No 396, covers the whole ground of
Free Love. Speaking of the Rights of
Woman he says. "This ~~question~~ reform
will yet send many families, and scatter
the fragments as the leaves of Autumn. No
other really involves half so many important
and vital interests. It opens the inner sanc-
tuaries of the whole social system. It is to
enter the very holy of holies in the family
relation, and all pertaining to it. The Rights
of Representation, of Occupation, of Compensation
of Education are only a part of the questions
at issue, and the least important part.

Closely connected with the out passage, are

the subjects of Courtship, Marriage and Parentage,
and whatever pertains to the birth ~~and~~ children,
who shall be their father, and how they
shall be reared and educated. On none
of these questions has woman yet been really
consulted. That even may be the physical or
moral defects and deformities of the husband.
Society holds her bound to transmit all these
qualities to another generation."

In accordance with these sentiments I have
heard him say that he knew Woman in Methu-
en who would be very glad to have him become
the father of children for her, but that the
present state of society would not approve
it. No other objection seemed to influence him.
Those who know his sentiments could not of
course fail to understand what he meant in
the above extract. It was an advertisement of
his position which would introduce him to
the confidence of the "Liberal on the Marriage
question" And it had that effect, and if you
were acquainted with me as I am, you would
see that those who have remained his
most intimate friends are only those who
are "Liberal" on this question.

During the time of our last tour to Indiana
together some things occurred that determined
the matter of our ever travelling together
again. The incident demonstrating

his involuntary freedom took place etc
at the house of a friend where ^{we} stopped

near Richmond Indiana.

Myself, wife and Pillsbury were under the necessity of occupying the same sleeping apartment.

The room was large and contained two beds some distance apart. In the morning, about sunrise or a little after, Pillsbury got out of bed, stripped himself naked, washed himself, and walked about the room in a perfectly nude state, entirely regardless of the presence of myself and wife. After he had passed out of the room I spoke to ^{my} wife of his indecency, who said as we were then on our return home, and should be together but few days at most, it might be better to say nothing of the matter to him. My wife could more readily excuse him than I could, as she was much more under his influence than I was, as subsequent events have shown.

But it was distinctly understood between myself and wife, that I would never travel with him again. In a few days we separated and I have had little communication

with him since. This occurred on the last
tour he took west, previous to his going to
Europe. I continued in Anti-Slavery work
and had good opportunity to know what
influences were affecting our friends, and most
painfully I learned that a theory of "Individual
Sovereignty" so nearly allied to Free Love that
it would reverse all its practical results, was
destroying many who had been our most
earnest associates. This I condemned,
but found that in proportion as I opposed
these sentiments, I lost caste with our friends
in the West. Pillsbury, and Henry C. Wright,
have exerted an influence here that can never
be eradicated. In conversation with
Marius Robinson and some other members
of our Western Ex. Committee, on my return
to Salem from the journey to Indiana where
the incident occurred which I have related
of Pillsbury, I told them what influences
were working, and that I would not travel
in Anti-Slavery work with any person who
publicly or privately advocated free Love.

Doctrines. And from that time an occasion
presented I never failed to bear my testimony
against this damnable heresy. But as some
members of our Committee were "Liberal" I
was considered impractical, not sufficiently
progressive, and so I stopped lecturing and
engaged in some other business. Statements
that I could make to you in this connection
would explain to you the failure of the Anti Slavery
cause in the West. The Death of the Bugle
the removal of Benjamin Jones from Salem
&c &c.

But in regard to
Pillsbury I was not further personally
annoyed by him until two years ago last
summer. Then he knowing that my wife
had adopted some Individual Freedom theory,
without in any way consulting, or referring to me,
he made an arrangement for her to be his traveling
companion through the West. This is
a most painful subject for me to refer to,
and I will now only speak of what I know
of Pillsbury's connection with it. Near
the time of the holding of the Anniversary of the

Western A.S. Society, I was from home, and
returning. My wife refused to receive me as a
husband. This determination of hers was entirely
unexpected to me. It is true that I had
observed for some time that she seemed to
be changing in her attachment to me
but I had never imagined she could
conclude to break up our family and
do as she has done. I was overwhelmed
with sorrow, such as can never be
described. It is utterly impossible for me
to convey to you, any idea of my suffering.
Time has in no sense obliterated them, and
I am enduring now, and ever shall, sorrows
that can never be described to, or comprehended
by another. —

I soon learned that Josephine had
determined to travel through the west with
Pillsbury and that the arrangements had
been made for a long time, without
my knowledge or consent. This was
two weeks before our Anniversary.
When the time for A. arrived, Pillsbury
came, and before I knew how far he
was implicated in the matter I conversed
with him, hoping I could induce him

to advise Josephine to abandon the course she contemplated, which must only result in the dishonor and destruction of our family. But I was met by his chilly doctrine of Individual Freedom, which justified all dissolutions of that kind. I then learned from him that he knew before he left Massachusetts that my wife had determined to separate from me, which was before any communication of the kind was made to me. Astonished and disappointed I was only left to suffer this most terrible infliction of sorrow, which was created and forced upon me by these pretended Reformers, without the possibility of availing or correcting it. Confounded, I knew not what to do, and since that time I have done little more than make unavailing efforts to save my family. You can never know how painful it is for me to contemplate or speak of this matter to

any one. And it was not without the most
careful deliberation that I determined to
communicate these facts to you. In doing
so I do not wish to do Pillsbury unnecessary
wrong. I, only, know how deeply he has
injured me. He first sowed in Josephine's
mind those seeds of death, which he has
since assiduously cultivated, that has
resulted in the destruction of my family
and influenced my wife to procure by
fraudulent representatives in Indiana, a
bill of divorce from me. If I could
secure the correspondence that has passed
between them, I should have no doubt of
being able to convince you ~~of~~ that
Pillsbury has greatly been the responsible
party in this whole transaction. But
that I cannot now do. Neither
can I reach the proof that I ought to
be able to, to demonstrate to you his
practices with his female friends who
accept all his theories.

About one year since business led

me into this country when I ~~met~~ met with some of our
 Anti-Slavery friends with whom I have been long acquainted
 One of them whose character for truth and
 veracity is unquestioned advised me that
 a number of our friends in this vicinity had
 adopted and advocated free Love views. He
 also said it was generally understood by them
that Pillsbury was a free lover, and he had
 been told by a friend of his, one of these persons, that
a married woman who resides in this county also
a free lover told him, that she had had sexual intercourse
with Parker Pillsbury, and she knew an unmarried
woman also who had. These are some of the reasons
 why I think of Pillsbury as I do, and why I think his
 occupying the prominent position he does in
 anti-Slavery work is injurious to those who are pure
 moral, and upright. The fact that he made the
 arrangement to travel through the west with my wife
 under the circumstances that he knew would be
 the destruction of my family, and afterwards
 covering it out as he did, from false guilt upon him.

That can never be denied or explained away.
No honorable free minded man ever did as he has
done, and those who sustain him know very well
guilt are participants in it. And it was because
I did not believe that you would endorse him if
you knew him as I do, that I have written to
you, and I shall be glad if you are willing to
do so, that you should communicate these statements
to Messrs Garrison, Phillips & Quincy. I have learned
that a report has been circulated that I have become
desolate, intemperate &c, and this is given as the reason
why I have not engaged in the Anti-Slavery cause as
I have been, and why my wife has separated
from me. Such representations are entirely untrue
and without any foundation, which you can ascertain
if you have any curiosity to do so. You will oblige
me by acknowledging the receipt of this, and if you
think I have not just cause to feel as I do please
tell me frankly. Truly Yours
C. S. Griffing