

(✓) Melodeon, Boston

Pm  
14  
May 31

8 3/4 P.M. Tuesday

Dear friend Higginson —

I did get your telegraph this forenoon, & have had my ears open, I made many inquiries; but have heard not a word as to the arrest.

W.F.C. too has been more about town today than I could be, & I understood, as

you'llk, he had heard nothing. They may pass it by. When I see you, I can give you my authority for the rumour, which I cannot yet wholly discredit.

— Should it take place — which I devoutly trust it will not, — your request shall be heeded fully.

I have been hovering between the Melodeon & ~~the~~ Court Square. I have been refused admittance to

the Court Room, & refused, tho' holding a Marshal's permit. — Mr. G. Browne of Salem was very rudely treated, for attempting to get in. —

The trial has proceeded all day, & at 6 was adjourned to 9 tomorrow morning. —

Several men, black & white, — the latter men of repute — have positively sworn to seeing and employing Byrnes here from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March — and the complainant says he escaped the 24<sup>th</sup> March. On this point, R. H. Dana Jr. feels (I understand) a good deal of hope, and others, cool & intelligent, think so too.

Knowing the might of the slave

Power however, I don't allow  
myself to expect anything. I  
can't avoid hoping. - It is a  
highly favourable circumstance that  
Loring's personal friends, as well as  
himself, have no stomach for  
carrying out the infernal Fugitive  
Law. - If I hear anything  
personally interesting to you, I will  
lose no time in telegraphing. -

Yours, with much respect  
& regard

S. May Jr

P.S.,

Since writing the above I have learned  
from C. P. Bossar (one of the Herald's  
reporters) more of the trial this P.M.  
He said he was present - that there  
were 14 witnesses who swore positively  
to the identity of Byrnes as a man

they had employed, or otherwise  
known, here about the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
March; - the evidence was so  
strong, that (he thought) there was  
scarcely a possibility that the case  
would be decided unfavourably.  
He says Hallett was not in Court  
this P.M., having given out that he  
was going out of town.

If I hope, it is with trembling.