

Deabam May 18. 1840<sup>A</sup>

Dear Friends:

Anne & Caroline were here on Sat. &  
 to hear from me the particulars of the Annual  
 Meeting at N. Y. I told me that there was  
 an opportunity to you this week. I accordingly  
 await myself of it, having missed me on  
 two through ignorance. I regretted missing  
 the opportunity what carried out to you the  
 tidings of the translation of little Festus that  
 it might have borne with them the assurance  
 (through I trust unnecessary) of my sympathy  
 with you in this new event of your lives.  
 The first death must be as marked, <sup>through</sup> & no  
 more solemn, an event in our domestic  
 history as the first birth. As no one can  
 understand the feelings of the newly  
 visited by the Angel of Life but one who has  
 received his blessing - so no one can apprehend  
 the emotions of those whose thresholds the  
 Angel of Death has overstepped, but he who



felt the rustling of his wings in his own  
domestic chambers. This experience I have not  
as yet had; but how soon may I have it!  
All I can say is I sympathize with you  
in your earliest household bereavement - and  
could the greatest master of consolation say  
more with all the comforts of your sole  
ten which the schools can afford? I was  
much shocked, on going to your father's on  
an accidental visit to town, to inquire for  
tidings of you, to be told that the dear child was  
dead. I was kindly permitted to attend the funeral  
in the afternoon. Your noble abuse was sad;  
but I rejoiced in the feelings <sup>that</sup> of the omnipresence  
in which all spiritual <sup>natures</sup> exist, <sup>presently</sup>  
~~of a~~ ~~separated~~ ~~natures~~ ~~exist~~, ~~presently~~  
any real separation whether in or out of the body.  
Can we be said to be parted when we are  
united to the spirits that we love, <sup>although</sup> ~~and~~  
continents or oceans or the shadow of death inter-  
-venes between us, ~~whatsoever~~ ~~is~~ ~~between~~ ~~us~~ ~~and~~ ~~them~~ ~~together~~  
by the invisible but <sup>all</sup> encompassing chain of Deity?  
Perhaps I felt none the less in this our firm



in consequence of the recent birth of a little daughter  
the first that has gladdened our home. All  
the accompanying circumstances were of the most  
profane & suspicious character; & we are as puffed  
as we dare to be.

You, of course, receive minute accounts of  
the A. S. history from your sisters. A good many  
strange things have happened since your departure.  
What a strange contort was that of Chace! Did it  
not take you by surprise? His mind must have  
been in a wretched state, I think, from some cause  
or other, & this was a manifestation of the deterioration.  
His letter resigning his place on the Am. Board  
was certainly a weak production, if it might not  
be characterized by a stronger epithet. To charge  
sectarianism & love of power on the poor Am. A. S.  
Soc. of 1841 did look like adding insult to injury.  
Lucinda Shelton said to me that we have more  
more trial than Paul had - he had "trials" among  
false brethren - while we also have trials among  
true brethren". Chace has the elements of a fine  
character - but they are mixed with much alloy -  
& I fear that the Devil has been busy striving to get  
the good inhabitants. I fear there is something  
of vanity, wounded pride, desire of greater prominence  
than he has had &c that has urged him on to this



step. I am confirmed in these suspicions by  
a story which Garrison told me of the way in which  
the matter was communicated to Johnson. Johnson  
was at N. Y. during the Standard & Chase  
came on. He was full of mysterious imputations  
& gave J. to understand that something very terrible  
was impending. After exciting Oliver's curiosity  
by his mystical demeanor for a good while, he  
gave him his communication, intimating that  
there was something that would astonish him.  
When Johnson had read it, he looked at  
C.'s face with his smiling goodnatured <sup>expression</sup> ~~expression~~  
Cubit you have at this moment before you  
(mind's eye) & said "Well, Chase, I think we can  
stand that!" The poor fellow evidently expected  
to produce a much stronger impression than he did.  
Chase was very particular about reading the proofs.  
Johnson overheard him soliloquizing as he read  
something to this effect. "That's heretical!" "I'm  
a Fact!" "Get Poor Chase!"

Caroline has told you, no doubt, of the news I  
gave her of the Norfolk Co. Abolition Soc. meeting  
here of the success of Luther Lee at the Fairmount  
for its serenity to the class, of the attack upon  
it by Follen (not G. W.) & the refusal of  
the Soc. to endorse or recommend it. I hardly



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was an unfortunate one. Without positive work done, he does the mischief of an abolitionist. But they will get across the Prop<sup>ty</sup> Board. We are looking for <sup>set</sup> to this fall other matters right. I trust the news will reach you by this opportunity of his return in the steamer which is momentarily expected. He seems to have been doing a good work in setting them by the ears in Sup. His work was that he was about attacking the papers of the Unitarians - may they stand & deliver like true men. Great fears are entertained of the Cop of the Steamer Pro from N. Y. for Liv<sup>er</sup> - sailed Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> and heard from. If no news is brought by the next Natan S. Packet fear will become destine. Poor Paddy Power was the only person on board whom I had ever seen - & I paid a dollar a night to see him.

~~scribbled text~~

Personal gossip  
not in any way connected  
with the A. S. cause

~~scribbled text~~

~~scribbled text~~







injustice & that he will not fear the imputation  
of anything.

This Spring is pronounced by "the oldest inhabitant"  
to be the most backward within the memory of man.  
It is now the 19<sup>th</sup> May & the elm trees are as bare of  
leaves as in winter - the apple trees just putting out  
their leaves & a few miserable cherry blossoms struggle  
for the sun. What a contrast to the balmy air and  
serene skies about 20 years ago. I trust their  
selectest influences are showered upon both of you.  
I suppose you are now beginning to think of retreating  
your faces homewards. A month or six weeks, I  
trust will restore you to us renewed in health  
& strength. I rejoiced at an intimation I had the  
other day that Dinah had not entirely departed out  
of your plans. It is now for sale & I trust by the  
time you return the proprietor will be willing  
to receive what it is worth (I do not know  
what he asks for it, but suppose like most men  
wise in his generation he holds it at a great above  
the market). I truly think that you could not find  
a more desirable residence - perfect seclusion, yet  
within an hour of town for 25c. - an excellent  
neighborhood - Pibleys people; T. Parker, G. Shaw,  
P. Russell, not to mention the apocryphal of Dedham  
& that though not least your humble servant.  
It is too good to happen - that is all - but still  
I hope. I dwell on the subject much peruse back



in a perpetual state of enthusiasm in the subject -  
which will brook no delay or disappointment  
Only think of the span you will have "to wobble round"  
in compared with Holt. What starts. Imagine the pleasing  
waters, the shimmering leaves, the waving boughs, the  
balmy air. Then the cows - the milk! the cream!! The  
butter!!! Then Cobles, stalwart steed, shall expand his  
cank sides & grow & burgen! Then the hens - the eggs,  
the chickens! Then the ~~chickens~~ <sup>the eggs</sup> under the greenwood  
tree - the walks in the sylvan shade - the romantic  
ride! Then the quiet, the repose, the peace! Then the child-  
-dren's emancipation restoration to their natural rights,  
"I could fight with them in this theme until my eyes  
could no longer way" - but I pause - leaving it  
to your imagination to fill up the detail of the picture  
George & his wife reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April  
the undivided society experiment having lasted long  
than anyone had foreboded. They became quite good  
-wits here - were certainly the two very best good  
natured people living. We think they may finally  
back get to Beabam. They were in hope that  
Hendell & his wife would return & buy the place  
with them - so that they might ~~all~~ live together -  
but Mr. P.'s health put an end to the plan. It seems  
he had a right to be off in paying a stipulated sum  
while alternative he chose. Think seriously  
of the Riverdale scheme - I do not believe anything  
selfishness aside, that you could be more devoutly  
retorted considering all circumstances. Then



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think that it will drag out a miserable existence  
for three months. I think during Tupper's reign it was  
the vilest thing of the kind I ever read. Swift could  
not have devised a more excellent burlesque on the  
political party organs. To see this little chat with  
his ruffed regiment of two or three hundred firms  
himself <sup>soaking</sup> all the <sup>party organs</sup> <sup>in</sup> Nat. Intell. was  
almost too much. For example - "The town clerk of  
Saco was elected by the Liberty party by a maj. of 38. Thus  
it goes down into the heart &c." "That Wagner was by  
Berkeley at the last election is now ready." "W. Lewis  
remains at the head of the Union, where we hope he will  
remain till the first Anti-Slavery President needs his ser-  
vices in the Cabinet!" "These are but specimens. But  
I apprehend the ridicule was too glaring even for  
third partyism to submit to - so he had to give place  
to S. S. Smith, whose poor Cummings said at the Por-  
folk Co. meeting they had believed to be an Abolitionist!  
but now he has given place to Alden - their financial  
agent!"

The Annual Meeting at N. Y. went off to admi-  
-ration. I attended the whole of it from Tuesday  
morning to Friday aft<sup>n</sup>. The attendance was very  
good - greater than in 1838 the only one I ever  
attended (excepting last year what was no  
civilians) when the old Exec. Com. was in the  
full blaze of glory. There were not many either  
from Mass<sup>t</sup> chiefly from N. Y. I seem to think  
The Anniversary was very excellent. <sup>James</sup>



Ed off by reading one of the Phalans - then he,  
Alvan Stewart, Rogers & Barleiss made Speeches  
in their best style. Alvan by way of showing his  
neutrality, spoke also of the Foreign Soc. in conf.  
But you must remember that he was not asked  
to speak at our meeting. All the services were  
voluntary & spontaneous. At the business meeting  
we enjoyed the fruits of the victory of last year  
& I gave Collins full credit for having achieved  
it. All was harmonious though not without differences  
of opinion & discussion. J. C. Fuller was full of  
objections - but was reasonable withal & not ex-  
-traneous - & left a favourable impression on the minds  
of the friends. She made mine D.P. for N. Y. in  
J. Smith's place. Linley Coates, our Pres., who left  
the Yearly meeting to come to ours, is the right  
man for our head - a good presiding officer  
& a thorough old-fashioned Abolitionist. How lucky  
that we did not choose J. Smith last year. I  
never felt more encouraged for the prospects of  
our cause than I did at leaving that meeting.  
What a contrast to the year '38 - when we were in  
the full tide of hollow profanity! Then we had  
a triple aristocracy of Anti-Slavery nobles to say  
nothing of the hosts of clergy. At the last meeting  
there were Smith, Goodell, the Tappans, Leavitt, Weld,



B. Jew, Phelps, Fincher, Kinney, Stanton, Gay - to  
say nothing of the endless array of postboys & agents?  
All gone - & yet we never missed them! Charles  
Summers & Noah Mack, a N. H. Freeville Baptist minister,  
were the only representatives of our clerical quires, that  
I remember - oh yes, there was John Allen besides.  
Still the numerical attendance was greater as far as  
my memory serves me - the ranks & file were there  
the officers only had deserted. But new stones ones  
had taken their place. Over three hundred dollars  
were contributed in cash & pledges for 7 or 800 were made  
by the meeting - besides pledges by Abby Kelly, O. Johnson  
& J. C. Jackson to raise \$1000 each - but w<sup>h</sup> I hope other  
means will be found to raise. One of the bustled desperadoes  
we had was as to whether we should adourn over the D. G. P.  
to allow those who chose to go to Lewis Vapour  
expedition of the Amistad Captives at 50's <sup>a night</sup> ~~stocks~~.  
I opposed the adv<sup>o</sup> as did Rogers & others, Garrison,  
Fuller &c advocated it - & after being once carried  
against the adv<sup>o</sup> - was afterwards carried in favor.  
I did not so, however. - I believe Garrison did not.  
We were in some discomfort for awhile at the non-  
arrival of M<sup>rs</sup> Child who was to take the standard.  
She appeared however, the next day having been  
retained by sundry accident by flood & field.  
She is in good spirits & seems resolved to hold up  
the flag to the breeze. I think she will not fail to  
been duty to New D<sup>g</sup> - which was the point where  
I feared she would be wanting. But she has a whole



honour of Lewis Tappan did please some what well  
stand her in <sup>stead</sup>. James S. Johnson is a jewel  
of the first water & his wife is like unto him. After  
with them - I have not seen two more lovable  
& more truly estimable people for a long time. Isaac  
T. Hopper is "the Prince of good fellows & wale of  
ould men" - a perfect picture of an old Quaker  
gentleman - the very best preserved man I ever saw -  
in his seventieth ~~fourth~~ year with scarce a wrinkle  
or a grey hair - free & active as a man of thirty five.  
I was pleased with Sarah Pugh & Mr. Neal of Phil<sup>a</sup> -  
who came in with some vague ideas of depolizing the Am.  
Loc. ~~Stopping~~ Standard &c but who went back straightened  
up - pledged to raise money & leaving contributions  
behind them. The ~~Phil<sup>a</sup>~~ Penn. Soc. the week before  
our meeting drew the lines by a vote of confidence  
in Am. Soc. & by appointing delegates for a vote  
of two to one. Returning through the found<sup>ing</sup>  
road a Temperance meeting in the cabin at which  
we all spoke. Garrison made a very good speech.

Mr Richards continued mischievously  
gave accounts from your sisterhood. This is a pretty  
fellow - & the trouble is ~~to~~ to know how to expose  
him without opening the Liberator to his interminable  
expontions. That he should have led astray the  
Rhymoth party is too bad - but a way will yet  
open. The choice of Adams as a member of the Board



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Why think what an A. S. town Dedham would become  
show it would radiate its abolitionism throughout the  
County, the State, the country, & the world! What a place  
to put "The Book" in shake. But I forbear. I am  
going in some day, soon to hear your last letter, read  
& thus get some autograph of your work - it will be a  
most saleable one in this Country & America.

But it is time that this protracted  
scrawl should draw to an end. It  
is no small proof of my friendship  
that I am willing to read it. But  
I know that a letter is a letter, es-  
pecially in a far country. I mention  
every particular in this letter is  
told two or three times at least by  
your various correspondents.  
Mais, à raporter, my food will  
name the less - for I have written  
as I would wish to be written to  
if I ~~could~~ were in the cities of the

sea. As I said before Caroline, Anne &  
Gleevy came over on Sat. 7 to see me, being unable  
to survive longer than ignorance of the N. Y. matter. Can-  
ceive my delight in having the first intelligence  
to communicate. They all seemed in good case and  
good meeting. Rogers remains to attend it. Having  
no more to say, I will now let go your button & release  
you. Farewell! God bless you both! Come back soon  
swell. Thy affectionate friend  
Edmund Quincy



Mr. Henry G. Chapman.

J. P. Maryline Esq.

Cape Haitien.



Edmund & Co  
May 18 1841