

~~Hope on the Cape~~
~~Devonport, Suedy~~



~~Write to J. H. Nickley, Hyannis~~

~~W. R. Martin, Centerville~~

~~W. L. Nathan, Colman, O. St. Me.~~

Samuel May, Jr. Esq.

THE
Wm. Still } Case
Wm. Wells }

21 Cornhill,

Boston, Ma

PAID
MAY 2
1844
P2

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 8, p. 7

Anti Slavery Office

Philadelphia, Mar. 2nd 1860

S. May, Esq.

Dear Friend:

It may not be uninteresting to you to know what about Mrs. Wells' Case at this time - hence I will write you a few lines touching the matter.

She arrived here a week ago today from the West, and ever since has been busy in making her arrangements for the trial. As yet however she has not been before the Grand Jury, except she went today or yesterday.

What their action will be of course I cannot say. One thing is certain however - if they do not find a true Bill, (and a very bad one) it will not be because of any lack of false swearing on the part of Mrs. W. & her Sympathizers: She has ^{in her favor} interested some very corrupt men here, whose hatred & enmity I have had for a considerable length of time. Therefore, with her experience, having been a Hair Dresser, Missess, travell^d with an Actress - with her natural & artificial smartness - to defeat her I shall be under the necessity of attending at once to my arrangement for the occasion.

True I was told by the district Attorney

That "a private letter is no libel &c", (nevertheless she will swear that it was put in your Office for public use against her, and other wise Circumstances, by which she was seriously damaged; such falsehoods coupled with testimony that some of her sympathizers here will furnish, taken from the whole cloth, may look plausible, especially as she may have some testimony of the same sort from St. Louis. Indeed I would not wonder if she was to have the Affidavit of one or two Traders, or other Slaveholders, who knew her, (had women have friends) there, to help her out.

She has made her boast that she is "going to break up the Underground Rail Road here, and as my letter ^{made} some reference to my having to "go after some ^{u. g. R. R. Pass.} the evening" it was written, it would not be surprising if our Democratic Judge was to allow his prejudice to ~~lean~~ ^{lean} towards the "pretty women". So if under all the circumstances I should be under the necessity of calling upon you to testify in my case, I trust it will be in your power to come. If your Affidavit would do, you would not be needed, but I have been informed that that would not do.

^{must} As her objects & aims are so wicked, nothing ~~but~~ ^{but} be left undone to fairly defeat her. The truth is her desire is to kill off my testimony, that

She may have an unlimited swing in the
begging field, both in this Country &
England. When she was here in the Spring
I heard ~~heard~~ ^{her} plan for visiting England &c.

Mr. Nell sent me two letters, one from
N. Bedford & another from Providence, both
indicating her deceptive character, which
will prove of service to me in the cross-examination
of her testimony. Before the Alderman, she refused
peremptorily to answer some of the questions put to her,
but before the Court, she will not be excused, yet
by affectation she may gain some sympathy.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest
convenience, I am ~~rem~~

Very Truly Yours
Wm. Still

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 8, p. 7