

Thus far, we have not deemed it expedient to take any notice of the Circular, in the Liberator. The committee will probably wait until the first number of the "true" (!!) Liberator shall have made its appearance, when it will, doubtless, be necessary for them to make a calm and plain statement of the facts in the case. This, of course, will suffice to satisfy all candid and honorable minds; (for nothing can be more absurd, or more untrue, (as you well know), than the charges brought against them, and myself in the Circular. So utterly, however, is the Circular drawn up, and so widely has it been disseminated, that it will probably do a great deal of mischief, and penetrate where no reply will be allowed to follow. I presume it will be widely disseminated in England, and not only through the agency of the London Committee.

Things move me." I wish to hear unrepiningly, may see fit to put up with me, I will not fear what man can do to me, nor by the machinations of any makes innocent.

You are doubtless be anxious to know, what is Knapp's prospect of success in the publication of his new paper. I have no means of knowing; but take it for granted that, among the numerous enemies of the anti-slavery cause in general, of the Massachusetts A. S. Society in particular, of the Liberator, and of myself, (slavery, pro-slavery, new organization, and priest craft, all combined,) he will not find it a very difficult matter to obtain an amount of funds sufficient to enable him to publish several numbers of the scandalous publication. The editing of the paper will be done, I presume, by Priskop, who will take the opportunity to discharge all the venom he has been collecting for these two years against the old organization. - As soon as the paper is issued, I will send you a copy.

The receipts of the Liberator, for the present year, will fall short of its expenses to the amount of about \$500. This sum will probably be made up by the kindness of friends. If you can obtain any new subscribers for the new year, in your region, or any one else, send their names along as a new year's present.

I wish you could be at our Fair next week. - But you, and Prop. Adams, and D. S. Childs, must not fail to attend the annual meeting of our State Society in January next.

Boston, Dec. 6, 1841.

Sir,

A sense of private wrong alone, should not induce me to address you, and other friends of the Anti-Slavery cause, in the manner I am now about to do. But contrary to all my expectations and the professions and promises of the present nominal proprietor of "The Liberator," I have been deprived of all my former right and interest therein. I have long suffered private wrong; and out of a regard to a cause and associates that had entwined themselves about my heart, I have remained silent as injury after injury has been inflicted upon me, till now I find myself deprived, by treachery and duplicity, of that which was the object of my fondest anticipations, and upon which I had placed my latest hope. The climax has been capped, the Liberator, which money could not buy, has been wrested from me under circumstances which, however they may look in the eye of the law, (and it is not now my object to pass judgment on the legality of the transaction) should cover my former associate, Mr. Garrison, with shame, and his prompters and counsel with the brand of ineffable meanness.

There is a long story to tell, relating both to former and recent transactions, concerning my connection with the Liberator—the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society—the conduct pursued towards me in a great variety of things by members of the Massachusetts Board—the treacherous course of Mr. Garrison—the issuing of a certain "confidential" circular—and many wrongs and misrepresentations sent abroad—to all of which, as I before intimated, I have remained silent through regard to old associates and the cause—and, lastly, concerning recent transactions, by which my right in the Liberator is wrested from me, and all propositions and offers on my part, such as the granting of ample security that it shall be regularly published in as faithful a manner as at present, and any thing the most timid need to ask, are unavailing to regain my wrested right, and mostly through the influence of one merciless, hard-hearted, rich man. I have even been denied the most humble situation in the Liberator office, at a time too when Mr. Garrison well knew that I was absolutely suffering for the want of employment—this refusal was also more through the influence of the same person.

Now I wish to tell my story—both for my own sake and that of the cause—to publish confirmatory statements of my friends, and a variety of documents and matters bearing on these and on collateral points; and also to furnish a medium for others who have been and may be outraged, to tell their tales of wrong. The whole will show most clearly one thing; namely, that however many inferior causes may have been at work, the great and overshadowing reason why there has been so much division and mutual alienation in the anti-slavery ranks, has been the selfish and deceptive conduct of Mr. Garrison and others at his elbows.

The Liberator is no longer a free discussion paper, but has departed from its original character, and is the organ of a *clique*, always ready to puff and extol all those who will obsequiously bow to and profess the utmost faith in their receipt—and as ready to condemn, as pro-slavery and enemies of virtuous liberty, all who dare express a doubt of its infallibility. Many well authenticated statements, to support this charge, will be made. Therefore it is useless for me to apply to it as a medium of communication with the public. I want to start the "true" Liberator; and if it is not needed weekly, my design is to publish it occasionally, until I have had an opportunity of telling my story, and such other things as will open the eyes of such of the people as are now blinded. I am resolved, if aided by the same power that sustained me in former times, in my early connection with the Liberator, and bore me up in the conflict when I stood alone at the helm, in those stormy days of mobs and peril, to publish a paper, to be called "Knapp's Liberator," as often as there may be a call for it. The first number will be issued in about two weeks, but I want orders for the paper, or money sufficient to pay the actual cost of paper and printing, as I cannot afford the expense myself—therefore this circular has been written. If you are disposed to contribute any amount toward the object, either of the gentlemen below named will receive it and be responsible for its economical expenditure.

I have written frankly. Efforts will doubtless be made to misrepresent the facts and to forestall the statements—such efforts will, perhaps, in some instances almost deceive "the very elect." But all and more shall be made out if I have the means furnished me of publishing my statement together with those of my friends and others who may have been similarly wronged.

Respectfully, yours &c.,

ISAAC KNAPP.

The undersigned having been familiar with many of the circumstances relating to Mr. Knapp's connection with the Liberator—the measures taken, about two years since, to obtain it of him by lease—and more particularly with the method recently taken to deprive him of all interest in it—are decidedly of the opinion that he will be able to establish all he sets forth in the above circular. At the request of Mr. Knapp we have consented to receive all money which may be forwarded to us, and shall endeavor to disburse the same judiciously.

J. CUTTS SMITH.
HAMLETT BATES.

Within the past fortnight, up to the present hour,
our house has been turned into a hospital. The influenza
has attacked almost every member of the family with great
violence. Mellen was first taken - then Mary - then Anna -
then Sarah - then Helen - then the children - and then
Elija. They were all brought down within a few days of each
other, and have had a very serious time of it. Mary, Sarah
and Anna have been confined to their beds. Their coughs have
been very bad, attended with fever and sore throat. I am
happy to say they are all now convalescent; though it will be

days.

George W. Benson,
Northampton,
Mass.

MAILED
JAN 21 1890
No. 10
Post Office

some time before they will fully recover. Anna has not
yet left her room: the others are able to come below
stairs. I have had a very light attack. The weather
for some time past has been wet and spring-like, and
the atmosphere humid and foggy; and no doubt the
influenza will spread like a malignant epidemic far
and wide. We are anxious to hear from you and yours,
and trust you have not been afflicted as we have been.
I do not know when I can visit Northampton; but if you will
come to our State meeting, perhaps, I will return with you.
Give my best regards to Mr. Adam and D. S. Child.