

Leicester, Feb. 17, 1861.

Dear Mr. Garrison;

25- I am very glad to hear, by my wife who returned home yesterday, that you feel well enough to go to the Office every good day, and I hope you may gradually recover your strength and enjoy good health. - She brought also the painful tidings that Mr. Jackson was much more ill, ~~again~~, and that there were many fears that he would not get about again. Well! he has fought a good fight, and kept the faith as unflinchingly & steadily as ever did mortal man. The early & original Abolitionists were surely a remarkable company of men and women - the salt and select few gathered out of the nation's millions. Their places when vacant will never be filled. Let us hope that other places, as demanded by the progressive times, will be as well filled as they, - many of them no longer among us, - filled theirs.

Our late Annual County Meeting at
Worcester did not accomplish much, or
amount to much, beyond the facts that
we held it, that it was very numerously
attended, (~~larger~~ ^{the} ^{larger} numbers ^{than} for ~~many~~
years before,) and that it was perfectly
decorous & orderly from beginning to end.
In these rude & violent times, - when the lowest
indecency & vulgarity, (which usually hides
themselves out of sight,) come into the most
public places, court notice, exhibit all their
foul proportions, and manifest the true
character of the Union they support (!) it is
something to have had such a meeting as that.
But, beyond that, little was accomplished.
Stephen S. Foster, with little regard to the
reasonable amount of time which was his
share, consumed the lion's share at each of
the 3 sessions; - in a way to excite the
attention

of the less-informed part of the audience, but
not to repay that attention with ^{much} ~~any~~ truly
useful doctrine. He spoke some $3/4$ of an
hour in the a.m., about $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours, P.M., and
upwards of $1/2$ an hour in the evening. He
combated, in his usual manner, the idea
that the Union was, or could be, dissolved. The
seceding States must be, and would be, forced
back, if necessary, into the Union, and the
North, as bound in duty & by the Constitution,
would proceed to liberate the Slaves; U.S.
Commissioners would be appointed in the
North, who would set free every fugitive Slave,
on the ground that he 'owed' no service, &c.
And we were entertained with this stale &
musty ~~talk~~ talk, worthy of poor Mellen,
dished up in every speech, and no matter
what the particular topic might be ^{on} which
he commenced speaking, and shrieked forth
in a manner almost deafening. - Fred
Douglass, tho' announced to be there, was not, -
having sent no message or excuse. - Foss

spoke twice, - very well in the former, but his time was quite cut short in the evening - Lizzie Holley was present, and very much disappointed at the turn which Foster gave the meeting, but no entreaties could get her to say one word to the audience. Herland withstood Foster, and quite silenced him on one point, - a rather unusual achievement.

Higginson gave one evening speech - really quite open to Foster's criticism that he could not find out from it what Higginson's position (about Union & Secession) was. But

Let me congratulate you on being "Dear friend Garrison" once more, in the epistles of good P. J.! - The mob spirit has followed him as well as others. What a development of vulgarity, beastliness, nastiness, have these pro-slavery mobs afforded! Fit allies of Slavery - fit props of the Union. The dogs will have their day, but 'twill be a short day, and one they will rue - our thoughts have been much at the Music Hall to-day. - This is not for publication, of course. Ever truly Yrs
S. May Jr.