

Ms. A. 1. 6. 1. 75
Leicester, June 14, 1859.

Dear Mr. May;

We have kept tolerably good track of you in your movements. Father has had I believe two letters from you. Yours to me dated Rome, April 9, now lies before me. We have occasionally seen a Syracuse paper. But our chief source of information has been the "Antislavery Standard", wh. has copied many of your letters, - I do not know but all, so far as it has gone. The last I read was from a Syracuse paper which Father received a fortnight since when I was in Boston, and was written at some small places where you made a brief tarry between Rome & Florence; since which I have not the least intimation of your progress. You would find no serious difficulty at Florence, I suppose, on acct. of the war, but beyond that would not probably be able to go comfortably by land, and we imagine you getting back to France, by water, & perhaps going thence into Suisse, & the Rhein-land. We have been much interested in your letters, & especially enjoyed with you your seven weeks in Rome. What a wonderful spot it is - what monuments of a various and stirring past - what a (comparatively) lifeless and stagnant present now sits sluggishly on the field of the most active life and the most extraordinary events the world has almost ever seen. A great good fortune it must have been for you to meet Mrs. Tuckerman there, so highly qualified to be your guide, and I doubt not at least an equal pleasure to her to be able to assist and accompany you in your studies and observations ~~at~~ Rome.

ancient and modern.

The time draws nigh when you were to arrive in London - July 1st - and I am hoping to have this seasonably meet you there, and convey to you information on some of the prominent Anti-slavery facts in the history of our degraded and self-condemned country. Be sure there are yet a few who have not bowed the knee to the Moloch or Mammon idols which this country worships, and who will not. If God will yet spare and save this land, because of this little handful of true prophets and workers of righteousness, - it will be solely to his long-suffering, and not to the least claim, or shadow of desert, on the part of this people, that it is owing. -

I have kept no special record of events since you left, and shall have to rely chiefly on my memory for such facts and hints as this note may contain. When last in Boston, I mailed to you, (care Barris, Bros. Co.) 3 or 4 late Standards, full of matter of interest to all who watch the developement of this great question. And I am sending, with this, sundry newspaper excerpts, which cannot fail to be of use to you, whether in coming to your own individual hearings in regard to the present aspects of the counter forces of Slavery & Liberty, or in any public addresses or statements you may feel called upon to make. I have numbered them, simply as indicating their order in point of time.

1. The first note-worthy thing I shall name is the Renewal of the African Slave Trade - a fact no longer to be questioned. And when you observe, by one of the ships enclosed, that the

Boston Daily Advertiser sees that the "African Slave Trade is actually Revised", you will not doubt that every body else in the country saw it, some time earlier. You will notice that the slaves brought by the Wanderer and many other vessels, from Africa, have been distributed through the slaveholding States, openly advertised for sale, & actually sold at largely remunerating prices, and that without the least interference or notice from the Federal Government or its Officials.

2. Perhaps the next most note-worthy & instructive thing is the rescue of an alleged slave by a party from Oberlin, Ohio, & the neighborhood, made up of professors & students in the college, merchants, farmers, mechanics, & laboring men, — the subsequent arrest of the Rescuers, to the number of nearly 40, & their confinement under Federal authority in one of the jails of the State of Ohio.

3. Perhaps the most note-worthy of all is that while these Rescuers, whose crime consisted in saving a man, resident among them, from slavery, are tried, found guilty, fined and imprisoned, and in every way harassed and annoyed and vexed, the Slave-traders of the Echo, and the Wanderer, &c. are tried, found not guilty, and set free, to go at large, without penalty & without rebuke, although we have a law which declares their act to be Piracy, & although their crime was the heinous one of stealing hundreds of innocent men & women from their distant homes, and bringing them by force across the ocean, & selling them into slavery for life — with their children after them.

Our Government and ^{its} officials look on, and lift not a finger to hinder or to punish the slave-trader, (but on the contrary to protect him,) while they leave no stone unturned to convict these Ohio men, guilty of no wrong, and to visit suffering, loss, & disgrace (if they can) upon them, for an act of mercy & true nobleness. — If these things do not conclusively demonstrate our Nation's true character as base, oppressive, hypocritical and false, to the last degree, — what could do it?

The recent discharge of an alleged fugitive in Philadelphia after a long examination of his case before a U.S. Commissioner, is hailed as a proof of progress in the right direction of the public sentiment of Pennsylvania.

I hope you will take special note of the recent action of the American Tract Society. This Society, ^{as you know, is,} almost equally with the A. B. C. of Foreign Missions, the representative & exponent of American Evangelical Religion. A month ago, in New York, it refused to re-affirm its action of 2 years ago, calling on its Committee to issue tracts on the "moral evils" & "moral duties" connected with Slavery; — it tumultuously & by a vast majority refused to instruct its Committee to issue any tract against the Re-opening of the African Slave Trade; — it likewise refused to adopt a resolution, to the effect that, if the Committee should publish such a tract, the members of the Society would be gratified thereat! — Even Ad Gardiner Spring acknowledged the Society had got itself into a very bad box by rejecting that last resolution, and tried to creep out at a very small hole indeed; but the hypocrisy was too transparent. This action should be explained, sounded, & reiterated all over Gt. Britain & the civilized world. — But I can go no further, for want of room.

P. P. Carpenter came to our office about 3 wks. since. He asked when you would return home. I said your plan was to be at home by Oct. 1; but that you might come earlier, if your purse did not hold out. He said, very emphatically, that your travelling expenses might be very greatly reduced in England, if you would only make yourself known, among the Unitarian ministers, &c. who, he said, wd. rejoice to receive you & entertain you at their houses, & he hoped you would do so. I enclose a slip he left for you.

I am now at home on a furlough! My health has been very poor this spring, and is not now good. Our Board of Managers, without any request or hint from me, voted me a summer's respite, and have put Mr. E. H. Heywood, for the time being, in my place. Sarah has been very ill this spring. She is now somewhat better. Our children all well.

The paper had a very interesting letter from Mrs. J. W. Edmond, visited when he had been 5 weeks at sea, & put on board a partying ship, & I have no doubt and will miss in both love to you. Also leave remembrance to all affectionately to John & Mrs. E. — Mrs. E. even better, & I have no doubt