

Plymouth Dec 15-1844

Dear Mrs Chapman.

As Abby left for the meeting this evening, she proposed that I should write, & request you to urge Wendell Phillips & Edmund Quincy to come to the Convention at Philadelphia on the 23<sup>d</sup> if they could see the facts in relation to the matter or the necessity of their presence as we see it, it would be unnecessary to urge them, for I know that they would attend if possible. The present prospect is, that we shall have an immense gathering, & if Thomas Earle takes the opportunity to advocate his peculiar views, as he has at some of our meetings which he has attended, it will need those who are best prepared & most thoroughly versed in the 'non voting' theory to show the absurdity of his position. I have great confidence in the ability of those who are now here to do this, for they have done well in the discussions that they have had with him, but still if we could have those two friends from Boston in addition, we should ~~the~~ <sup>be</sup> sure of a victory. He is so much given to sophisms, & to hair splitting, - he is so ingenious & crafty, that it needs a tremendous thunder storm after every speech to clear the moral atmosphere of the impurities with which he freighted it.

His arguments appear plausible to the superficial thinker, so he necessarily draws a multitude after him. Judging from what we have seen, we can but consider him the worst foe the slave has in Eastern Pennsylvania, & the Society with which he has been associated as an agent, but which has recently discarded him, are coming to the same conclusion.

He says that Slavery is not a sin under all circumstances, — he is circulating a petition for compensation to the slave holder. — & his deadly hostility to the non voting system is well known to yourself. I hope that Wendell & Edmund will not fail us, tell them that the redemption of this state from the blighting curse of Thomas Earle's influence rests, in a great measure upon their shoulders.

There is not probably another place in the U. S. so favorable to the Disputation question as this. The influence of the Nonvoters, & the principles (not the practice) of the Friends have prepared the way for the discussion, & I hope the adoption of this position.

Our reception in Pennsylvania was truly gratifying. We found some of the warmest of hearts & purest of spirits to bid us welcome. We were accompanied for two or three of the first days by our good friends Willer McKim, Edmund Davis, Benjamin Jones, Mary Green, C. C. Burleigh, & others, all of whom except Mary met us again last evening at Harrisburg. Dr. Russell is journeying with us, & we divide our forces so as to have as many meetings as possible.

We have been in the State 8 days, & have had 30 meetings; all very well attended. Most of the antislavery of this region is found among the Friends - Quakers, & they have not enough to open their houses for me or yet to see the inside of a Quaker Church. We find the people exceedingly hospitable, & they convey us from place to place, which certainly is a great convenience. We do not have much success in collecting funds, the people are not accustomed to giving to sustain this enterprise as they are in New England. But I will add no more as Abby has promised to finish the letter.

Yours affectly  
Jane Elizabeth

My dear Friend -

It is very late and my brain is quite worn out but I must add one word - And first let me say that we have collected a decent amount of funds for this first week \$2,000 - I think we shall do very well for the future as they like us Bucks Co. in which house been is not so generous as other sections. But our object in writing is to speak of the necessity of Wendell's and Edmund's attendance of the meeting in Philadelphia on the 23<sup>d</sup> - There is not except in the city any of the third party spirit such as you see in N.Y. and N.C. - It is not to defend the Church it is not to qualify demagogues it is not a partisan spirit - It is merely to bear testimony - Now we have exhausted our stock of arguments to bring them on to the true ground and they are almost persuaded to be converts. A full and clear exposition

of the beautiful position of the true abolitionist and  
of the vast amount of moral power which he can wield  
in that position will I trust ~~be~~ persuade them entirely  
to abandon the traitor's camp — If we wait till they  
are fully committed it will be difficult to bring  
them out. — Edmund is needed to show them that  
Leicester party is the old traitor, new organization,  
which is held with a perfect hatred — When they come  
to see this they will forsake it. — I cannot believe but  
they will come. —  
Yours truly Abby K.

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Hess

Ms. A. 9. 2. 20. 123

Dec. 15. 1844

P.S. Do not think we write at the solicitation  
of the friends here — They have not urged or even  
asked us to write altho they are exceedingly anxious  
to have them here — We write because we see the need  
of this promise here