

Phil^a Dec^r 11th

Dear Mrs Chapman:

If I am to go into the
subject Bell I should have pre-
ferred to do ^{to} or some other
subject than that of fugitive
slaves, as it may give the
impression to some of our
friends abroad, to whom I have
had frequent occasion to write
on that score that I am a
man of one idea, literally, -
that idea a very narrow one.
But if you think it will
subserve the cause I'll not
object. I have written fre-
quently to friends in Dublin
& Edinburgh on this subject with
a view of interesting in the
general cause a class of
minds which could be success-
fully approached through us

other avenue. There are only
a few, unfortunately, who can
understand an abstract idea
or can comprehend a general prin-
ciple. To make a thing intelli-
gible ^{to the masses}, it must be incarnated.
To make our anti-slavery prin-
ciple fully understood you
must put legs on it; the
people must see it running
- with the whole pack of
priests, politicians, and other
bloodhounds, bipedal & quadru-
pedal, after it in full cry;
thus like children with picture
books they may be led from the
concrete back to the abstract,
& made to comprehend some-
thing of the length & breadth,
the height & depth of our
boundless cause. I should not
want Richard Webb and other
friends of like faith and dis-
cernment to suppose, from

the frequent recurrence of my
letters to this topic - they were
off-shoots of an enterprise that
I took upon it as many do
and greatly over-estimating its
importance. I think however
that what I said in my letter to
you will show that I am a
dentist, & will perhaps help
others to understand the
difference between the
size & the thing signified.

It must be confessed how
ever that this vigilance com-
mittee believes, especially here
at the grand gateway through
which all the "favours" of the
Atlantic are forwarded empty
has assumed a new
importance. It has important
concern bearing in the cause
at the north
& imposes new duties on the
friends at the north. of this
perhaps more ^{especially} ~~and~~ it
concerns the anti-Slavery office
and cause at New York

M. McKim
Lewis Tappan has made capital out of it there. The same thing has been attempted here, but we have prevented its success.

— on the re-enforcement does
how what you say to Miss Pugh
confirms my impression that
while the reasons avowed may
have influenced the committee,
the original & paramount cause
which led to the measure adopted
is not stated. I am glad your
hopes & efforts are so high; ours
are ^{high} also; though not in view of
the change we have made
in the Standard. We don't stand
on our dignity - but the fact that we
could have "added nothing" to you
not sufficient reason for not having
conferred with us. When Tallyrand
took his secretary to task for not
writing to him on a certain occa-
sion, the secretary said "I had nothing
to write" - "Then" said Tallyrand "you
should have said you had written & passed
it." - Nevertheless we don't now
have meant to make a
point of this - our cause is not
up of paper and not from paper
or personal charges.
Truly very for the cause
M. McKim