

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 1, p. 18

Mendon Feb 18 1841.

Rev Saml. May

Dear Sir & Am.

Your communication of the 12 inst., in behalf of the Joint Meeting of the Executive Committees of the Worcester North & South Division Anti Slavery Societies, reached me on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I see & feel the need of new & vigorous efforts to revive the true Anti Slavery energies of the people, now torpid, & almost defunct in this County. But my engagements Pastoral, Editorial &c. are at present such that I hardly know how it would be possible to comply with the invitation of the Committees for whom you speak. I frequently lecture on the subject of Slavery as I find the door open, & probably could render more of the same kind of service to the cause in the neighboring towns, if I taxed myself a little heavier. But to bring much to pass, I think it would require me to give up the most of my time & thought to the work. If I do this, I must relinquish my parish, & ~~perhaps~~ <sup>the supervision of</sup> my paper, the Practical Christian - though perhaps not wholly the last. I believe I could by divine aid effect a great change in the A.S. Character of Worcester Co. - if I were to give myself mainly to that object. As it is, too many irons in the fire would hardly allow me to do justice to all - perhaps to none.

I have thought that it was best on the whole not to engage at present to perform the service requested. Sometimes I have thought I would resign my pastoral office entirely, & go more into the reform causes of the day; but I have not yet decided to do so. What may be by & by, I know not. Should I take my liberty, I might then throw myself upon the people more at large. As it respects the means of support I never have been extravagant & do not wish to become so. A decent competence I should desire in common with my fellow men.

I suppose a lecture in this County or elsewhere must depend pretty much on the liberality of a few friends of the cause, or rather on the interest he might awaken among the people - evidenced in the way of contributions. Things are in a bad way among us at present; & I pray that some new movement may spring up to restore the languishing tone of the A. S. voice in the Wilderness.

There is a very worthy man, a Pro Minister of mine now out of business residing in West Boylston, <sup>David R. Lamsden</sup> - a good man & true toward the store, as in every other good cause.

I wish you would engage him in your service. I think (though I do not certainly know) that he would like to engage in the cause, if he could be but moderately compensated. He is a good lecturer - though not so popular & stirring as some perhaps. You know

him I presume. He was settled in Berlin sometime  
since. He is so pure minded, sincere, & prudent,  
& at the same time respectable as a writer & speaker,  
that I feel sure he could render good service to  
the cause. Let me receive a line from you again  
soon in answer to this, with such further explanat-  
ions of the plan of operations as you can conven-  
iently give.

And meantime, believe me your & the slave's  
friend & humble servant, - Adin Ballou

Mended Mrs  
Feb 18.

Recd. Feb. 19.

O

Rev. Samuel May

Leicester  
Ms.