



Samuel May Jr
Anti Slavery Office
Boston
Mass.

ms. B. 1. 6 v. 9. p. 94

Jefferson Ash Grove Co. Ohio

May 25, 1863.

Dear Sir,

Your of May 9th is received and although you explicitly say you decline any further considerations of my representations against Mr Pillsbury, I feel it is my right to reply to some things in your letter. The principle point you make is that I am not an unbiased and disinterested witness, and therefore you do not believe the statements I have made. As I know every statement I have made to you is literally true, I know I am a competent witness. And if you have sought to invalidate my credibility, common courtesy would require that before deciding against me you should have given me notice of that fact and an opportunity for defence. As you have not done so, I think I have a right to ask you what are "the statements of others," and who are the "others" that represent to you that I am a biased

or interested witness in a sense that ought to
discredit the statements I have made to you.

The principle of setting aside all testimony
where the witness may be interested to have wrong
appealed or guilt punished, or because the
witness may be the only person who may have
a full knowledge of the facts, never ^{has} prevailed in
courts of justice, or in any other investigation
for truth.

You do not apply such a rule
in other cases, and ought not to in this.

When the slave comes from the Southern plantation
and tells you of the hypocritical pretensions
of his master, of his tyranny and lust; when
he tells you how that master has caused him
to suffer in his own person, and in his family,
because others do not know what the master has
done, or knowing do not condemn him but "testify
to his uniform excellence and circumspection!"
do you refuse to listen to his complaints, and
tauntingly tell the sufferer as you have me, ~~you~~
"you are not an unbiassed and disinterested witness,
and we cannot allow to your charges any real weight!"

If in reply to this you say the principles of
Slavery legitimately produce the wrongs complained
of, therefore we may with propriety accept the
testimony of the slave, I can with equal force
say, the principles set forth in Mr Pillsbury's
article in the Anti Slavery Buzle to which I have
referred you, as legitimately produce the action I
complain of.

If you endorse that article,
I think I have a sufficient explanation of your
endorsement of Mr Pillsbury now.

If you do
not endorse it then you certainly have some
unimpeachable evidence against the uniform
excellence and circumspection of Mr Pillsbury, which
you are in honor bound to consider, in connexion
with the representations I have made to you.

When Mr Garrison had reason to believe that
Frederick Douglass had sinned as Mr Pillsbury has,
he did not hesitate to condemn him and publish the
facts in the Liberator. And it was Mr Garrison's
testimony in favor of the sanctity of marriage.

Was it of more consequence that Frederick Douglass
should be chaste and virtuous than that it is for

Peter Pillsbury, to be so now? And had not
Mr Garrison the testimony of an interested witness
Had not many friends of Mr Douglas honestly
willing to ^{testify to} his uniform excellence and rectitude
so far as they had any knowledge of his conduct?

Certainly Mr Douglas has never published in
paper such Free Love sentiments as Mr Pillsbury
has in the Eagle, and according to my recollection
the evidence against Mr Douglas here was
half as conclusive, as it is against Mr Pillsbury.

I have no apology to offer for thus
continuing to press upon your consideration the
importance of the Central Anti Slavery influence
repudiating the Free Love spirit and practice
some advocates of this reform. There is a necessity
for it and it will be done. Either from the result
of a candid investigation now, or under the
pressure of a public exposure hereafter.

I hope you will do me the justice of informing me
immediately what statements have been made to
discredit my veracity, and by whom such statements
have been made.

Yours &c

C. S. Griffing