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Leicester, Jan. 18, 1843.



Dear Sir,

Your letter, dated Jan. 5th, inviting me to attend a meeting at your house on the evening of the 9th with reference to the Liberator, was received by me yesterday Jan. 17th. By a post-mark, I perceive the letter was mis-sent to Plainfield, Mass., but why detained there so long I don't know. It bears the Boston post-mark of Jan. 5., and Plainfield post-mark of Jan. 13. -

I doubt whether it would have been in my power to attend the meeting, had I received the invitation seasonably, inasmuch as it is my purpose to attend the Annual Meeting next week, and I could not well be absent twice so nearly in succession. It would have been a strong temptation, nevertheless, - for I should have enjoyed the meeting greatly, I do not doubt. Whether I went or not, however, I should

have taken some notice of your letter; and I write ~~this~~ ^{now} for my own sake, that you may not suppose me intentionally neglectful of your invitation.

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I shall feel desirous of knowing what you determined to do, with reference to the extended circulation of the paper. What little I can do, I will do gladly, to help the Liberator to more subscribers. This is not a new subject to me. I have looked around our town, again & again, to find such as I might ~~obtain~~ prevail upon to take the Liberator; but it has seemed to me that such were not to be found here. We have many Abolitionists, so called. Some, for one reason, some for another, will not however take the Liberator. There are a few well-disposed to take it, and who gladly read it; but who are not (I suppose) able to pay the subscription-price. — On the other hand, the Standard has from 30 to 40 subscribers here. Do you ask why? I answer, I suppose you know the several reasons ~~which~~ ~~actuate~~ for this as well as I, at least. One is that, with the sect of the Pharisees, the Standard has not yet gained the distinction of being an infidel paper; consequently, the Standard goes into quite a number of "evangelical" (Heaven sake the mark!) families — Orthodox, Baptist, Quaker, etcetera. Another reason is that the subscription-price of the Standard is extremely low — our subscribers paying, generally, but \$1.67 per annum for it. 304. Uncommon exertions have been made in

behalf of the Standard, whereas no Agent has ever
appeared in the tour (to my recollection) in behalf of the
Liberator. Moreover, James Munroe is a capital agent,
and one who mingles the suaviter in modo with the
fortiter in re to a remarkable extent. As has been
said of Abby Kelley, he says tremendously severe things
in a very easy & insinuating way. 4th. The Standard
is of a character to meet the state of the popular mind,
as you must be aware, far ~~more successful~~ better
than the Liberator. I have no doubt it would lose the
ear of very many persons, were it to assume a bolder
tone, & carry a keener edge. Still, I cannot
avoid wishing that it ~~would~~ might have,
from some quarter, articles of a more awakening
description.

I have read the occasional appeals made in
behalf of the Liberator - I never with indifference; never
but with the ^{desire} ~~feeling~~ that it were in my power to
transmit \$25., \$50., a \$100. to it. But it is not in my
power to send even \$5., nor has it been for a long time.
Owing to various causes, my income has materially lessened;
and, for the last year, I have been unable to pay the \$2.50
quarterly subscription, as I had done for 2 years before. - Last
summer there was a strong attempt made, by James Munroe,
to raise \$100. in this town for the American Society, I pledged
\$5. towards it, & my wife \$5.; the payment of which (in December)
was made with some little difficulty, & compelled me to forego

the pleasure of attending the Ninth Anti-Slavery Fair.
I have been thus frank with you, in the matter of my
finances, that you may see I am not without the will,
but the power, to help you in a pecuniary way. I hope
for better times; for it has ever been a pleasure to me to
do the very little I have done for the Anti-Slavery Cause.

Francis Jackson Esq.?

No. 7 Hollis Street.

Boston.

Samuel May
Jan 18 1843

Excuse this long epistle —

and believe me, with sincere respects

Your friend,

Samuel May.