Leominster Dec 18th 1842

Mrs Chapman

At this late day, I send you a few articles for the Fair. They probably are more inferior than any others you may receive — but it is the best we could accomplish. I have made every exertion in my power. We are all Abolitionists, "as much so as any body". Some of us are for political action, some for moral suasion (though very few) some for mute suasion, or more properly speaking 'Expediency'. We have three or four in the ~~[illegible]~~ midst of us who are of the true stamp. zealous active vigilant — Mrs L. S. Walker (a member of your society at Boston) is one of that number her purse is ever open at every call. With the means she provided I was enabled to commence the work and by the assistance of some half doz others I have completed it. One of the most efficient labourers in town is Mr Isaac Smith. he is a generous, kind hearted, whole souled child of God. he would part with the garments from his body if he saw a fellow creature who was needy — through his influence we shall all become abolitionists. he subcribes for all old organization papers pamphlets, and sentiments, then sends them all over town. he provides all the lecturers (excepting the agents) and pays them from his purse were it not for him, the people would fall asleep. We are so conscienceious a people, we dare not act, for fear of acting wrong.

Two years since, Miss Abby Kelly was with us. she proposed we should form a society to be called the A. S. Lewis society. some half a doz of us commenced labouring for the American society. all who were friendly to the Slave were invited to join. before many weeks the society numbered thirty but soon, we were called upon to alter our constitution to suit the wants of ~~the~~ new organization. at that time I withdrew, choosing to labour singly and alone, for the old school — than collectively for both parties. I believe they are very active and engaged in their way. ~~my~~ sympathy is not with them.

In saying that I had completed the work, I did not intend to say that I had done it, by no means. The first half day persons furnished the means, by my request, and as many more ladies have kindly assisted in making them up, (the articles) I have priced them to the best of my ability. if the prices do not correspond with the usual prices of such articles, please be so kind as to make a minute of such as are not right, and correct them, at some future time send them to me, that I may be governed accordingly. If I have cast the amount right it is including all $16 dollars & 16 cts. the combs are at the manufacturers price if you think best you can add more — I should like your prices for the caps

I beg pardon for thus occupying so much of your valuable time

I have been more anxious to show you our real condition at the present time, hoping it might serve as an excuse for doing so little as we have for the Fair. As it is the first attempt of any thing of the kind in the place I think we are quite excuseable. I hope we shall be enabled to do very much more next year I close by wishing you abundant success in your heavenly undertaking. And may God speed the day when every yoke shall be broken and the oppressed go free.

Very respectfully
Yours for the Slave
Frances H. Drake

P.S

Please say to Miss Mary Willey that Mr Smith regrets exceedingly that the Ladies Society have not done as he anticipated they would do (that is) send some articles to the Fair. They have directed their charity in another channel

F. H. Drake

F. H. Drake
Leominster
to be answered
& contains names
good for use
1842

Mr. Francis H. Drake