

Leominster June 11th 1843

Mrs Chapman

Feeling assured that you are deeply interested in every thing which tends to the advancement of the anti-slavery enterprise. I take the liberty to lay before you a little plan I have in view, which with the assistance of your aid, I feel confident it can be successfully carried on. I propose to form a society which shall be called the Seom-Garrisonian Anti-Slavery Society (I would here say we shall not organize a regular society, but merely appoint a committee of arrangements) the reason of my choosing the name of Garrison, to be used in this connexion, is because I feel sure it will not be taken from us by any other society, as it is so odious to many persons. Any one who does not love the cause well enough to unite with us under this title, can stay away. We once formed a society of ladies, and took the name of the Seom female Anti Slavery Society. but, very soon sectarianism, and new organization stepped in and took the lead, they being greater in numbers. I for one, am determined to labour only with those who are purely old organizationists, and for this reason I withdrew a year since, from the original society.

But I am digressing. I have given a public notice to all persons ^{in our town} who feel disposed to aid the Mass A.S. Fair, to meet at our house Tuesday 20 inst. I have also made a contract with the Shopkeepers to receive from the farmers such articles of produce as they may see fit to give to the cause. we in return will take English and fancy goods. I presume we shall not be able to get more than three dollars in money. but if we can get goods we can make such articles as will be usefull for children. such as dresses, pantaletts, aprons, also ladies caps - needle books, pin balls &c.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 18. 58

It will be impossible for us to send any thing that will be very orna-
-mental, as we have only the poor, common people who will
aid us - and they do not understand doing only plain needlework
If you think the things I have named will be saleable, I will
exert myself to get all I can of this kind. also combs -

I have a particular favour to ask of you. it is, that you will
send me an address, or appeal to the ladies of Seorn, to be
read at our meeting which will be Tuesday June 20. I am
sure it will ^{be} a great help towards exciting an interest in
the place. Some how, our people cant understand an address
unless it is directed especially to them, I have read again, and
again the address by your committee, to the ladies, but they
dont seem to feel, it means them. Some females have been
so childlike as to say, they did not think much of doing
for people who did not so much as thank you for your
efforts. They say, this, because we did not receive a special
acknowledgement for what we done for the fair last year.
There were several who gave something. that said at the time
they gave, they did not see what good it was a going to do.
and because they have not seen the result of our labour,
they have no faith to do any thing more. Therefore, when
you write us I hope you will send us a very emphatic
'Thank you Ladies' for your efforts. It is surprising, that people cant
see that it is for their own interests that they aid this glorious
cause. If you should write us please mail it Monday 19 we shall reciev
it Tuesday 20th I am sensible this is asking too much of one whose
time is so entirely occupied as your own. but I humbly trust
you will be repaid for the labour - in consideration of the
amount of interest that will be felt in the cause thereby.
Please inform me if a part of the proceeds can be appropriated
to a lecturer (whom we may choose) to come to this place.

As there are many persons who say they will give if we can
have the benefit, or a part of it.

I should like to know your opinion about forming a society
without organization, if such a thing can be done —
We wish to have every man and woman feel themselves an officer
and take the responsibility as such. Then there will be no difficulty
about electing officers if all are of that class —

I expect to attend a Convention at Sunenburg this week. when
I intend to call the ladies together after the convention's journals
and invite their cooperation in aiding the fair. I done the same
last winter by the Westminster ladies. they assured me they
should do something this year. Some of my proslavery
friends have given me the name of Worcester County
General Agent — because I take the liberty to call on every one
I meet to do something for the slave. I am very well
with this title. Providing I can discharge my duty faithfully
as an agent should do

I must beg your pardon for troubling you so long with
my poor scribbling — hoping you will excuse the many
imperfections — my eyes are so very weak I cant see
where or how I write. —

I am, with great respect,
Truly thine, for the Slave,
Francis H. Drake

James Burke

June 1843

Cambridge



Recd

34 Summer Street Boston

Mrs Maria C. Chapman

Ms. A. 9. 2. 18. 58