

(No)

Providence R.I. Aug 28 1835.

Mr. Wm Lloyd Garrison  
My Dear Friend,

I have been thinking daily for weeks past that I would sit down and write you a long letter, but thought it best to wait until we received some later account from you not knowing but it might be your intention to return home soon, in which case you would not be likely to get a letter. But I do not see but that I may wait in vain - not a line has been received since your first arrival, and there has been but two or three notices respecting you in the English papers. I am quite at a loss to determine what can be the cause of your long silence, but have arrived at the charitable conclusion that your letters have all been miscarried.

And now my dear friend I think I can cheer your heart (provided it needs it) with some interesting news relative to the progress of the emancipation cause in this country. But then let me inform you of the formation in some part of an Anti Slavery Society in this City which is raising the attention of the public as well as calling forth anathemas from the press. It now consists of but forty members, but they are all men of the most uncompromising principles. We expect our good friend May will be for an address at our monthly meeting in Sept. Let me not say that we have not a man since to a more active advocate in all

the city than Samuel J. May. He has taken a deep interest in the cause of Miss Fendall's free school and has nobly defended her against all. He is laboring incessantly wherever he can do good. His society though at first much opposed to the course he pursued are now all on his side with the exception of three or four.

The Providence Anti Slavery Society passed the following resolution at their last meeting viz Resolved that the Secretary write to Wm L. Garrison (now in England) and request him to open immediately a correspondence with General S. Poffett of Providence, before him the principles and operations of the abolitionists of this country, and ascertain from him his opinions respecting them, with you for comply with their wishes?

Our large Society was formed at Eastbury Plainfield from on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. called the Kenton County Anti Slavery Society; it is daily increasing in strength. I recd an overland in that quarter, that wishing to publish a pamphlet on abolition they sent down an express to our City for purpose in Sunday last. Many other Societies have been formed since you left, and the formation at Philadelphia of a National Anti S. S. in October next is now in contemplation. Miss Fendall's trial for the violation of the Connecticut Statute came on on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. Circumstances prevented my attending. Great interest was excited, and the proceedings at 1. Brooklyn was crowded to overflowing. Tuesday aft & Sunday morning was occupied by the examination of witnesses.

At the trial of Ellsworth of Hartford every Scholar refused to testify, and also  
a Baptist Clergyman of Canterbury. The latter and one of the former were  
accordingly committed to Jail. The counsel for Miss C. had some object  
in view in giving this advice which they considered accomplished, when the two  
above mentioned had been arrested; the rest were then advised by them to give  
in their evidence. My sister Mary was also summoned & remained with Miss C.  
during the trial. Messrs. Jackson & Welch plead on the part of the State, and  
Messrs. Ellsworth of Hartford & Strong of Norwich were for the defendant.  
The two latter it is said spoke with great power. Every one present was im-  
mensely riveted to the spot where they stood. They plead against the  
Constitutionality of the Law, and rested the whole of Miss Wendalls defence  
upon that ground. It is said that had they been pleading for the  
lives of their own children, they could not have been more solemn and  
impassive. Mr. Ellsworth paid the Scholars a very handsome compliment  
in closing his plea. The whole Court were exceedingly pleased with  
their answers when they gave in their evidence, and I doubt not their ap-  
pearance did away the foolish prejudices of many. The Jury were  
divided 5 for & seven against her. They were sent out three times  
but could not agree. The Canterbury people are much mortified  
as they were confident that there would be no difficulty in obtaining  
their case in the County Court, where they imagined the Constitutionality  
of the Law could not be legislated. One of them told Mr. [unclear] must  
remember that Miss C. would be troubled no more, in the [unclear] and  
[unclear] sell their property under fear and move away. I should think  
they would want to depart from the scene of their persecutions, for  
the time must come when it will awaken bitter reflections.

"The Unionist" which has been established at Brooklyn solely to support  
and defend this school, is doing much good, and it is astonishing how  
rapidly public opinion is changing in favour of the School in that State.  
Should they continue their prosecution she will have another trial in Decem-  
ber, but it is said it will be an utter impossibility to get a jury that  
would agree, and if they did it would be in her favour.  
You undoubtedly heard of her imprisonment in N. York Jail last June.  
My Dear Sister Anna was with her the whole time she was there. The  
Canterbury people still continue their outrageous violation of the Laws of humanity  
& religion. Not as store in the village will sell her a morsel of  
food, and the first ecclesiastical Society have actually forbidden any  
of her Scholars to attend their meetings, notwithstanding there is not a  
another place of public worship within three miles, and some of the Scholars  
are members of the very same denomination (Calvinistic). This last measure  
is rapidly raising the public indignation. What a violation of all the  
Commandments of Christ, what a disgrace to the Christian name & profession -  
and what has the Colonization Society done? Why it has sanctioned this

with persecution: it has appointed Andrew T.udson, <sup>the</sup> its agent  
and voted down as refused to act upon a resolution of Mr. May, saying  
The Colored Population ought to be educated previous to being sent out to  
Africa & Evangelize Africa!! Uudson has delivered an address in the favor of Plainfield,  
and is to deliver the next Anniversary one before the Society. - A Colored  
Society has been formed in this City - through the personal efforts of A. S. Sealey. I  
have no fear of their effecting any thing. They have chosen their officers from the great  
of this world, but I fear, not the heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven - I would not exchange  
the President of our Society (Mr. <sup>and a specimen of</sup> ~~Sealey~~ <sup>Sealey</sup> a man of intelligence & great moral  
worth) for theirs (Mr. Nicholas T. ~~Sealey~~ <sup>Sealey</sup>) with all his hoarded thousands. The Committee  
who were appointed to procure signatures to the Constitution do not pretend to defend Col  
oration as such, for they know nothing about it, but go about denouncing you as  
a fanatic & as one who has been doing an immense deal of injury which the  
Colored Society wish to counteract. Thus you see, friend Garrison, you have  
not entirely lost your notoriety by your absence. Truly it is strange what one man  
can do with truth and justice to support him. I like to have forgotten to say

that a school similar to that in Portland has been established at New Haven  
by the wife of Nathan Tappan Esq. & the daughter of Jos. Taylor. The  
latter's good father is still laboring in the vineyard in the evening of his  
days, being 81 years old this month. The W. E. L. Society elect  
him their President, and he has accepted the appointment.

~~Mr. Tappan~~ <sup>Mr. Tappan</sup> is still alive waiting with serenity and  
patience <sup>to go home</sup> to his Father's mansion. He is still greatly  
interested in the Cause of the oppressed. I hope that all  
will find through the instrument in a different shape, it fits up to  
such principle. I see by a late paper that Mr. ~~Webster~~ <sup>Webster</sup>, the distin  
guished Champion of the oppressed African, has gone to his eternal rest.  
What a happiness must he have felt on the bed of death in reflecting upon  
his labors in the cause of bleeding humanity - Surely he will be welcomed  
by our Saviour. "Come ye blessed of my Father".

Your partner has been ~~sent~~ <sup>sent</sup> you a pamphlet from a ~~young~~  
Caucasian letter. Our Society take a large number of them.  
abolition is to be shortly republished also. The ~~credit~~  
Liberator is pretty well sustained but we want some of your  
help. Our school now consists of about 20 scholars. We lately had  
a fortnight's term, and went up to Brooklyn & Cambridge. We were much  
pleased. I have written all that I think will be interesting to you,  
approached so near the end of this sheet that I shall be obliged soon to  
begin our way to see you but has much as I wish this, I hope if you  
find of truth by remaining where you are <sup>that</sup> you <sup>will</sup> stay until Spring.  
I remain as well, & then in these parts, particularly my Brother desire to be  
respectfully to you. Your partner would see a short time there he

my sheet  
stand &  
Brooklyn.  
long letter  
Sturwell.

from you. The Liberator I believe is doing pretty well  
passed through Mass. City last Tuesday on his way home  
Now Do not forget that I have written a very very  
long letter and shall expect a reply  
With reiterated assurances of esteem and friendship I remain  
in Honour & Justice, in adversity or Prosperity your faithful Friend

May God bless you  
Henry C. Benson

M<sup>r</sup>. Wm Lloyd Garrison  
Care of James Cupper Esq<sup>r</sup>  
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