

Boston, Oct. 30, 1838.

My dear bro. May:

I am truly sorry to disappoint any of the friends who may assemble in convention at Hingham to-morrow, by not being present with you; especially since it has been announced from the pulpit, that I would deliver a lecture to-morrow evening. But, within the last three or four days, my inveterate enemy, the scrofula, has made its appearance upon the fore-finger of my ~~left~~^{right} hand, causing great inflammation and continual pain, and swelling both the finger and the hand to huge dimensions. I am necessitated to keep a large poultice on the hand, and to bathe the swelling frequently — as yet, to no purpose. Twice, last year, I suffered in a similar manner, and therefore know the probable duration of this attack, which will be protracted for some time. As it affects my right hand, it is, of course, very painful for me to write. It would be to little purpose, that I should come and deliver some brief extemporaneous remarks; for you know that I am fastidious, on this point; and as to writing an address, now, I have neither time, nor will my hand allow me to do so. I have made a desperate attempt, and written a few pages — but was necessitated to stop.

Another consideration. This number of the Liberator is a very important one, with regard to the approaching election. The replies of the various candidates to the questions propounded to them, will be coming in up to the time the paper goes to press, and will need comments. I must try to write something adapted to the crisis, painful as it is for me to hold a pen. To be absent from the office, even an hour, will hardly be allowable, under these circumstances.

W. D. Garrison
Oct 30 1838

My regret, in causing any disappointment at Hingham, is mitigated by the fact, that there will be present several able speakers to prevent any failure of a meeting—viz. yourself, Quincy, Phelps, Ryder, &c.

I beg you will apologize to the meeting for my absence, and promise the friends in Hingham that, *Deo volente*, I will shortly give them an address, according to their wishes.

I know how my respected friend, James Lincoln, will feel, in consequence of this failure—but if I am really disqualified from performing well my part at H., in consequence of the state of my hand, (which affects my whole system,) he will excuse me. My best regards to him.

I want to see you, my dear friend, as a lover yearns to catch a glance at the mistress of his heart. The "non-resistance" theory, you perceive, is stirring up opposition from friends and foes. Is it therefore unsound? No; for men did not originate it, neither can they overthrow it. My confidence in it is strong and joyful. What is the present state of your mind respecting it?

Sister Sarah left us, yesterday, for Brooklyn, via Providence, in rather a feeble state of health. We expect Mrs. Benson to be with us very soon.

Charlotte Coffin spent the day with us on Friday last. She is an excellent girl, deserving of an excellent husband.

I trust your meeting will be "ultra" and "fanatical," in the modern understanding of those terms—then it will be ardently zealous and rationally benevolent.

Give my cordial remembrances (and also Helen's) to Mrs. May. We shall be glad to see you both at our house.

Yours, with a brother's love,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.