

Gillingham, July 10, 1842.

My dear Caroline,

Now I am left all alone in the house this evening, and it is such a luxury and I have so much I want to do, I do not know what to do first, but have finally settled to write to you. Mr Smith delivers an Anti-Slavery lecture on Great-plain this evening, and all the Abolitionists in the neighborhood feel bound to go to hear him, except myself. a sort of knight-errantry has seized upon our Gillingham Abolitionists, and they go in bodies night after night, to the Great plain in hopes to seize upon some poor unlucky man or woman, who cannot sustain him or herself in pro-slavery, and bring them over to their party. What success they have met with in their adventures I am not able to say with certainty, but their ardor seems not to be damped as this is the fifth time this summer that the side walks between here and the Plain have been lined with rows of Abolitionists, with faces flushed eager for conflict. Great Plain must yield at last, it is her destiny, she cannot hold out against such strength and such perseverance. — We have just made a discovery here; we find that all the opposing ministers are ~~to~~^{remit}ting in prayers for the Abolitionists. They put in a word at first for the oppressed, to make people up & excite alarm, then they pour out the burden of their prayers upon the offending Abolitionists; that they may be prudent and just, and walk in brotherly love, and ^{have} sound judgment, and discretion &c. &c. and wind up very beautifully by ev-

the whole family of man. Mr Richardson had such a prayer as this on the fourth, and we have had it today from Mr. Waterston. We had a Temperance Celebration on the anniversary of our Independence, and Mr Stearns was invited to make one of the prayers, but he declined & gave^{as} his reasons, that he could not on such a day forget the inconsistencies of our government, & if he said any thing, he must say things disagreeable to the larger part of the audience; he therefore declined having any thing to do with it. Many were very angry and said they did not see what reason he had to suppose that what he should wish to say would be disagreeable; forgetting apparently, that one of the vice presidents of the day was the very individual that was Moderator of the Citizens meeting here, when Mr. Stearns was grossly insulted, and no attempt made to prevent it by the Chair. Besides, a number of the officers of the day contributed, and countenanced the confusion when Mr Stearns attempted to speak. No Abolitionist went to the dinner but Mr. Smith, and he gave an anti-slavery sentiment and made a few remarks corresponding to it. But I think though none of them went, they influenced the proceedings of the day in a great degree. Thanks to the Abolitionists Mrs. Child says, that no one now can hear the Declaration of Independence read, without thinking of the slave. It was so here, and more, they had no face to boast of their country's glory, and their unsullied freedom &c. &c. even though the Abolitionists as a body were away, but they cannot do it now without calling a blush into their own faces.

I suppose you know that we are to have a Celebration here the first of August, and Weymouth is going to join us. We are sorry we cannot obtain Mr. Loring as we hoped, to give the address. Mr. Quincy, I believe they now depend upon. You must come without fail either as our friend

Mr. Loring is not much known here. He has some property in some of the towns of the county. Do not let the town

on one of the Weymouth folk. I hope to have a visit from you in your vacation but I suppose that does not come so soon as the first, but I hope you have not been so unmindful of us, as to engage yourself for any other place on that day. Your sisters & Aunt Mary I am sure will be here. We had a meeting the other evening and chose a Committee of six ^{of which I am one} to make arrangements for the day. I think, although the Committee have not yet had a meeting, that we shall ^{have} a meeting at Willard Hall in the afternoon commencing at two o'clock for conversation and discussion, to which we shall invite all to come who feel interested. at six adjourn ^{to ten} ~~at~~ the abolitionists will be invited in the rooms under the Hall, and at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 go to the Baptist church and hear the address. It would be better to have the address first, and the conversation after, but we fear that we could get no one to hear in the afternoon at that busy season.

We are trying to get an abolition paper established here as the Hingham Patriot has gone into new hands & is going to exclude Anti Slavery matter. Our prospects, however, are not very flattering. I think it would be a vast service to the cause if we could have a good paper here. I have not heard a word from you this age; do let me know what you are doing, and how things go on, with you. Mr. Smith and Maria have returned from the Plain and send their love to you. They beg that you will come and see us. Our and your friends here are all well. Anna is as full of enthusiasm as ever. She is thinking a little of going to Niagara this summer; or rather she is strongly urged to go by the Hinckleys who talk of going in about a fortnight. I have been reading today, Mr. Morrisons review of Parker today. I do not like much of it. I do not think Parkers style seems quite so fine in reading as in hearing him. however,

I have not much to write on this occasion. I have written a few lines to your father. Do write soon.

This nation, as such, is responsible for the existence of slavery in the District of Columbia; there, on ground belonging to the nation, it keeps open.

Mr. Phillips
pers & penrod
country. Please
our thanks.

We are indebted to
through you, for pa
cals from the Old
to present to him
for them.

Ed Smith

1842.

Miss Caroline Weston
Roxbury.

To be left at Anti Slavery Office

Ms. A. 9. 2. 13. 21