

Brooklyn, Dec. 26, 1835.

My dear Boatjumper:

How is it that you Brooklynites — to wit, Henry and yourself — make such miscalculations respecting the mails between this place and Boston? Yesterday (Friday) I received your favor of Tuesday, in which you request me to hurry back to the place where I had the honor of being mobbed and imprisoned a few weeks since, and in which Henry talks of going to New York and Philadelphia this week, and says he must see me before he goes — thereby seeming to expect my arrival in Boston by Thursday or Friday evening. I can easily account for the mistake. As there are now two mails daily between Boston and Providence, you probably presumed that your letter would reach the latter place on Tuesday evening, and arrive in Brooklyn on Wednesday forenoon. But whatever may have been the cause of its delay, it did not come to hand until yesterday. As to-morrow is the Sabbath, I shall defer leaving for Boston until Monday, via Worcester.

This week has been the only long and dull one since I came to B. I have a good editorial reason to give for it — viz. the deprivation of letters and newspapers. Every Friday, I have received a large bundle via Worcester or Providence, which has told me how the multifarious affairs of this mundane sphere are going on — but no such bundle has come to hand this week, and, what is worse than all, none of the Liberator of last week have been received, either by myself or by any of the Brooklyn subscribers. Liken me, therefore, to a fish out of water — to a bird in a cage — to a hungry pauper without victuals — to a king-fisher that has lost his prey — to any thing, in short, that implies bereavement and uneasiness. And yet I warn you not to conclude, that my peace or happiness of mind depends upon a bundle of newspapers! especially, such newspapers as abound in our country! Let this unravel the paradox — I am an editor!



[I am happy to learn that there is a disposition, on the part of the abolition brethren, to place the Liberator, if possible, in a better condition than it has been heretofore. Two or three things are certain. 1st. The debts of the Liberator ought to be liquidated. 2d. If they are not, it must of necessity be discontinued. 3d. The publishers are wholly unable to discharge the debts. Now it is for the friends of our cause to consider, whether this is one of those cases in which it is a gospel duty to "bear one another's burdens." I presume if a frank statement, signed by a responsible committee, were drawn up and circulated among abolitionists in various parts of the country, the sum that is needed would readily be obtained.

Undoubtedly, now is a favorable time to increase the number of subscribers to the Liberator, more so than at any period since its commencement. Brother George expressed his belief, when he was here a short time since, that 500 subscribers might easily be procured in Rhode-Island - such has been the progress of abolitionism in that State for the last six months. Our indefatigable friend John Cutler Smith, should he put his shoulders to the wheels, would undoubtedly, for a time at least, give a rail-car velocity to anti-slavery vehicles; and I hope that we shall be able to make our arrangements with him accordingly.

Whatever change is made, of course the feelings and desires of Mr. Knapp must be consulted as well as mine. Should he wish to contract for the printing of the paper, at the same rate as others print, he ought to have the preference. I am inclined to think that our friends, wholly ignorant as they are, generally, respecting the losses and crosses of every newspaper concern, more or less, hardly do us justice as to our past management. I admit that we have not been methodical or sharp in keeping our accounts; but we suffer much more from the neglect of our subscribers than from our own. We have not squandered or misapplied, but, on the contrary, as a whole, been careful of our



means. Recollect that we have passed through a struggle of five years; that we commenced our paper without a single subscriber, and without a cent in our pockets; that we had ~~4~~ very few subscribers for the first two years; that our patronage, even if all had punctually paid, has always been inadequate; that we have printed and circulated, at our own charge, a large amount of publications - tracts, pamphlets, circulars, and even books; and that we have had to encounter the losses inseparable from a newspaper establishment. Yet we are in arrears only about \$2500. Remember, too, that of this sum, \$800 are due to us from our subscribers in two places only, for the present year, (and you know that the accounts have been most accurately kept at the office,) viz. New-York and Philadelphia - places which we have relied upon as the two prominent pillars of our support! The few months in which the Unionist was printed made a heavily losing concern of it, as you well know. How many religious and political papers have perished, (though supported by sectarian and political zeal,) since we started the Liberator, a paper of an Ishmaelish character! - In establishing the Western Lumina, Cincinnati Journal, The Standard, &c. &c. from five to ten thousand dollars were sunk. On the whole, therefore, I marvel that we have succeeded so well.]

I thank you for your hints respecting Dr. Channing. I mean to be only as severe as truth and justice require. His book, as a whole, I do not like: it is entirely destitute of magnanimity, and it requires of us about as much, in fact, as do our southern opponents. Probably I shall not commence my review until the second edition appears.

Mr. Gray was very much relieved in his mind to hear of the safe arrival of the clock. I will bring the articles that you desire. Mr. Parrish has been very low during the present week, so that his demise was expected daily: he is now rather better.

Your remembrances of love are reciprocated by us all. Hoping to see you on Monday evening, or on Tuesday forenoon at furthest, I close with the assurances of my love and esteem.

Ever yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.



Wm Lloyd Garrison

Dec 26 1835

Brooklyn



Brooklyn Ct      Single 15  
Dec 26

Rev. Samuel J. May,

Boston,

Mass.