

Boston, Feb. 27, 1842.

My dear Corkran:

83

I am extremely happy to have an opportunity to introduce to you a beloved friend of mine, (Thomas Davis, of Providence, Rhode-Island,) who is to leave immediately for England and the Continent, in quest of health. You will be pleased with each other as the friends of bleeding humanity, and also as originating from an Irish stock. Mr. Davis left Ireland when he was a boy, and intends visiting the land of his nativity before he returns. For the last ten years, he has been a warm and faithful supporter of the anti-slavery enterprise, and through every ordeal has passed without having the smell of fire upon his garments. He will pass a few days in Paris; and as he will be a stranger in a strange land, and ignorant of the French language, whatever kindnesses you may show to him, I shall appreciate as really done to myself. As he is perfectly familiar with all our anti-slavery proceedings, and personally acquainted with all our leading abolitionists, he will be able to answer any inquiries that you may wish to make, and to give you much valuable information. I will merely add, that the anti-slavery excitement is daily increasing in this country — that the powers of slavery are shaken — that the friends of justice, humanity and freedom are active, resolute, indomitable — that a crisis is near at hand, which, though it may possibly end in a dissolution of the American Union, will inevitably result in the downfall of our nefarious slave system.

84

The letter that I received from you, dated at Paris, in June last, was full of thrilling interest to me; and, being persuaded that it would be perused with more than ordinary pleasure by the numerous readers of the Liberator, I took the liberty to insert it in my paper. I feel ashamed that so long a time has elapsed since its receipt, without sending my grateful acknowledgments to you at an earlier period. Most happy shall I be to hear from ^{you,} either verbally or by letter, (more especially by letter,) as often as you can find an opportunity to communicate with me. It is possible that you are no longer in Paris. As soon as I am informed of your location, I will try to be very prompt in sending you another letter.

It gave me great pleasure to learn that your mind had been seriously exercised on the subject of non-resistance, since we parted in Dublin - (O memorable visit, and painful separation!) The more you examine that subject, in the light of Christianity, the deeper will be your conviction, I am confident, that it is pregnant with the redemption of a war-making, sin-ruined world. No proposition commends itself more clearly to my understanding and heart than this: - Whatever form of religion justifies war, or the use of carnal weapons to redress wrongs and punish enemies, is antagonistical to the gospel of Christ, and based upon the sand of human selfishness and worldly policy. Christ came to save, not to destroy men's lives - to lay down his own life for his enemies and murderers, rather than do them the slightest injury by way of retaliation or self-defence. He also came to set us an ex-

ample that we should follow his steps; "who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously." It seems to me most plainly to follow, that no man has a right to claim to be a disciple of Christ, who is not prepared to lay down his life for his enemies, or who is disposed to support those kingdoms and governments which now fill the world, and which, being upheld solely by military power and brute force, crush and curse mankind. — I do not mean to say, that they who are not prepared either to adopt or to carry out these principles, are destitute of religious sentiment; for I believe that sentiment may be strong and active in them, restraining them from the commission of crime, and mightily influencing their every day walk and conversation; but I mean to say that they are not Christians — i. e. that they are not new creatures in Christ Jesus, the ransomed of the Lord, dead to the world, and alive to God. "Now, if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." That spirit cannot co-exist with a desire to destroy men's lives on any pretext, however plausible, nor with an unwillingness of mind to suffer the loss of all things, for Christ's sake. O for the consummation of all that Christianity is adapted to do for the world! O for the speedy approach of that time, when nations shall no longer lift up sword against nation, but the whole human race shall, "like kindred drops, mingle into one"! Wishing you the enjoyment of all good things, I remain,
Yours, against all forms of iniquity,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Charles S. Corkran,
13, Rue Neuve de Berry,
Paris.

Wm Lloyd Garrison
27 Feb 1846
London
Received of Henry May

Received of Mr. Litch. 27th May 1842
London at 8 o'clock
Henry May