

Boston. Oct 4. 1836.

My Dear Debra, I will finish what I have to say in the way of business first, lest I should forget it. Maria wishes to know if you know aught of a piece of silk canvass that she bought for a belt ribbon; she does not know where she put it & she did not know but you might have taken it to N.B. with you. Will you send word about it. Henry says that he shall be very glad for you to have his watch. It shall be sent the first suitable chance. Send for it if you can. I do not suppose he will be willing for it to come by the stage. You must send for it if possible. Perhaps Roman or some such person will care for it. I staid in Groton till Saturday and had a very pleasant time till the last. Miss Gray I can pronounce on farther acquaintance to be a very kind, good hearted woman. She is a very proper person for Dr F. She has no mind of her own, is willing to be perfectly subservient and at the same time has not that aptitude at feeling in love that distinguishes some of his former and old camp. I enjoyed Stratton as it, though not so much as I should have thought. We were not congenial spirits certainly. I admired his lecturing extremely. He improves very much and produced a very good effect. He lectured three times and was abundant in his labours. But I do not esteem his conversational powers as very great & I doubt whether he will do for you. On the whole you may dismiss all thoughts of him. The Rev Dudley Phelps has received a call which I suppose he will accept from the good people of Groton. He is no great of an abolitionist but I do not think he will oppose much; indeed not at all. Now I am to tell you of a thing that will amuse you and some what interest you. On the Monday evening before I left Groton, the Dr invited a certain Mr Bigelow to come and take tea with us. He is a young man, born in Lenox and who went some years since to the West to the Western Reserve College, and after that to Oberlin where he studied for a while, but is now engaged in land speculations. He is a strong Abolitionist, and ultra in all his views. The Dr did not lay himself out much to be amusing and Miss Gray never says much so that I felt it to be only civil for me to be agreeable. He staid & staid & finally staid all night. In the morning he asked me when I was going to Boston & asked me if he might call. I, of course assented. On the next Saturday I came to Boston in the stage with Dr Farnsworth. I had not been in the house 5 minutes when Mr Bigelow appeared. He staid till after 10 talking about Abolition and the West. Prof Stone & Green &c. On Monday evening he came again and asked me to go to the Monthly Concert with him. As I had begun to feel uneasy, I declined, but urged him to go which he finally concluded to ^{do} and told me then that he wished to have some conversation with me and asked me if he could call & see me the next day. I assented thereto but felt pretty well frightened for I knew what was coming well enough. However staid it I must.

Accordingly I screwed up my courage to the sticking place and waited till
the hour and the man both came. He talked for some time on ordinary
topics and after a while went into the middle of the historical business. I
cannot write down all he said and all I said but the amount of the matter
is that he made me a downright offer and I as downrightly declined.
It was a trial to me, but on the whole I got through with it better
than I could have thought. I never could for a minute have enter-
tained the thought of making any other answer than I did but truth
compels me to say that I think the man a very good one. He is a "new
school Doegyleman" & holds to the doctrine of Perfection and I believe
thinks himself to have attained thereto. I took a very civil leave of him how-
ever & told him that I wished to retain him as a friend &c. I have heard
that every body has one chance. I am fearful that this is mine.
The Dr was sorry to part with me & invited me to stay all winter there &
teach the children again. This I declined of course, though to tell you the
truth, if I could be making the same money there as in N. B. the situation
would be altogether preferable. Sunday, Caroline went to Weymouth with
Walter. Found them all well. Ma thinks of coming in town soon. Aunt
Mary was gone to Duxbury, for a few days. I went to Mr. Winslow's church
in the morning and heard him preach passably, and in the afternoon I went
there again with the Dr. and heard - - The Rev Joseph Tracy! It was on
the whole a much less Jesuitical person than one could have supposed.
I had to hold the Dr to prevent him from speaking in meeting. He
whispered to me in the course of the prayer "how should I like to whistle
Gushee Loodle." Sunday evening, by special invite Henry, Maria & I went
up to Ellis Grey Spring, to have a "palaver" with Mrs Gilman. We talked
all the evening during evening, or at least Maria & Mrs G. did. She was to me
an exceedingly tolerable woman. But she is quite a cunning one, &
defended her side of the question, better than could have been expected. Her
three daughters were present the oldest a very pretty girl, but a perfect
slave driver in feeling. A real soul driver. I could hardly help expres-
sing my own passion for her. The other two were younger & apparently
less sound. Ellis performed his part politely and Dr Bradford who
was present gave it to her in good style. I liked Dr B. "mensely." Monday
Dr Fournsworth took tea & passed the evening in part with us. He says
that if the Abolitionists want Garrison to do much they must get a purse
for the baby. G. thinks it is a perfect moron. Yes Monday afternoon a Board
meeting was held at Mrs Southwick's to hear Maria's report, or at least to
hear parts of it that were the most brittle. Miss Parker made as usual
a most excellent prayer in which she prayed particularly for the Tappan
family, Miss Susan Tappan being present with us. She is, really, a very lovely
girl. This morning (Thursday) I called upon Sister Drew. She showed me her
baby with great satisfaction and seemed very fond of me; sent her love
to you and invited me to come often & see her. Abby's health, she says, is very
delicate indeed.

After that I called at the Rooms. Mr Knapp says that he has no hope of
Henry Benson's recovery. It is, I think a decided case of consumption. His cough
is very bad, & he raises a great deal. Still, he seems to have no hope
feared, but that he shall ultimately recover. He thinks it only a long
cold. Garrison has been and taken away his card table, bureau, & some of
the chairs. But the bedsteads and all the rest of the things are still here. I
shall go to Weymouth either to day or to morrow and stay probably till July
next. I have had some pain in my chest since my return, but I believe
it arose from my having taken cold in my way down from London or
else in going up to Mr Horsey. But it principally affects my head. I
suppose that you have seen in the papers the last slave case. Mr Bent
I know takes the Courier and it will be in his paper. The account is in-
correct there. Maria thinks that probably the 2^d "Right & Wrong" will make
a greater sensation than did the first. I must tell you one good thing therein. I cele-
brate the slave case (the runaway) Maria says "They were rich & in prison & we
visited them, stronger & we took them in" The Report is on the whole intended to
be very cursing. I have never seen Mr Kingsbury you know since you left
other wise I would have tried to have had the Emancipator sent to you. There
is one thing that I will mention while I think of it. I want you to send to
Maria the very minute you can the paper that contains Mr Hater's letter. I sent
it to Henry and send it at once. I am going out to Mr Bowley's to per-
sonal. Lydia Jones is playing there, so that I shall have to pEEP & in a
suppose, but I really want to see her (that is I do) & I wish to go out before the
weather comes any worse. Tell me how the petitioning is going on. Sylvia been
has just been here, helpless as usual, and pecking some attendance, but we
had none to bestow. Henry Sullivan goes week after next. You see I tell you
every thing just as I think of it. Miss Wright, the young lady, from the South
who called the other day, came again and says that if she continues in Bos-
ton she shall come to our school. As soon as I come in from Weymouth I
will write to you again & tell you whether there is any news stirring. If you
could write to me, so that your letter would come to Weymouth on Monday
I should like well enough to have you direct it there. Give all love to
the Bents, Mr & Mrs Emerson, Charlotte Fisher & all the faithful
Mrs Chapman (the old lady) is still quite ill but Ann Jerry is getting
slowly on. Mrs Ammidon (the old lady) is still at Water town paving almost. Anne
is playing with her, & as to Noomer is a hair below no body knows what
my nephew. I mean he is a widower which will do us well.

Yrs in haste, for I must get ready to go out to Roxbury.

Anne.



D

Miss Debora Weston.

care of Rev. A. T. Bent.

New Bedford.

Massachusetts.