

Cambridge, Indiana Sept 10th 1843

My Dear Friend, Your favor of August 19th informing of a meeting recently held by the Board of managers of the Massachusetts Antislavery Society, and of the subject of conversation there had, came to hand Sept 8th at Oakland. - After a careful reading, I did to conclude from ^{the} entire tone of your very kind letter, that you labor under much misapprehension concerning the whole affair of which you write, and believing this, I think a simple statement of the facts in the case may set the matter right, and render my position fully and fairly understood by yourself and the Board you represent. I intended to have given such a statement ~~immediately~~ after the occurrence took place at Syracuse which gave rise to the rumors of which you speak; And was only induced not to do so by the hope that some disinterested person - one who had taken no part in the affair, would regret that I did not carry out my intention. Since the matter has taken the turn it has, I am ^{however} glad that I noted down at the time and have now in my possession the whole facts in the case, they transpired, and will now state them as briefly as I can.

On the 30th & 31st of July, and the 1st of August, we held an antislavery Convention at Syracuse I attended and carried it on the two first days alone, Mr Collins having remained behind at Utica after the holding of our antislavery Convention, for the purpose of holding an antiproperty meeting, and Mr Bradburn had gone, to visit Gerrit Smith at Peterboro, Mr Collins was in town during the last day of our Convention, but took little part in the in the Convention, being unwell, Mr Bradburn had arrived, but had gone on to Skaneateles so I was left to carry on the meeting alone, as I had been in part in Utica, during the ~~our~~ Convention there. On the evening of the first of August Mr Remond arrived, we had given up the Convention for the purpose of giving our friends ^{an opportunity} to attend a collation that given ^{by the ladies} at the antislavery fair

at the collation Mr. Remond was called upon to speak
he complied in a short but happy speech, After this
notice was given by the President of ~~the~~ the Collation
that there would be a property convention held the next
day in the Sage house in which we had just held our
antislavery meeting the same previous days. Very soon
after this notice was given, another was given by the
same individual, that Mr. Remond & myself would
hold an antislavery meeting in the afternoon of the
same day and in the same house where the property
had just been announced to be held, I know not by whose
authority this conflicting notice was given, but supposed
that some one of the many who wished to hear Mr. Remond
had consulted the friends of the property convention &
that they had decided to give up their meeting in
the afternoon to give Mr. Remond an opportunity to be
heard by a large number who were most anxious
to hear him. There I left the matter - until the next
day just before the hour for adjourning the morning
session of the community meeting. Seeing something that
indicated a non intention on the part of our property
friends to give their meeting, I arose, and inquired
if it was understood that there would be an antislavery
meeting there in the afternoon. At this point Mr. Collins
arose, & said that there would be a property meeting in
the afternoon, and went on to make a speech respecting the
beginning and narrow-mindedness of abolitionists, he was disappointed
in them, he had found them to be a sectarian & others here they
could hold a convention three days with regard to Chattel
Slavery, but could have no heart in the cause of universal
reform, &c. &c. To this speech Mr. Remond made a short
reply, in which he charged Mr. Collins with making
the antislavery cause, a mere stepping stone to his own
favorite theory of the right of property, and expressed
the belief that the Board of managers could not sanction
him as their general agent, Mr. Collin again arose, & made
a long speech, as he said in defence of himself, in which
he brought forward a number of documents some of them
very complimentary of himself, and purporting
to have emanated from the Board, and about which
is sentiments making Mr. Collins half of more value
to the antislavery than our men whole. He then
after the reading of these he went on with his speech maintain-
ing with great warmth and earnestness the four follow-
ing propositions, I give them in his own words - with
the exception of their Classification.
The antislavery cause is a mere dabbling with affects.

2^d If they abolish Slavery, it will only be in form, it will remain
in fact.
3^d to recognize property in the Soil is worse than to enslave man
4th This universal reform movement will do more for the Slave than
the antislavery movement. When Mr C. set down I talked to be heard
for I felt that the antislavery cause had been woutonly assailed. &
by one to whom I had looked up as its warmist protector, and
as the meeting was professedly a free meeting, where any body
might speak whenever and whatever they pleased, I felt
I was violating to such directly, nor indirectly by insilping
on my right there to defend the Cause which had been
there assailed. As it was now far beyond the hour of
adjournment and the meeting seemed inclined to adjourn
I gave way for adjournment with the understanding that
I should speak in the afternoon. I went home and wrote out
the remarks I intended to make. At the opening of the after
noon meeting I took the floor and after a few preliminary
remarks setting the question at issue fairly before the meeting
it was not that Mr Collins had not a right to be a property
man, nor was it that he had not the right to devote
one half of his time to the one, and the other half to the
to the antislavery cause. No. This was the question whether it
was just or honorable ~~to labor~~ for Mr Collins to labor
in the one for the distraction of the other. I then went
& then read from my notes the positions of Mr Collins &
went ^{on} to reply to them. When I was interrupted as be
out of order. The meeting however insisted on re
hearing and I went on about 20 minutes, and close
my remarks by saying that if the Board of man
gets dia sanction the course of Mr Collins, though I
did not believe they did. I should feel it my duty
to write them resigning my agency in carrying
out the one hundred Convention plan. These I fear
I need are the facts in the case, that has given rise
to the rumors you have heard.

I do not think you would have felt yourself called
upon, did you know me as many others do, to have
said any thing to me, of the Board ~~intending~~ entilling
them to my gratitude and respect. I trust to have as far
one can have a just sense of their claims to my gratitude
and respect with great respect, f. Douglass.

P.S. I have received a few lines from my wife
asking for means to carry on household affairs
I have none to send her will you please
see that she is provided with \$25 or \$30.

Excuse my writing - in great haste
f. Douglass



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Mr. W. Chapman

25 Cornhill
Boston

Massachusetts



1843

Long