

Brooklyn, June 11, 1836.

My dear friend:

24 I am truly obliged to your Committee of Arrangements for inviting me to go to Newport, and to you for communicating to me their desire. Whether I shall be able to comply with their invitation, I cannot now positively determine. If I go, this must be the condition - that I go, not to address the Committee, but merely to be present as an abolitionist. I do not say that I will remain wholly dumb, because I cannot tell what may be the state of my feelings, or what may happen to render my feeble assistance desirable; but it will constitute no part of my design to say any thing to the Committee. For many good reasons, I think it were better for our cause that I should take no part in the proceedings. Nor do I feel that my presence would be of any special importance - not sufficiently so, at least, as to involve your Society in the expense of my journey. However, I will decide this matter when I see brother George. One reason why I wish to be excused is, that I am engaged to deliver an anti-slavery address at Fall River on the 4th of July, which is rapidly approaching; and as my other engagements are numerous, and as none of the address is yet written, and as it will cost me some time and labor, I wish to remain quietly at Brooklyn.

I have, at your request, communicated the contents of your letter to bro. May, who arrived here yesterday with his family. He thinks it will not be practicable for him to be at Newport, but promises to write to you immediately.

It is very unfortunate that Weld cannot go before the Committee, as I learn from bro. Henry's letter received by father yesterday. Weld is as brave as he is good; and while the mob are gnashing their teeth upon him, and brickbats are flying, I do not blame him that he is resolved to maintain his ground at Troy.

Still, he has a sufficient excuse for leaving that city, to shield
 him from the charge of cowardice or desertion — and it is, in my
 opinion, vastly more important that he should be at Newport,
 than that he should put down all opposition at Troy — for what
 is Troy compared to the nation? and it is a national effect, at
 which we must aim before your legislative committee. Let
 Weld be written to again — tell him, if you please, what is
 my opinion — remind him that he can promise the Trojans, that
 he will come again to them shortly — tell him to plead the impor-
 tance of fulfilling this prior engagement — and then let the ele-
 ments at Troy be left to compose themselves once more. The
 heaven of sympathy, of humanity, of truth, will be working a-
 mong the dough-faces during his absence. I am not sure that
 it would be Weld's duty to remain longer in Troy, seeing the
 civil authorities are too feeble to maintain the public peace, even
 if so important a case were not to be tried at Newport at this
 crisis. After manfully breasting the storm, so far as to display
 unequivocal intrepidity, I think he may properly "shake off the
 dust of his feet" upon that city, and go to other places where
 the people will hear the word gladly. Such an act would be
 sound policy, and not in any degree allied to fear or apostacy.
 It would be merely shifting ground, without abandoning an iota of
 principles. It is not as if he were actually, in the keeping of a
 mob, ~~and~~ ^{or} confined in a prison, and then under these circumstances
 required to abjure his abolition sentiments, and be dumb. No: in
 such a case, it would be his duty to go to the gibbet or the stake,
 rather than to comply with such an impious requisition. But he
 is neither in the hands of ruffians, nor in prison, nor has any
 such test yet been required of his fidelity. Then, I say, when
 the tempest is raging, why attempt to voice it down at the
 expense of health, perhaps of life, when by going a short dis-

tance you may find nature tranquil, and may be heard without any painful effort, and where the people need to be as much instructed, quickened and converted, as they do in Troy? — especially, when it is so immensely important that the unflinching advocate should be elsewhere — at Newport? These are my views of what I think is the proper course for bro. Weld to pursue: still, he is better able to decide upon what is most dutiful than I am. I hope he will go before your Committee; for Newport is a strong citadel of the enemy, and abolitionists, the strongest and boldest of them, are even invited within the walls, and may peradventure carry the place by a single assault.

Why has Stanton gone to Troy? "To help Weld," so bro. Henry writes. Very well — provided he returns to Newport in season, without fail — and better yet, if he bring Weld along with him. But if you get neither, what is your dependence? "I am no orator as Brutus is," and require preparation for such an emergency, for which I have no time. — Burleigh will do admirably well, provided he is brief upon the numerous points which ought to be presented to the Committee. Mr. May probably cannot come. Goodell is number one, if you can get him.

Now, bro. William, what say you? If I purpose to be dumb, except in private interviews with persons, do your Committee of Arrangements still desire me to be present at Newport, as I am the head and front of the offending of the anti-slavery cause, and that I may be "the observed of all observers"? If so, let me know, and I will go, if not too slow in preparing my 4th of July address and doing sundry other matters. There are rhyme and reason for you — to which I add that I am, ^{with} great esteem,

Your truly obliged friend,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Mr. Wm. Chace.

MS. A. 1. 1. 2. 24

Brooklyn
June 11

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Mr. William M. Chace,
Care of Benson & Chace,
Providence,
R. I.



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