

Boston, June 16, 1834.

My dear Friend:

49

I am covered with applications for my services as an anti-slavery orator on the Fourth of July. To whom shall I give the preference? I should be very happy to comply with your invitation, if I were not satisfied in my own mind that there is too much prejudice against me in Providence for me to encounter it successfully at present, and that you will be able to obtain a more acceptable person in my stead. Nevertheless, I thank your Society for their kind remembrance of me.

It is not probable that you will be able to secure either Mr. May or Capt. Stuart. The former told me that he must positively decline the invitation, and stay at home. The latter has gone to New-York, and I know not when he will be again in this quarter.

Do not wholly despair. George Thompson may arrive in season to make his debut on the 4th, in Providence; and should he, you will have no occasion to regret the absence of others.

The same mail that brought me your favor, also brought me a letter from my lion-hearted and estimable friend Rev. Ray Potter, in which I am invited, in behalf of the Pawtucket Anti-Slavery Society, to deliver an address in that "fanatical"

village on the approaching anniversary. I shall write to him this evening, accepting the offer; so that, if no unforeseen hindrance prevent, we shall be pretty near each other on that day; and, indeed, if your meeting be held at a different hour from the one in Pawtucket, I will endeavor to attend it.

The Minutes of the Anti-Slavery Convention will not be issued short of three or four weeks. We are waiting for the completion of Sunday reports and addresses.

The Convention at Salem, last week, was very interesting, though hardly equal to ours in Boston. The speeches of Messrs. May and Phelps were well received by the Salemites. I have never heard them do better. Mr. May is a gallant conqueror of hearts—men and women alike yield to his fascinating powers.

Let us not deceive ourselves. Although our cause is certainly advancing with a mighty stride, yet the opposition still, ^{to} be encountered is truly formidable. This is no time for repose; and if we exult, it must be with our weapons in our hands, ready to meet the combined powers of earth and hell. Happily, the Lord God of hosts is our strength and shield—else we should surely be overthrown. As it is, he will put our faith and courage to a severe test. Let us walk in his light, and we shall not stumble.

I have just received a letter from Prudence, in which she expresses much joy at the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Phillis, and bestows a very high eulogy upon his character. Helen tells me that "Love is blind," and perhaps this confirms her declaration. However, I will not condemn Mr. Phillis, for I have never heard any special and vital allegations brought against him. Prudence tells me he is for continuing the school in Canterbury, and increasing the number of its scholars, if possible, to one hundred. In my opinion, however, she had better take advantage of her marriage and move off with flying colors; especially as the Legislature of Connecticut — to its everlasting disgrace — has adjourned, without repealing the odious law against her school.

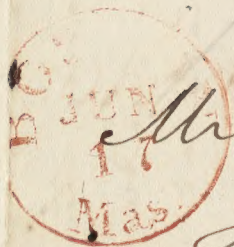
I regret to learn that my esteemed friend Mr. Prentice has recently lost one of his children. May an abundance of heavenly grace be given him to sustain his spirits, and also those of his dear family, under this heavy bereavement. Assure them that they have my condolence.

My friend Knapp's health is in a very precarious state. He has a severe cough, is very weak, and I almost tremble for the issue. I shall try to induce him to go to Newburyport, and spend a few weeks.

My own health continues good. I grieve to learn by a letter from my dear Helen, that your father's continues very feeble. You will caution him to be careful how he exposes himself.

Remember me deferentially and affectionately to friends Moses Brown, Anson Potter, ^{John} Scott, Mr. Prentice, Mr. Chace, &c. &c. and to your lady.

Yours, faithfully,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.



PAID

Single Paid.

Mr. George W. Benson,

Firm of Benson & Chace,
Providence,

R. I.