

Leicester, Nov. 8. 1879.

284

My dear friend Garrison;

A sort of fatality has prevented my getting to see you, since your return. I have mentally resolved on several times, but, one after another, demands on my time, when in Boston, have arisen; and I have been compelled to postpone my visit. — These reasons, or some of them, I can better mention when I see you, than write about. — I may say, however, that my eczema is troubling me a good deal the past 3 or 4 weeks, making locomotion uncomfortable, & indeed necessitating my keeping as still as I can; — how much longer this will be, I can form no judgment. I am not laid up with it; but the physician says, 'Keep as still as possible'. This makes me hesitate about going away from home, & necessitates brief absences when I do. I hope it is not to be long before I see you face to face.

I am much obliged to you for several papers lately, — and to Frank also for one, — containing some articles of yours on the election, & a report of the meeting at which R. Tomlinson spoke; — thank you for all. Of course I was greatly interested to know of Fr. views.

and of course it makes me feel very much disposed
to question my own views when I find them differing
from yours. I have been very much tried by
Gov. Rice, on acct. of his Veto of the amended License Bill,
to the extent that I have said - some 6 weeks ago - in
a public meeting that I should not vote for him. I did
not mean, at any time, to vote for Mr. Pitman, because
of my firm persuasion that the temperance cause will
never be forwarded, or helped, by 3^d party nominations,
but hindered on the contrary. The cause of Woman
Suffrage nominations, wherein I saw (as I have always
been) entirely of S. E. Sewall's mind, as expressed in a
recent Woman's Journal; the reasoning of which seems
to me to apply ~~well~~ to the temperance cause equally
as to that of W. Suffrage. My intent was to strike
out, or cut out, A. H. Rice's name, & vote the rest of the
ticket. But I changed my mind in that particular,
- I suppose one may rightfully do so, for good and
satisfactory reasons - and did vote the whole ticket,
Mr. Rice included. It was a hard thing for me
to vote for him, for I considered his reasons, in his
Veto message, exceedingly weak, and I could not
excuse him - & even now cannot - for letting himself

against both branches of the Legislature, who had decided that the Law needed, & ought to have, amend^t. in many particulars. So testified also even the officers appointed under that law. He ought not to have had the Repubⁿ. nomination. — As it was however, the matter came to me in this way. Will you stand any better chance with Mr. Gaston & the Democrats than with Mr. Rice? 'Nay, verily?' was my answer — but any help to them, even an indirect one, will most surely be repented of bitterly by any temperate man who shall give it. The probability of Dem^o. success seemed to me much greater than, as the event showed, really existed. I sh^d. always have been unhappy, & blamed myself, had I, by any failure to act, been any part of the means of giving power & 'endorsement' to the Dem^o. party, its policy, & measures.

But it is in regard to Mr. Hayes that I diverge most from you; and by your letters, &c. am made to feel very solicitous. It is a matter for the future to decide; and I confess that your prediction of the political ascendancy of the South seems not unlikely to be realised. But with such a people as ours, with the unprincipled and

unscrupulous Democratic party of the North, ready
to give everything, as of yore, into the hands of the
Southern Democrats, provided the Northern half can
have the ^{northern} National offices, how was it to be prevented?
I do not see that you, or any one, has indicated any
way of preventing it. Certainly the method of holding
the Southⁿ people in check by military force would
not have prevented it, even if it could have been done;
and we know, it was no longer possible. Now the whole
Country sees that a most generous attitude has been
taken tow^d the South, and all parties feel that they are
bound to make some sort of decent recognition & return
for it. If they abuse the confidence placed in them, or
fail to suppress violence & bloodshed, they will, it seems
to me, be far surer to concentrate & unite the really
patriotic & principled people of the North against them,
than could possibly be the case otherwise. I admit it is
a most critical time; but I think measures of forcible
repression (when there is no war) are more likely to fail
than measures of confidence & trust; and throwing
them (at the South) wholly on themselves for the responsibility
of order & peace. ~ Now, for the present, I stop; and
am, as always, with the utmost confidence I regard Yours
Samuel May