

Leicester,
July 25th 1866.

My dear friend Garrison,

34 You are very kind, and
thoughtful, and I receive ^{with many thanks} to-day the
"Independent" of the 6th ^{any} with your
Centennial lessons. I ^{am} thankful that
you "still live", to hold up the
mirror to the people, and make them
see the things to which they would
gladly be blind forever. We are
in the most imminent peril of
muzzing vipers in our bosom which
are to sting us to death, and our
people seem to be sleeping in a
fatal security. But what a lesson
that Hamburg slaughter, - occurring
too (or beginning) on the very 4th July
itself, and because of it, because these
colored men, regularly-enrolled militia
of the State, were moved to celebrate,
with all the rest of the Country, the

anniversary of that Declaration
on which the Country was priding itself.
Blindness and indifference, in the
face of such a fact, will be madness
as great, at least, as they committed
who formed "the Union" with Slaveholders
in 1787. The triumph of the
Democratic party next fall will be an
awful calamity indeed; would appear
almost as if the righteous Providence
had given the land over to destruction.
I fear we have got to go through many
a bloody scene yet, before the colored
people of the South are safe to exercise
& enjoy the ordinary rights of men
& citizens. I have great confidence
that Gov. Chamberlain means to
ferret out & bring to justice the real
authors of that infernal slaughter.
Can he do it? Is there force enough
in all So. Carolina & Georgia to
enforce the law upon the villains, and

bring them to trial and to punishment.
I fear not. But Gov. Co. will be
unworthy of his office, if he does
not do everything which he officially
can to that end, to the end that
the whole land may see and know
either that there is law there, even
for white criminals of high social
position, or that there is not, and
that law, order, & decency are all to be
^{and with impunity}
alike defied by the still-active
rebels of the South, the equally
active supporters of the Democratic
nominations. The Republicans have
excellent men for their nominees, I believe,
but they are not the men, I greatly fear,
to arouse enthusiasm & stir the popular
thought to an adequate sense of the
greatness of the peril and the emergency.
Still, how vastly better than Conkling, or Blair.

I have not heard from or of you
since you were on the way to the Phila-
Exhibition, and to Longwood meeting -

except some brief newspaper account of
your being at the latter place. I hope
you were well enough to enjoy both;
although the great changes which had
occurred, both among the people ~~there~~^{at Longwood}
and with yourself, must have caused
you to have many new & strange sensations.
Mr. May had said that you held out
some prospect of stopping - both yourself &
Frank - & making us a little call at least
on your way home. But I doubt if it
would have been a good time, even had
the weather not been (as I presume it was)
so fearfully warm, - hot! After a little
rest & refreshing at home, do come and
pass a few days with us, letting us
know, as soon as you can, when it will
be convenient for you to do so,

With our united regards & affectionate
remembrance to Fanny & all hers, to Frank
& all yr. children, & to yourself -

I am, truly yours, L. May.