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Hingham, May 23, 1841.

My dear friend, How kind you were to write me by Miss Bowles, when I had been so dilatory in answering your long & your good very good letter. It gave me just the information I wanted, the steps by which you got through the last end of all things. I was aware that almost every thing rested upon your shoulders, and you sustained it well, as long as I saw you, but I felt that with your bad cold, and the pain of parting with friends, that you must stagger before the burden was fairly off. So you may remain satisfied that your letter was just the thing I wanted, & ever and always, the more you write about yourself, the more I shall love to hear. I wonder that I have not written to you before now, and I believe this is the reason. I wanted to set down and answer your letter as soon as I had read it, & my desire to write was so great, that I was sure that I should write as soon as you would expect to hear, & in the mean time, set myself about writing and doing the disagreeable things at my leisure, ^{moments} having the agreeable, such as writing to you, in prospect; and feeling that that would be done involuntarily without effort or thought. I have a habit I believe, which I carry to a fault, of doing what I ought to do, before what I want to do. It is not the right way of living, according to the Emersonian philosophy. It is not planting myself upon my instincts. It is not more wise, carried to an extreme, than, from a barrel of apples, to select all the rotten ones to eat, until they all become such.

I was really grieved, when I heard that your dear
21 little niece had died. I thought you would feel a double sorrow to loose her now. I am glad that you

have such fine accounts from your brother and sister
Chapman. Hope you will soon all meet with joy.
I want to see you, Caroline, for a thousand reasons, more, to
know from you the pros and cons for giving up slave
produce in our families. You, I believe, have never
done it, but some of your family have, and I wish to
know how far it is practicable, and at what sacrifice
of money we can procure supply the essential arti-
cles by free produce. We have had the subject discussed
among us somewhat hotly, and Mr. Lincoln's family
have given up slave labor. I feel sometimes that I
could do the cause of freedom some service by doing
so, more perhaps than in any other way. I thought of request-
ing your thoughts by letter sometime ago, but now I
hope to see you very soon and hear what you have to say
from your own lips. I hope I shall see you here in the va-
cation & hope also, that I shall meet you in Boston at
the A. S. Convention. I shall go up to the City on Tuesday
and attend the meeting if I am not prevented by the
doings of the dentist. Do you thank your kind agent
for giving you a mouthful of good teeth. It saves you
a world of pain perplexity and money.

Our Annual Exhibition was last Wednesday as you
know, and it was quite tinged with abolition.
and what was the best of all, a slave holder from
the South was present to hear it. Mary Lincoln had
the black Saxon by Mrs. Child, read by some of her schol-
ars, and one of our boys spoke Mr. Garrison's piece in
last year's Liberty Bell. Mr. May looked delighted
and no one hissed, I believe, although we might expect
it. This slave holder is Uncle to the Hobarts. He &
his wife, and his niece and baby, came on with no remark
from fear of our laws I suppose. Have you seen the

Plain Speaker, and what do you think of it. Mr. Alcott brought us a number some time ago. He, Mr. A., complains of Garrison's conservatism. I am very glad that Mrs. Childs is to be an Editor, I think her paper will be a good one. Were you not surprised at Mr. Chase's course? at his disengagement &c. I hear that Green the Editor of the Plain Speaker, is to marry his sister & without aid from church or State.

I do not know that I have any news to write you of importance from Hingham. We have been quite shocked at Mrs. Blake's death, and the manner of it. Poor woman, she has had a life of suffering from the vices of her friends. The Whigs here have been somewhat disturbed by an abolition sermon that Mr. Stearns gave them of ^{last} day instead of an Eulogy of Garrison, which they hoped to hear. But they were well served. Mr. Stearns did not intend to have public exercises on that day. He felt that he did not sympathize exactly with the popular feeling, though enough had been said and done, and much more had been said ^{about Garrison} than felt. But his parish would not let him be silent, they were so eager to fast, that he gave them what he thought ought to make them fast in good earnest. He spoke of the inconsistencies in our Republic, and wherein we had failed to carry out the great idea ^{of our government}. It was a noble sermon, but the people were not noble enough to appreciate it. Maria sends her love to you, and hopes to see you here in your vacation. Mr. Smith is out, or he would send his. He was called upon to preach very unexpectedly to day, we were disappointed in a minister, & when we had all taken our seats at church, we had no one to say a word to us, & Mr. Smith was obliged to go from the singers seats to the pulpit, & speak as the spirit gave utterance. I am glad to hear that Mr. Phillips will soon set his face homeward. Give my love to your sisters if they are with you. Yours sincerely Echina A. S.

Miss Caroline Weston

Boston
Ms.

25 Cornhill