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Roxbury, May 18, 1874.

My Dear Friends:

As the poet Gray wrote to his friend Wharton, "Next to the pleasure of seeing you, is the pleasure of seeing your hand writing"; Accept my hearty thanks for your letter, so handsomely penned, so charged with honest indignation, and giving such proof that not even advanced age has affected the freshness and energy of your spirit. Precisely how old you are I do not remember; but, as I am now in my seventieth year, (how almost incredible it seems to me!) I suppose you cannot be far from the octogenarian period. Well, I will keep as near you as I can in time, and also in eternity, if such a distinction exists in the illimitable hereafter; though, being finite, I expect in the future life to be governed "by Shrewsbury clock," or some other one not less reliable, and to take cognizance of the procession of the seasons and the revolutions of the planets, as now in the flesh.. Having labored with you and your dear and noble wife, for so many years, to make this world better than we found it — and I trust not labored in vain — I hope to join you in another sphere, animated by a similar spirit, and consecrating the same faculties and powers to "the general welfare," under better conditions and with constant enlargement; only may "the sum of all villainy" have no possible foothold in that untried sphere! Should we find it there, however, no matter under what sanctions or in what strength, here is my pledge of hand and heart to join you, as in "auld lang syne," in a war of extermination!

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As to the particular matter to which you refer, I have not forgotten the perfidy attending it; but to open the controversy at this late day would not be allowed in the columns of the Independent, (from which all controversy is by rule excluded, even on theological points,) or those of any other journal of any considerable circulation, and there are few of the new generation who would take any interest in it. No glorification of the wrong-doers can alter the facts pertaining to the grave issues attending the anti-slavery struggle; and our satisfaction must be in having remained true to our trust, faithfully exposed what was legally and morally indefensible, and thus washed our hands in innocency.

With the highest personal regards,

Your old friend and co-worker,

Wm Lloyd Garrison.

David Lee Child Esq.

P.S. My dear wife joins me in affectionate remembrances to Mrs Child and yourself. It will give me great pleasure to hear from you again.

To Mr White
May 18. 1874

