

N. York Jan 29. 1841

My dear Garrison

245-

We have had with us at a social Antislavery meeting, Lucretia Mott & companions. They inform me that you do not approve of the proposed Special Meeting, at which we are surprised. We have waited several weeks before issuing the call, for the communication of views from the friends in Boston & elsewhere. Collins wrote to us, that the move was approbated by you. - Abby Kelly writes to day, that wherever she mentions the subject, it is promptly united with, & bids us go ahead "by all means. We have only this day issued the call, no dissent having been expressed, except by some of you, at this late hour. So, I suppose we must go to work with fife & drum, & beat up recruits. Why shall we not? Rely on it, the right kind of effort may make this meeting far more important than any that has yet been held in this country. Nay, it should, & if all heartily cooperate, it will overshadow the "world's convention". I was slow to accede to this proposal when it was first made, & did not yield my judgment of its inexpediency, until we received, so far as we corresponded a general & cordial sentiment in its favor - understanding, above all, that it was agreeable to our eastern friends. The Ex. Com<sup>ee</sup> at Philad.

deliberated on it, & were undivided, in favor of it. Some of them enthusiastically so. Now, we can have from 500 to 700 abolitionists convened there. Penn<sup>a</sup> & N. Jersey, & the neighboring parts of Delaware, alone, will make a respectable body. I confess, my own judgment has not been cordial in its favor, & is not so now. but I submitted it to that of others - & think that we can drive the measure triumphantly, if we but determine to do so. Nevertheless, if the step be wrong, we can retract - though mortifying, it will be better than to persist.

James Jackson new-organized!! Departed from the good old platform! - from the Christianity platform - to the worldly policy platform! That's open-trial new organization. But how easy it is to see that he is now on the ground of policy instead of principle? I dare say, we shall know more about this move in the course of time. These untoward events are necessary to keep us close to the principle - to make us watchful - to keep us plain, & unsophisticated. How needful is it that we suffer not a single fold of the old flag, to fall into the mire of politics?

10mo 5<sup>th</sup>

The foregoing was written some days ago, & I concluded not to send it - but alter my mind. I have conversed with S. M. C. who is decidedly of the mind that the call for a Special Meeting is timely, & will do a great

deal of good, if we put both hands to work.  
She says - "we have too few gatherings" - "we want  
this" - I have heard from other quarters  
also - & am now cordially in favor of the  
measure. Do, pray, give it all the impulse you  
can. With regard to Jackson - I feel a  
little sorry at your editorial. I have strong  
reason to believe that a degree of disaffection  
possesses his mind. I don't believe he is  
sincere - but he ought not to be quarrelled  
with. Do I understand rightly - that thy  
opposition to a political party rests on ex-  
pediency? I have, for my part,  
a stronger conscientious testimony  
against it, than against almost any  
other form, ~~in~~ in which the Devil appears  
to thwart the object of moral reform -

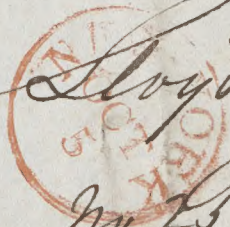
Essex Co are with us - (in N.Y. I  
mean)

Yours truly  
J. Webb

*Paid*

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