

Boston, Jan. 5, 1839.

My dear George:

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If this year be not the happiest of your life, it shall not be my fault, if an abundance of good wishes can avail any thing. Think not, however, that these wishes extend only through the current year: in my mind your everlasting felicity is included. The same good things I desire for you, I also desire for yours - for Catherine and your dear children; you, and for my beloved and estimable sisters Anna and Sarah. We may all be happy, if we choose; and one way to be so is to try, as we shall have opportunity, to make all the world happy, "beginning at Jerusalem" - i. e. in our immediate vicinity.

The household at Brooklyn is now fairly divided between us. The presence of mother has cheered us for some weeks; and on Wednesday, our joy was augmented by the arrival of sister Mary from Providence. She will remain with us till after the annual meeting. I had almost despaired of her coming; but a letter which I sent to her, telling her she must ^{not} take advantage of my non-resistance principles, (for I could not compel her vi et armis), had the effect to subdue and attract her. So that, reckoning Cecilia and little Fred, (or Fed, as George calls him,) we have a considerable slice of the village of Brooklyn added to No. 2, Nassau Court.

It is sometime since I wrote to the sisters, and I regret my silence. How it has happened, I could tell, if that would mend the matter - but it will not. My time, as you may easily imagine, is very much occupied, and there will be little chance for a respite, probably, while I remain in the city; though, as soon as friend Johnson gets fully installed in office, I hope to find a little more leisure for private correspondence.

I have many things to say to you all, on the score of friendship and brotherly affection; but these must give place to business matters affecting the integrity of the anti-slavery cause in this State.

[Let me say, then, without further preliminary, that you must be present at our annual meeting on the 23d instant, if practicable, and induce as many sound, ultra abolitionists to attend as you can. When you were here, I believe you had some intimations that the clerical snake was coiling in the grass for a spring, and that an attempt would probably be made to subvert the Liberator, by the establishment of another anti-slavery periodical. Since that time, many facts have come to light, confirmatory of our suspicions. The conspiracy seems to be very extensive, and to have embraced a large number of high professing abolitionists. The three most active in it are ~~Stanton~~, Phelps, Torrey and St. Clair. Stanton is ready to go with them. So will, unquestionably, Orange Scott, because of his strong dislike of the non-resistance discussion; and so, to some extent, I imagine, will Colver. John W. Browne, of Lynn, was ensnared for a time, but I think will go straight. The plot is, by drilling before-hand, to rally such a number at the annual meeting as to change the present Board of Managers of the State Society - then to get a vote for the establishment of a new weekly paper, to be under the control of the new Board, and to be the organ of the Society. How mean, how ungrateful, how contemptible, is conduct like this! I should not greatly care for it, if it had openly manifested itself - but every thing about it has been managed as secretly as possible. To counteract this revolutionary movement, as far as practicable, I made a proposition at our Board meeting to raise a committee, to report upon the expediency of publishing a monthly periodical, as the organ of the Society, for the use of auxiliaries, &c. Phelps was not present - but he was nominated by one of his friends, and Edmund Quincy and myself. It happened that he did not return in season from Haverhill to consult with us, and we

accordingly made our report to the Board on Friday - to wit, that such a monthly ought to be printed, officially, to be called "The Abolitionist," and to be edited by a committee of three, to be elected by ballot. This report was strenuously opposed by Mr. P.'s friends (Ayras,) on the ground that a weekly paper was called for, and would doubtless be established - that it would be better to defer the whole matter to the annual meeting - that the probability was, there would be a change in the Board, &c. Thus we had "the cat let out of the bag." The report was, however, accepted, and Wendell Phillips, Edmund Quincy and myself were elected editors. We shall have the specimen number issued forthwith, in season for the annual meeting. What will be the issue of the whole matter, it is difficult to foresee. I intend to sound a note of warning in the next Liberator, in somewhat guarded, yet significant language, so that there may be a general rallying of the true-hearted. Mrs. Chapman is active in correspondence. Phillips, Quincy, Sewall, Loring, Jackson, &c. will be true. I intend writing to S. L. Child, but hardly expect he will be able to come. Besides getting up a new paper, the design is to settle the "woman question" against us. Thus we have all the materials for a warm and earnest collision. You remember Dr. Hoaxes's letter last summer. That showed the plot in embryo - it is now nearly consummated. It will come up in a plausible shape, under color of a deep regard for the cause, and with no avowed hostility to the Liberator. A deep impression will be made, because so many of our agents will be against us - Phelps, Torrey, St. Clair, Scott, Stanton, &c. &c. But I think, if the thing be fairly understood, that we shall be able to frustrate their hopes and expectations.] In view of this state of things, I am sure you will come, if you can. Bro. May will be on hand, and will of course go right. I am in great haste, and can do no more - only that we are all well, and send most affectionate remembrances to all the family.

Ever yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

MS.A.1.1.3.27



George W. Benson,

Brooklyn,

Connecticut.

