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P. S. I shall transmit to you, by this  
mail, a copy of my writings. As to my health,  
it is somewhat improved, though I am now suf-  
fering from rheumatism

Roxbury, Feb. 9, 1871.

My dearly beloved Friend:

I heartily thank you for your let-  
ter, enclosing a very interesting and justly  
appreciative one from Prof. Fiske, of Cornell  
University, which I herewith return, in  
accordance with your request. His retro-  
spective view of the Anti-Slavery strug-  
gle, and of the peculiar characteristics  
of the abolitionists, is very happily ex-  
pressed; yet none but those who were  
called to endure the heat and burden  
of those times of fiery trial can fully  
realize what qualities of head and heart  
were needed to ensure uncompromising  
fidelity to the end. Some who early en-  
listed ran well for a time, and then fell  
by the way; in most instances, I think,  
because of their religious exclusiveness  
and intolerance. I am struck with the

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keen observation evinced by Prof. Fiske where he says— "It is strange to see how all the players in the drama appear just when they are wanted; how one scene of action follows another; how the dramatis personae become constantly more numerous, until they embrace half a nation; how the fool and the knave of the play (the slaveholder) always comes forward, when the action lags, with some hideous piece of folly or equally hideous crime, which is suddenly seized and turned to advantage by his assailants." Drawn to the life! I always marvelled, at the time, at the manner in which our co-laborers appeared or disappeared, according to the shaping of events. It would be unreasonable to say, that our noble cause was not retarded by any defection that took place from our ranks; nevertheless, almost <sup>every</sup> event seemed to conspire, in some way or other, to give an impetus to it; so that, for more than thirty years, there was no lull



in the excitement, no truce between the opposing parties. That the slaveholders were driven to do, in support of their "peculiar institution," was necessarily so base and cruel, often so diabolical, as powerfully to react in favor of those whom they so desperately but impotently endeavored to crush.

In giving your valuable collection of Anti-Slavery books and pamphlets to Cornell University, you have chosen an important depository, through which the truth of history may be more intelligently ascertained and correctly illustrated. Your own excellent work, "Anti-Slavery Recollections," will be among the number that will be read with the deepest interest, inspiring many a student to enter the broad and illimitable field of philanthropy and reform.

Our old co-workers are fast disappearing from this earthly stage, and, in accordance with the laws of mortality, we must follow them at no distant day. How



Wm. L. Garrison  
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unspeakably pleasant it will be to greet them, and to be greeted by them, on the other side of the line! The longer I live, the longer I desire to live, and the more I see the desirableness of living; yet certainly not in this frail body, but just as it shall please the dear Father of us all. "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in <sup>blessed</sup> power." What a ~~desirable~~ exchange, and how magnificent!

You have doubtless heard of the translation of our dear and venerated friend and coadjutor, Thomas Garrett, of Wilmington, Del. He was one of the grandest men of the ages.

We are hourly expecting the arrival of Mr. Villard from Europe. Dear wife and children send loving regards.  
S. J. May. Affectionately yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.