

Weymouth April 4. 1852

My Dear Mary,

I immediately on receiving your paper passed it to Mr. Quincy with the request that he should answer it as early as possible and send the answer to Mr. Estlin requesting him if it ~~was~~ <sup>suited</sup> the purpose designed, to have a sufficient number printed in Bristol at the expense of the <sup>American</sup> Society. I certainly expected to have the pleasure of reading his answer before it went, but it is one of which I have been deprived. He came to the Ex. Com of the Society or such of them as could be got together & all liked it. But as he was hurried at the last he writes writing to me to meet him in Boston as I would certainly have done had I known when the meeting at the A. S. office would take place. I thought the plan of printing it in Bristol better on two accounts. It would be distributed in England, a great market much earlier than if printed here. The executive department at the A. S. office (Messrs Garrison May & Wallcut) have more leisure than to be in the matter of getting out any documents



except those that appear in the  
Liberator there is always great  
delay. Again you cannot judge much  
better than we could do how many  
copies would be needed. As soon as  
you have one pray send it on.  
I rely upon Edmund as the best person  
for this sort of dealing with such  
people as Tappan. I very much hope  
that it (the answer) may prove satisfactory  
to Mr Estlin & yourself.

I was in Boston yesterday for the  
purpose of attending a Board <sup>Meeting</sup> where it  
should be decided whether the An-  
nual Meeting should be held at  
Syracuse (where it has been advertised)  
or at Rochester. Mrs Foster who is lecturing  
in the state of N. Y. has written to boldy  
urging this change on several accounts.  
First as a larger hall, a greater  
audience, more extended hospitality  
on the part of the Rochester people  
and greater prospect of success in the  
collection of money because Syracuse  
has been drained to furnish supplies  
for the rescue trials & also I suppose  
the Syracuseans will be largely taxed  
those most favourable to the Cause to  
rebuild S. J. May's Meeting House, which  
has been blown down lately.



But one great motive that influenced  
Mrs Foster's wish was a desire that  
the Am. Society should do something  
to put a stop if possible to the ardent  
efforts of Douglass to injure i.e. Nothing  
can equal his bitterness & violence.  
In an A. S. Meeting recently held there  
he denounced the American Society  
with as great bitterness on account of  
its infidelity as ever Tappan & Desbute  
exhibited in 1840. Miss Griffith was  
very circulating the British Banner  
(the copy your father sent Mr May)  
Douglass's bitterness against George  
Thomson is intense & he endeavours  
constantly to create a prejudice against  
him. Mr Phillips & some other friends  
have peremptorily stopped their papers  
but this is a difficult matter to  
accomplish, inasmuch as Miss G.  
who takes the entire management  
of matters, no matter how much a  
paper may be stopped concludes to  
send it, relying on the earliness of  
people, who weep very angry and  
not perhaps unite again, but keep on  
a year longer. Must be the anger  
of Mrs Douglass, Miss Griffith persists  
in living in Douglass's family, ruling  
all its affairs, & of course, creating great



scandal of all sorts. Mrs. Ernst of  
Amherst, a very good friend of the  
cause, & personally very friendly to  
Douglass, told me that every  
morning his chaise was brought to  
his door & he & Miss Giffitt got in  
& rode to his office & miles out  
of Rochester where they spent the  
day, returning to his house at night.  
all this of course, apart from every  
thing else, injures the cause in Rochester  
& alienates the claps of the people.  
Whether the Am. Soc. can do any  
good by going there remains to  
be seen.

It gave me great pleasure to  
meet the Rev. J. Kelley who is in Boston  
at present. He is such a very old  
friend, one who was in the cause  
long before we were, that I always  
feel extremely delighted to meet  
him. He gave his cousin, your  
Mr. May, a letter of Mr. Russell's  
Carpenter's to read & finally allowed  
me to do ~~it~~ so. It was quite amusing;  
just such stuff as you might expect.  
He glomped himself for depending Dr.  
Dewey or rather Gannett I believe it  
was saying it was as difficult at  
an A. S. Meeting in England to



2) advance views contrary to those  
of the majority, as it would be at  
a pro slavery one in America. He  
was very anxious to prevent any  
action that should look like ex-  
communication on the part of the  
English Unitarians, it would be so con-  
trary to their principles. But the  
action of some of the leading pillars  
in Bristol was quite inconsistent.  
The brother in law of the Rev Mr  
Armstrong with whom he (Mr A) was  
on very good terms had only been  
prevented by accident from becoming  
a Slave Holder. "Mr Estlin censured  
my father, for his forwardness in regard  
to British Emancipation & yet my  
father was what would now be called  
pro slavery, & Mr James is the last  
man in the world to do any thing  
that would — here my memory  
fails me, but the idea to be observed  
is that Mr James is a very conservative  
person in general. I write all this  
entire now, because I thought it would  
amuse you, the poor Mr Carpenter  
could have no idea that eyes less  
gentle than Mr May's would perceive  
his imitations. He seems to have a  
modest share of self esteem.



Boston 6. Charming Street.

I was prevented, my dear friend  
from finishing my letter in time for  
last week's mail, but I will endeavour  
to get it off by tomorrow. Lu &  
myself are passing a week or two with  
Miss Chapman, and we took the oppor-  
tunity when we might attend the  
Meeting held by the Vigilance Comtee  
in commemoration of the kidnapping &  
return of Sims. I had not expected much  
edification from the services, as from their  
very nature, I felt that any blunder  
either in taste or feeling would be more  
noticeable & unfortunate than on a more  
usual Anti Slavery occasion. But I was  
agreeably disappointed. All the morning  
services, which were the set ones, that ap-  
pointed arrangements, were very impres-  
sive & striking. A very large audience  
was collected, very appropriate selections  
from the Bible were read by the Sluggin-  
son, a Unitarian minister formerly settled  
in Newburyport, but dismissed for his  
fidelity. He also prayed, as patently true  
to my feelings as his mode of opinion  
permits. I believe it is the theory of modern  
Unitarians that the efficacy of prayer consists  
in the effect that our petitions may, in their  
utterance, produce on our own souls, a sort  
of mental mesmerism in fact. Now this  
is entirely opposed to my opinions & feelings.  
I feel at liberty to ask for the most  
direct interposition on the part of God &  
believe that in answer to prayers on the  
part of various people, He actually does



thus interpose? If you would not think it unpardonable levity on a very serious subject, I should say that I am gratified with the prayer of Father Snowden, as he was called, a very venerable colored minister who died in Boston several years since & who belonged to the Methodist persuasion. I heard him pray at an A. S. Meeting on a certain 4<sup>th</sup> of July, & he put up this among other petitions "If any of her Majesty's Cruisers are out to day in pursuit of Slave ships, blow 'em, or drive 'em under their lee" Now as a Peace person I can hardly coincide in such requests, but the sincerity and faith displayed in them are pleasant to me.

The Rev Mr Pier just read a hymn he had written for the occasion in a very telling manner. I cannot say much of the poetry, but the sentiments were very excellent. Theodore Parker's discourse tho' somewhat too long, was very admirable in many particulars. It will probably be published & so you will see it. The afternoon meeting was a loss to that opportunity to express their views. But our evening Meeting was very glorious. Wendell Phillips made one of his best efforts. Indeed I have heard nothing so fine from him for many years. He appeared to carry the whole audience with him - except Mr Garrison & myself, & I hardly staid behind. He took the ground that the fugitive



here in the North was an outlaw, that the  
moment he was arrested he was a lost  
man, that the Abolitionists would do nothing  
for him & that therefore he counselled  
all men to flee to Canada, or to defend  
themselves & let the officer's life be at  
his own risk. He thought there was yet  
opinion enough in a Mass. jury to bring  
in a verdict of "not guilty." This was the  
gist of his speech, but it was set forth  
& adorned with great eloquence. He  
said that he counselled the slaves to  
present submission, because there was  
no other way at present, but great  
crises might arise in which his duty  
would be quite different. Garrison evidently  
did not think it best to bring in a  
set non resistance argument, & he con-  
tested himself in announcing the distinctive  
doctrine of the A. S. Society. In his per-  
& particularly explained his own non  
resistance principles. I felt with won-  
der, but my principles really harmonize  
more closely with those of W. L. G. than I  
have not much of his spirit. Non resis-  
tance sentiments would never occur spa-  
ntaneously to my mind.

The steamer at this point is due  
& I cannot help having some hope  
that she may bring me a letter  
from you. It seems a long while  
since I heard. It is a long time  
too since I heard from Mr. Thwaites so  
I shall be quite disappointed unless  
I hear from some of you soon.



3) All the Abolition world & some out  
of it are busy reading "Uncle Tom's  
Cabin" & as I learn Mrs May has  
sent it you, perhaps you will have  
read it before I shall have done so.  
I regret to learn that there is any  
approval of Colonization in it & wonder  
from my heart how any one in  
true sympathy with the blacks' can  
have for that scheme any other  
emotion but those of indignation &  
hatred.

Mr Loring has lately passed a  
day or two with us at Weymouth & I  
upbraided him very severely for send-  
ing off his pamphlet without my  
having obtained a sight. He excused  
himself on the ground of his extreme  
haste & I had to admit the apology.  
I hope he has neither said nor left un-  
said unwise. Pray let me know at  
once if it was the sort of thing you  
needed. I approve of Mr Garrison's short  
method with Mr Tappan, because I  
think the latter was anxious that the  
Liberator should be filled with his contribu-  
tions, knowing that a renewal of this  
old battle just now would be rather  
distasteful than otherwise to its subscribers.

Please to give my most affectionate  
regards to Mrs Michel & Mr Estlin  
& with love from Loring to yourself  
Believe me, dear Mary, very truly yrs  
A. W. W.



I have had long letters from Caroline lately, but Emma has behaved so very ill in respect to writing that I never to think of her in England. We shall lose all knowledge of her then, as now we only hear of her through Caroline.

My brother's health continues to improve, but he is not yet well, & so remains at Northampton a little longer, Deborah with him.