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I'd like confer with you hereafter in
regard to my contributions & testimony from the
the Great. Think you write about Sunday for next,
think still willing to talk, together me kindly.

Boston, Sept. 14, 1865.

My dear McKim:

Your letter, in answer to mine re-
specting the Freedmen's Commission, is re-
ceived.

Last evening there was a special
meeting of the N. E. Freedmen's Aid Society,
at their Rooms, to consider the proposition to
recognize the Commission as the head of the
Freedmen's movement, having its Eastern and
Western wings. It was a long session, and
all present expressed their views on the sub-
ject. The conclusion arrived at was the unani-
mous adoption of a Resolution that, as at pres-
ent advised, the Society, saw serious objec-
tions to such a movement; and deputed Rev.
Charles Lowe, Edward S. Philbrick and my-
self to represent the Society, and state its views,
at the meeting of the "Union," to be held si-
multaneously with that of the Board of Man-
agers of the Commission, in New York, on Fri-

day forenoon; 15th inst. The Secretary has doubtless sent you the Resolution, to-day, by mail.

Neither Mr. Love nor Mr. Philbrick was present when the delegates were chosen; and on conferring with them since, they say that imperative business engagements render it impracticable for them to be at the New York meeting. Independent of your solicitation for my presence, I had a desire to be with you on the occasion, that there might be the fullest interchange of opinion on a matter of such importance; but I am not feeling well, and ^{therefore} shrink from the fatigue of such a sultry journey. Moreover, as William is absent on a visit to Auburn, N. Y., I do not like to be ^{away} ~~absent~~ from home, on wife's account, as her helpless condition makes her more timid than ever when there is "no man about the house." And, finally, as the views expressed by the members of the Society were ~~was~~ unanimous for non-concurrence, no room was left for any thing beyond this.

Hence, I send you this hasty epistle as a substitute for my presence.

The objections to the Commission were — that it was not formed with ^{the} ~~its~~ ^{of the Society,} knowledge, nor ~~was~~ ^{was} any one ~~then~~ present duly appointed to act ^{authoritatively} in its behalf; that at the New York meeting no one presented nor was asked to present any credentials from existing Freedmen's Aid Societies, but it was expressly voted that it should be regarded as informal and incomplete, and then ^{it was afterwards} ~~improperly~~ announced to the country that the Commission had been duly organized, Gen. Howard himself being given to understand that such was the fact; that there seemed to be no exigency requiring such an organization, the Eastern and Western associations moving harmoniously each in its own sphere; that the Commission would absorb, in salaries, so much money as in all probability would deter thoughtful people from contributing to it, and leave little to be expended for the Freedmen's cause; and, finally, as Mr. Olmsted had positively

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declined acting as Secretary, no one could be found qualified to fill the situation, at all equal to himself. No objection was made to Bishop Simpson; and there was no disposition to call in question the motives or aims of those who organized the Commission, they being known to be truly desirous of having the best plans and the most efficient measures adopted for the furtherance of the good cause.

With this entire unity of feeling on the part of the N. E. F. A. Society, and the fact that Mr. Olmsted is not disposed to accept the Secretaryship — and understanding that Judge Bond and the Freedmen's friends in Baltimore take a similar view of this new project — my conviction is that it will be wise for the Commission not to attempt to go forward until the need of it is felt and called for by the existing Freedmen's Aid Societies.

Your faithful co-worker,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.