

Sing Sing November 24. 1844.

My Dear Mrs. Chapman

I received a line from you last evening by my husband inviting me to our annual Fair. I desire most earnestly to be present with the friends on that grand occasion, but as I am now situated, it will be impossible for me to be absent as long as it would be necessary ~~for so long~~ at that time. I shall be with you in spirit, and create many of the performances of the occasion, but that, though it may be pleasant to me, will lighten no burden that others will be obliged to bear. I fear for Caroline. do tell her not to try to accomplish impossibilities. Give my love to her, and tell her I would gladly share as in past years, all her toils and labors, on Christmas week.

I shall not be able to send articles for the Fair but as usual shall contribute my mite.

I send this by Oliver and have only a moment. I am greatly obliged for your kind invitation to stay at your house during the Fair. Nothing would give me more pleasure, but I must deny myself and be content to remain in Prison for the present.

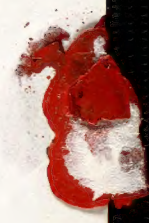
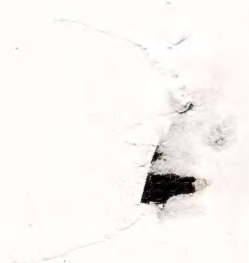
I feel that I am in the path of duty, and I am deeply interested in the experiment we are making, as to how far piety can be overruled by hardness, and yet perfect discipline preserved. I detest the whole prison system, and believe more firmly than ever that such establishments

are wholly unnecessary. I express my views freely to
some of the principal Officers of the Institution. They think
them somewhat visionary, and if they were not supported
by their Guards and guns, would be very ineffectual
in preserving discipline. Please present my kindest
regards to your sisters and Miss Chapman.

Your friend

M^r W^m Johnson

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Mrs. M. W. Chapman
Boston.
Mass.

Nov 24. 1844
Mr Johnson.