

all. After all, rejoice that your reputation is quite
so firmly fixed & has been at all serious affected by
my clumsy misunderstanding.

With great regret, renewed & premature apology
I beg you now to restore me to favor as,

Very affectionately & respectfully

Your friend

Joseph May

Wm Lloyd Garrison, Esq

Boston

down, that I opened yr letter in the P.O. & read it there (& the light there is in fact dim, for one thing.) Probably I did not read it again. I felt a little chagrined that - (alone of all our invited guests) - you should have seen, in the generous festivities we were projecting, a mere sectarian demonstration: & so, I think, I slid into the heisty error of understanding you to object as a Baptist, instead of as a 'Come-outer,' - & read yr entirely plain word in that sense.

I can only now, my dear friend, offer you my unreserved & most sincere apologies & beg you to forgive me. I was extremely & unexcusably careless. I can only plead "humanum est errare." I only hope these expressions may remove any feeling of vexation which may linger in yr mind towards me, tho' they may not take away altogether yr annoyance at the misconstruction you suffered.

I shall do the only remaining thing I can to correct my mistake, that is, send a card to the Rev.

that you hesitated to write with us because you con- sidered yourself in some manner related to the Bptst de- nom. This surprised me: but I thought it possible that, the slavery issue being closed, you now reverted, in some degree to ~~the~~ early associations. But in referring to your reason for declining, I did so altogether playfully, & (I should think) rather incidentally. I cannot at all recall my words: but the point of them was that we were outdoing you - the Apostle of Liberty - in the liberality of our spirit - as the presence of our Ortho- dox friends showed.

Had you heard me, I think you wd have been less annoyed than by the words put into my mouth in the report. But, after all, I have to confess to a grave & most incomprehensible blunder, which I regret most deeply, & cannot fully explain. I can suggest hardly any reason but the great pressure of the preparations for our celebration & the hurry in which I did everything. I was so anxious to get you

Newburyport, Nov 15, 1835

My dear Mr Garrison -

I have been absent from home almost ever since our Celebration, & my attention has only, therefore, been very recently called to your letter in the Visitor. I take the earliest moment at my command to write you.

I cannot express too warmly my regret at my unfortunate misrepresentation of your position & the reason of your declination. I want at once to assure you that the bald language of the report, as you surmise, was not at all mine & in fact it annoyed me so much that I was impelled to write you to say so, but the preparations for my departure came on me so fast that I omitted it.

I greatly wish now that I had done so: for it would perhaps have prevented a portion of the censure you have no doubt passed upon me. I did - strange to say - to read your letter as to understand from it