

Leicester, 22^d October 1837.

My dear Sir & Friend,

As it is no use, all admit, crying for spilt milk, I am not going to bemoan your short visit here, and my loss of it, short as it was. But some circumstances have occurred since you were here which have made me regret, still more than before, that I had no opportunity for a conversation with you. I wanted to have a long talk with you respecting the present condition of the Antislavery party, so far as you might feel at liberty to communicate.

[Perhaps you know, & perhaps you do not, that the temper & tone of Mr. Garrison's publications have never seemed to me proper or Christ-like.

^(my opinion) This is of little consequence to be sure - but so it is. Nevertheless, I have been wont to consider Mr. Garrison a man of firm principle, & actuated by a noble spirit of philanthropy. I have further supposed that there was great unanimity & harmony among the leaders of the Abolition party. I have recently heard things which, if true, would go to disprove both particulars. I am wth to believe them; - &

will not believe them, till I have better evidence than at present. I write to ask your testimony on certain points.

1st Will you state your opinion, in brief, of Mr. Garrison and of the main object he is desirous of effecting.

2^d Will you let me know your opinion respecting the motive, & the probable issue, of ^{an appeal of} ~~an~~ certain Clerical Abolitionists.

I will now tell you what I have lately heard, in which you will see the reasons for the above question.

Rev. Mr. Nelson of this town informed me that Rev. Mr. Peabody (Pastor of Calvinist Ch: in Worcester) made a statement lately, in a meeting of ministers in this neighborhood, to the following effect: That Rev. Amos A. Phelps had told him (Mr. Peabody) that the Abolition of Slavery was far from being the only cause in which ^{Mr. Garrison} ~~he~~ was ardently engaged; - and that in his (Mr. Phelps's) opinion Mr. Garrison much more earnestly desired the destruction & downfall of the

Clerical body than he did the extirpation of Slavery.

- This statement, Mr. Nelson represented to me, as having made no little impression ^{on} ~~at~~ said meeting of ministers.

I cannot withhold an expression of my own opinion, so far as I have been able to form one, on this subject. It would, of course, not affect your opinion, which I desire much to have.

I think the 'Clerical Appeal' and other simultaneous (or nearly so) movements, an Orthodox, a party, movement; and if such, I have no words to express my contempt for the movers in it. I think they wish to break down Mr. Garrison by foul means if fair will not answer. I have heard him vilely abused, here, by Orthodox men.

3^d. I wish, if you see fit, that you would give me your opinion of Amos A. Phelps.

And, to crown the whole, I wish to have permission to make use of the information you may be able to afford me - if such should not be disagreeable to your feelings. - I do not mean that

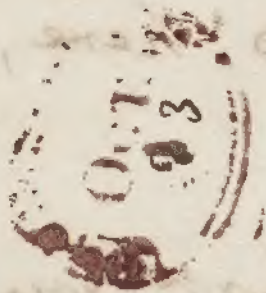
I wish to put & anything into print on the subject, but I should like to meet and rebut ^{on authority} the alleged statement of A.A.P. respecting Mr. Garrison, provided it be an orthodox calumny, as there is some reason to suppose

One thing more - Will you favour me with an answer, without delay. It is important I should get it

Rev. Saml. J. May

South Scituate.

(Mass.)



Saml. J. May
Oct. 22. 1837

this week - i.e. by Oct. 28th We hope you reached home well & safely. Sarah joins me in love to yourself wife & children. Believe me, Yours heartily & respectfully Saml. May.

Ms. A. C. 1. 10