

Leicester, October 28th, 1851.

Tues. Evng.

My dear Sir;

Thank you for two papers recently received from you - the second of which, containing extracts from your speech on the 14th inst., came today. I have read it, once to myself, once aloud, with great satisfaction, and with a serious, lofty joy, that you can ^{so} bear yourself so firmly, bravely, unflinchingly & cheerfully. From the hour I first heard of the rescue of Jerry, I felt a very strong wish to hear from you - but I learned nothing with certainty until Friday evng. 17th, when Father sent me a copy of a letter you had written to Charlotte - which I was much pleased & comforted to see. I then had little doubt, in my own mind, that you would be among those arrested; - knowing how far the doctrine of constructive treason is attempted to be pushed, I supposed they would arrest every prominent man in Syracuse who had ever uttered a bold & Christian sentiment about the Fugitive Slave Law. And so I wrote to Father, in reply; but expressing my assured conviction, that, should that be the case, and should there be found in the State of New York, ^(which I did not believe) men enough to award death to a man, for direct or indirect responsibility for such a deed, you would not be found faltering in such an hour, should you be made the victims,

and your death would be a martyrdom which would rank you among the names of earth's most honored saints - her undaunted, deathless benefactors. Such a death, coming in the course of events, and in the line of discharge of a high duty, - however we ~~may~~ may be disposed to pray "if it be possible, let this cup pass from me" - would be a glorious death, and full of power, yes of God's Omnipotence, to draw all men, all noble souls, unto the Christian cause of Human Freedom and the Deliverance of the Slave. It would be a key to the Slave's Dungeon, and at its coming the ponderous gates would open, and the captives go out free. - I was glad to find my convictions of your state of mind, and your calm reliance upon the Right, so fully borne out by your speech. I thank God that you are enabled to be so steadfast, fearless, and self-possessed. I feel sure, from the way you speak, that you have never been more sustained, or more confident in your position, or more serene in your contemplation of the future. And I believe that so it will continue to be with you - even to the end, be that when it may.

Syracuse has done nobly - achieved an imperishable honour. Hiring priests and rotten demagogues are howling and gnashing their teeth at her; but her praise is on thousands & tens of thousands of honest lips, and blessings innumerable

are daily poured upon her, for her indignant rebuke of the insult that was about to be done her, and of the villainy that was attempted to be enacted in her very midst. — May they who stretched forth their arm to defend the poor & needy, and no man who was spoiled out of the hand of the spoiler, be protected by God's ever present Providence, and led in safety from the reach of the Oppressor.

Be assured, you & your gallant friends and co-adjutors have the warmest sympathies of a great multitude. Your names are spoken with reverence & gratitude. Oh! it is grand, it is the true Heroism, thus to stand firm & true, when a whole Nation reels ~~away~~ ^{& drunken} in its mad defiance of God and Liberty; — opposing a serene but unyielding front to the flood of corruption & wickedness which threaten to overwhelm.

I fear we shall not get a visit from Charlotte after all. We have engaged board in Boston for the winter, and are going thither about the middle of November.

My wife & children ^{& myself} are in ^{as} good health as usual. We all desire affectionate greetings to Cousin Lucretia and all your family.

Believe me, Most respectfully & affectionately
Yours, Samuel May Jr

7.
Rev. S. J. May.



Rev. Samuel J. May,

Syracuse,

N. Y.



Grand May 12
Oct 20
1857.