

Boston - July (?)  
Tuesday - 1864

112

My dear Sir: - I have recd.  
your kind note asking  
me to give my opinion of  
the Labor System of Lab.  
I should be very glad to do  
so if I felt that the great  
cause for which we are  
labouring would be helped  
thereby. But I will write  
you from private as what  
I do not care to say in  
public -

For Gen. Baubys per-  
sonally, I have the highest  
respect. I believe him to be  
an upright & true man -  
He conceives the Labor

Septim with the intention  
of doing justice to the  
republic & a brilliant thing  
for himself & his country.

But he was hampered  
in every possible way, &  
really did not care en-  
ough for the movement  
to break away from all  
and every influence & con-  
ny it to its completion.

In the first place the  
President himself handled  
these districts very gingerly,  
& did not see fit to  
disturb the status of the  
slave. Banks felt there-  
fore that his power was

very limited, & that it  
would not be politic to re-  
sort to any harsh or novel  
measures. In the second  
place the object of his be-  
ing sent to Ind. as I  
conceive, was to try the ef-  
fect of conciliating meas-  
ures, & by overturning the  
relations between master  
& slave he would have  
run counter to the very  
purpose for which he  
left the Army of the Po-  
tomac. In the third  
place, he was surrounded  
by men, upon whose coun-  
sel in other matters he  
depended more or less,

who were most bitterly op-  
posed to anything of the kind.  
There was here one man on  
his staff, Capt. Hooper, who  
died in '63, who had any  
sympathy with abolition-  
ism. He & I used to sit  
together, talking this all  
over, & repeating that it  
was next to impossible  
to get any official ac-  
tion in favor of the slave.

Now you can't reckon  
the power of their influ-  
ence upon such a man  
as Gen. Banks. He is not  
radical by nature; I  
think he is decidedly con-  
servative in character  
but a lover of fair play.

sources - not easily corrected.

Mr N. is an honest man  
<sup>first</sup> eye manipulated & then eyed  
on by men who have party  
ends & accomplish.

Wendell Phillips is  
still a puzzle to me.

I don't understand  
him. If you do may  
give me a clue.

My best regards to  
Mr Garrison - We are pleased  
to hear of his continued im-  
provement - and affectionate  
remembrance to all.

Ever yours  
dear Garrison  
J. M. McKim

July 1864

- Replying to other Wives:  
 I am <sup>113</sup> glad to hear that  
 you are in better health.  
 I trust that you are well  
 enough to answer Mr  
 Newman's letter. It will  
 be a hard letter to answer;  
 not from any inherent dif-  
 ficulty in the case but from  
 the way in which it is  
 put. The man is talking  
 about matters which he  
 does not comprehend, &  
 is laboring under impressions  
 - derived from recent