Boston July 14th 1837.

To whom it may Concern

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Sometime since, inquiry being made in relation to the character of Owen Davis, I remarked to a friend, that when in New York, I was quite sure he had a letter of recommendation from Mr. Birney of Ohio. As this was denied by Davis, I at once wrote to Mr. Jocelyn, to know whether it was so or not. The following is his reply, on the subject in question.

New York July 8th 1837

Dear Brother

I ~~spent yesterday at New Haven~~ a few days, & yesterday afternoon received your letter. I cannot answer all your questions about Owen Davis. He had, I think a letter from some one or more of our friends in Ohio, but whether Mr. Birney was one, I cannot say, or who.

He was soliciting I think particularly for an institution of colored people, I think more especially for a school. He might have intended to connect with his application some conveniences for preaching, but the school was either the entire or the main object.

I do not recollect what amount of funds he wanted, nor what he obtained in this city. I should not think the sum considerable.

My impression was favorable towards Owen Davis on the whole. He went to New Haven & dined with us, although it was with the greatest difficulty that I could get him to my table. I attributed this to his being unac-customed to eating with whites. I thought that he not been much with abolitionists, or doubted their sincerity in inviting him to eat with them. I told him what our sentiments were, & that abolitionists should & would attempt in their practice to carry out their principles.

He intimated nothing like a war spirit, that I recollect, & showed nothing like ugliness or opposition to abolitionists. I fear that our sympathy for colored brethren, sometimes has made us too careless about examining into their character before we aided them. Colored brethren, such as Cornish, Wright, Van Rensalaer &c are better judges than we are generally, & I am determined to refer such cases to their supervision hereafter.

Mr. Van Rensalaer says the meeting was about a colored man who had been charged with assisting kidnappers. He warned some of the colored people against Davis, when at Boston, & says he did not pretend to have recommenda-

-tions from Mr. Birney. They were from a Justice of the Peace & some others. Says he wanted money for a church and school together.

Yours affectly

S. S. Jocelyn.

The above is a correct copy of Mr. Jocelyn's reply, & as an act of justice I very cheerfully give it over to Mr. Davis.

A. A. Phelps.