Petersburg August 1 1864

Wm Lloyd Garrison,

My dear friend,

I see by the last number that the discontinuance of the "Liberator" is not an impossible event. Certain it is that it would be an event disgraceful to Abolitionists & calamitous to the public interests: and earnestly therefore do I hope that it will be prevented. To this end a thousand dollars should be sent to you without delay. Enclosed are two hundred of the thousand.

I am very sorry to see that because it favors the re-election of Mr Lincoln, some of its old patrons are giving up the Liberator. They are unreasonable. It is no crime to vote for him. All of us should be eager to vote for him, if voting for him instead of another, shall seem most likely to keep a disloyal man out of the Presidency.

During the Rebellion I have been nothing but an Anti-Rebellion man. Deeply do I regret this premature agitation of the Presidential question. Faithfully, however feebly and

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unsuccessfully, did I labor to prevent it. I believed it to be fraught with any good paid to our beloved country. For one I am too much absorbed with the purpose of putting down the Rebellion to consider are it be absolutely necessary to do so, whom I ought to vote for. I am an Abolitionist. So rigid a one that in time of Peace I vote for none but an Abolitionist. But during the Rebellion I vote for the man, call him Abolitionist or Anti-Abolitionist, who will do all he can to suppress the Rebellion. I leave Abolitionists to gain what it may, or lose what it must from such supposition. I am well aware that by this course I have lost the confidence of many Abolitionists. Their philosophy differs widely from mine.

Let me here say, that I regard every one as disloyal who would yield up any portion of our one, indivisible country to the guilty men who without the slightest justification for making War, or even the slightest cause for any complaint, unless it be for our having

spoiled them by indulgence, have by force of arms undertaken to rob us of a portion of it. And let me add that I regard every one as disloyal, who would let off these guilty of all robbery on any lower or other terms than their unconditional surrender. Mr Lincoln is an honest, able & patriotic man. But he falls into a great mistake when he proposes to make something else than such surrender the basis for Peace negotiations with the Rebels. The true order is 1st their unconditional surrender. 2 Cautious encouraging to them if they are still impenitent. 3 An abundance of money, bottomless kindness & liberality to them if they are penitent.

With equally warm regards for you whether you shall go for Lincoln or for some other loyal man & with equally warm regards for Wendell Phillips whether he shall go for Fremont or for some other loyal man, knowing that you will both of you unite to go most effectively against the rebels.

Yours & his friend

Gerrit Smith

Gerrit Smith,
Peterboro',
Aug. 1, 1864. N.Y.