Peterboro', Sept. 5, 1857.

S. J. May:

My Dear Brother — The Liberator of yesterday came this evening. It fills me with grief.

You can bear me witness that when I have spoken or written of Wm. Lloyd Garrison, it has been affectionately and admiringly. You know how greatly I have honored and loved this strong and good man. Faithfully have I always defended him, both at home and abroad. I say abroad, with reference to my frequent defence of him in my letters to England. How could he find it in his heart to hold me up to the public ridicule and contempt! For his manly, fearless criticism on myself and others, I thank him.

Why should Mr. G. hold me up as eccentric and vacillating? What in my life gives the least countenance to such a charge? Why should he represent me as having left the "Jerry Rescue level," and forsaken the ground that slavery is piracy? Doubtless, in his mind, "compensation" is entirely incompatible with my well known views in regard to slavery and

the rescue of Jerry. But has he not abundant proof that in my mind it is not? It is true that, in my Nebraska speech in Congress, I spoke of slavery as an outlaw, and as piracy. But do I not, in the same speech, go for "compensation"?

Mr. Garrison would himself admit that I have always shown some earnestness, and made some sacrifices, in the anti-slavery cause. And yet, all the time, I have been for "compensation," and all the time for extending the Union, taking in Mexico, Cuba, and all.

Perhaps compensation is all wrong; and perhaps Mr. G. can tear all to pieces my arguments for it; but is it right in him to vilify me for believing in "compensation"?

Again — you know how I deplore all this abuse of abolitionists by abolitionists, with reference to its bearing upon the anti-slavery cause. If we have not confidence in one another, how can we expect the public to have it? If we cannot treat each other with respect, why should we wonder if the public feel no respect for us? I seriously question whether in all the abuse of me in the vulgar political press, there has been, in the same ~~cause~~

number of lines, so much misrepresentation of me, and so much unkind and uncandid treatment of me as in these lines. Such writing as this, on the part of Mr. Garrison, goes to make him, or me, or both of us, contemptible in the eye of the world; and what advantage can the poor slave gain from that? God grant that he may cease to write in this way about me, or any other friend of the slave!

It was no small sacrifice to me to go to Cleveland. But I felt I must go to stamp the movement, if I could, with abolition principles. The Resolutions show how I succeeded.

In haste, your friend,

Gerrit Smith.

P.S. My principal speech at Cleveland I have written out. I hope to see it in the Liberator in a few days. I shall be thankful to you if you will point out to me the unsound reasoning in it. I will thank Mr. Garrison to do so. But that can be done, without at the same time insulting and vilifying me.

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P. S. Enclosed, I return you Mr. Smith's letter.

I must say, he has a singular method of praising and vindicating me, "at home and abroad" — in giving countenance and support to Lewis Tappan and his clique — in liberally contributing to the support of Frederick Douglass and his paper, and endorsing with his letters of recommendation that Miss Pecksniff, Julia Griffitt, in England — all as personally hostile to me as possible, and thoroughly intent on crushing out of existence the American Anti-Slavery Society, by misrepresentation, falsehood and deception. "Call you this backing your friend?" I do not understand such flat contradictions. If Mr. Smith cherishes such "admiration" of me, or of my labors, how can he reconcile it to his sense of justice to uphold such malignant enemies of mine as Julia Griffitt and F. Douglass?