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Roxbury, May 7, 1867.

Dear Mr. May:

I have been duly notified that "the adjourned hearing before the Master in Chancery, under the order of the Supreme Judicial Court in the case of Jackson ex. vs. Phillips et als. will be had at his office, No. 4 Court Street, Boston, on Wednesday, May 15th, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon." As I am to embark to-morrow for Europe, it will not, of course, be possible for me to attend the meeting aforesaid. Nevertheless, as one of the Trustees in this case, I respectfully ask to be permitted in this manner to say in brief, what I might otherwise say more at length, in what way I think the anti-slavery legacies conveyed in the Will of Francis Jackson would be applied most in accordance with his wishes, could he be enabled to speak for himself at this time.

The whole amount remaining to be expended I understand to be about nine thousand two hundred dollars. You will recollect that when the matter was submitted to the Trustees, some time ago, in

order to obtain their views for the consideration of the Master in Chancery and the Court, it was voted, on my motion, that five thousand dollars should be given to the New England Freedmen's Union Commission, and four thousand two hundred dollars to the Anti-Slavery Standard at New York. I made this motion, as you are aware, not as in accordance with my wish or judgment as to the wisest use of the money, so far as the Standard was concerned, but solely because of the nearly equal division of opinion in the Board of Trustees, and wishing to avoid every appearance of unfairness in the adjustment of this vexata questio. You and Mr. Bowditch were absent on that occasion, though represented by letter or by proxy. It is proper to state that only Mr. Whipple and myself audibly voted for my motion; Mr. Edmund Jackson and Mr. Quincy only seemingly acquiescing in it by silence, though in reality not approving it - Mr. Quincy being in favor of appropriating the whole of the legacy to the Freedmen's Commission, and Mr. Jackson in favor of giving one fourth part of it to the

Anti-Slavery Standard, and the remainder to the Commission.

Mr. Phillips, at that interview, dwelt upon the importance of securing the ballot for the freedman as paramount to every other consideration, and accordingly argued the expediency and propriety of sustaining the Anti-Slavery Standard because of its advocacy of the suffrage question. All the Trustees were for vindicating the right of the freedmen alike to the ballot and to education; but we were not agreed as to the precise channel through which to make that vindication. Happily, since we met, by the Reconstruction Bill passed by Congress, the Southern freedmen have been put in possession of the elective franchise, and are now voting and even being voted for; and though it is true that in some of the Northern States colored men are denied that right, all the signs of the times indicate that, ere long, this proscriptive policy will be abandoned.

Under these circumstances, I feel released from adhesion to the motion I made as aforesaid, and would advise that no division of Mr. Jackson's bequest be made, but that it be given, without delay, and as a whole, to the New England Freedmen's Union Commission; thoroughly satisfied that it cannot be so surely and efficiently expended for the enlightenment, elevation and freedom of the emancipated bondmen of the

South through any other channel or instrumentality. The officers and managers of that Commission are among the most trustworthy citizens in the State.

Very truly yours,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. S. May, Jr.

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Copy of Mr Garrison
Letter to Mr May

May 7, 1864