

Boston, Jan. 8th 1840.

Dear Mr. Manning:

Your very touching letter finds me prostrated on a bed of sickness, with head confused, & brain & body hot with fever; but I lose no time in replying to it, through an amanuensis.

Your request shall be sacredly complied with. Neither Mr. Heywood, nor any other member of our Anti-Slavery Society, would for one moment either urge or desire you to speak at our approaching anniversary, in view of the very delicate & embarrassing circumstances detailed in your letter. If it were a question relating to a compromise of principle, then, I am sure, you would be as unwilling to allow father or mother, brother or sister, wife or child, to deter you from uttering your sentiments on the occasion alluded to, as I should be to exonerate you from the discharge of a duty which would then imperatively devolve upon you. But, as there is ^{no moral obligation} ~~no~~ ^{at any particular meeting of the} for you to speak ~~on the~~ ^{at the} Anti-Slavery ~~at the~~ ^{at the} Society, it simply becomes a question of expediency & sound discretion; and, therefore, I think you

have acted wisely (in consultation with Mrs. Manning) in wishing to recall your promise to Mr. Heywood. You have, on various occasions, shown rare moral courage & independence in bearing a frank, bold and unequivocal testimony against the colossal sin of our country; and your last effort, on Fast Day, in your own pulpit, must satisfy all of your determination to be true to your conscientious convictions, come what may.

Please say to Mrs. Manning that I deeply sympathize with her in the present ^{distressing} state of affairs in her native ^{land}. If the desires of the abolitionists could be realized, no harm would be done to the persons or the legitimate property of any in the South; for we have long endeavored, through much persecution and misrepresentation, to have that remedy applied, which alone can prevent civil and servile war, and give peace and prosperity to the whole nation. That remedy is, in ^{obedient} compliance with the command of God "to undo the heavy burden ~~to~~ break every yoke; & let the oppressed go free." By no other process can the terrible judgments now impending over our guilty land be averted. ~~as a nation paid~~ people sow, so shall they also reap. In the severest inflictions of Divine retri-