

1859
Boston, July 25, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

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Your letter, in reply to the one I sent to you ~~on the 21st or 22nd~~ on Friday, is received. My answer to it shall be without delay.

In the first place, let me say, I marked my letter to you "private" on the envelope, simply to insure its ~~fast~~ opening and perusal by yourself; but not meaning that you should keep it from the eye of Stephen one moment, unless you preferred to do so. I will add, that I have no objection what-
ever to your letter or any one reading the letter - if you have none. Only I think the less publicity in regard to the present ^{matter} ~~is~~ ^{the better} ~~the better~~ the letter.

In the second place, let me say, I know not on what reasonable ground you have been ~~waiting~~ (as you declare) ever since the N. E. C., to hear from me. If you had any thing to complain of, respecting my criticism upon your course, at that Convention, ^{why did you not} ~~you had written~~ the frankness ^{and} fidelity to let me know it, either by letter or ^{by} word of mouth? ^{and how} you can justify your self in such a procedure, while punishing your self with the ears of others, I do not understand. Why should I ^{have} written to you, with no impeachment or charge before me on your part? Uncon-
scious of having done you any wrong, and feel-
ing justified by the ~~circumstances~~ ^{in testifying} ~~the~~ ~~revelation~~ ~~I~~ ~~did~~, it was not my duty to gather from the lips of others what you can refrain from conveying to me, and take the initiative in this correspondence. You

I have done so; ^{but} ~~not~~, instead of my magnanimity, being appreciated, you insist that you were entitled ^{last} to hear from me, and hence your long silence! To me, this is a new view of obligations."

In the third place, let me say, the explanation you give why you left my house ~~with~~ with such precipitancy is ^{hardly} not satisfactory, because it was not then seven o'clock; because you heard my wife call me to speak to you, and, springing at the call, I was in a moment in the ~~chair~~ ^{act} to give you my hand as usual, but you had vanished; and because, however hurried you may have been, you ^{certainly} were not so pressed for time that you could not stop ~~to~~ even to ~~take leave of us~~ say good-by - ~~What did you not afterward make a visit to Mr. Phillips?~~ ~~ask~~ ~~did I not call Mrs. Garrison?~~ What else could I infer but that you were in a highly excited state of mind? And why had I not a right to believe that when your "sober second thought" came, you would regret ~~such~~ ^{my} but haste, ^{now} and write me a letter, telling me in what manner, and to what extent, I had done you ^{felt} ~~any~~ ~~serious~~ ~~worry~~? You ask - "Did I not tell Mrs. Garrison distinctly, that we were obliged to leave Boston at 8 o'clock, and that previous to that hour, we had got to breakfast, and to visit Alla's surgeon, & that every moment must be saved?" My wife has no recollection of any reference ^{being} made to seeing Alla's surgeon, but she remembers how Alla exclaimed, "My, mother!" in view of your sudden departure - and, ^{on} as my breakfast was all ready, she wished you and Alla to partake of it, without any loss of time. It must have been a very "disagreeable" ~~draw~~ ^{draw}, as you admit, under which you were laboring at the time.

In the fourth place, let me say, the readiness with which you came to the conclusion that I meant to charge you with ^{a lack of integrity} dishonesty, - after such an unbroken friendship as ours had been for twenty-five years, - was and is to me inexplicable; ^{it} ~~and~~ is the saddest part of it all. You say - "The audience understood you to accuse me of being fraudulent, each of ~~my~~ ^{my} obtaining money under false pretences." ^{I do not believe it.} What right have you to say this? You were not present. If you had been, you would have heard - what the audience heard - from my lips, when Mr. Burleigh, ~~to remove all possibility of misapprehension,~~ ^{to me} said to me, "You did not mean to accuse Mrs. Foster of ^{fraudulent} ~~fraudulent~~ ^{intentional} ~~fraud~~?" "Certainly not," I replied; while I still felt that your course had been unwarrantable, and highly inconsistent. In ~~your~~ ^{my} ~~criticism~~ ^{my} ~~upon~~ ^{disclaimer} ~~any~~ ^{of} ~~my~~ ^{intention} ~~design~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{intentional} ~~dishonesty~~ ^{to} ~~you,~~ ^{Can} ~~Can~~ ^a ~~person~~ ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{dishonest} ~~without~~ ^{without} ~~intention~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{being} ~~so?~~ ^{So,} ~~So,~~ ^{you} ~~still~~ ^{think} ~~I~~ ^{have} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~dishonest~~ ^{not} ~~not~~ ^{intentionally} ~~so."~~ ^I ~~can~~ ^{only} ~~reply,~~ ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{such} ~~such~~ ^{verbal} ~~criticism~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{priced} ~~construction~~ ^{seem} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~indicate~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{determination} ~~upon~~ ^{upon} ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~part~~ ^{part} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~place~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{most} ~~possible~~ ^{construction} ~~upon~~ ^{upon} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~language~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{notices.} In such a state of mind, how ~~can~~ ^{can} I hope ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~obtain~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{any} ~~thing~~ ^{thing} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~condescending~~ ^{or} ~~or~~ ^{friendly} ~~charity?~~ ^{that} ~~that~~ ^I ~~have~~ ^{never} ~~said~~ ^{or} ~~dropped~~ ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{you} ~~were~~ ^{just} ~~ified~~ ^{ified} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~mind~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{getting} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~you~~ ^{you} ~~did~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{as} ~~as~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{most} ~~deliberate~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{most} ~~deliberate~~ ^{obstacles} ~~obstacles~~ ^{as} ~~as~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{most} ~~deliberate~~ ^{obstacles} ~~obstacles~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{my} ~~my~~ ^{path;} yet I am persuaded such a procedure is utterly indefensible, and upon the face of it would be regarded "in the eye" as ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~unjust~~ ^{unjust} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~unfair~~ ^{unfair} ~~proceeding, as practically ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~injustice.~~ ^{injustice.}~~~~

~~If I believe that~~ That was what I said; but I expressly acquitted you of any "intentional" wrong doing. Why persist in ignoring the fact that I did so? ~~That~~ You say that "mutual friends" requested me privately in the ante-room to make "retraction," and I "declined doing so." Retraction is ^{applied to and the wrong} ~~in my case, explanation~~. I had nothing to retract; but, in answer to Stople, and to the signing of Mr. Burleigh, I explained what I meant, and disclaimed any design to stain your integrity. I ~~do~~ cannot believe there was an unprejudiced person in the audience who left the hall that evening, who understood me as attacking your character - not me! Hence,

In the fifth place, let me say, your assertion, "It therefore remains true that I stand before the public accused by you of fraud..." This accusation is in the wings of the press, and is ready to meet me whenever I shall again attempt to serve the slave financially - that I am not a man of integrity," is baseless, and the result ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~my~~ ^{of} ~~believing~~ ^{of} a morbid condition of the mind. So far as the public at large are concerned, they know nothing of the matter, as no reference was made to it in the published proceedings of the ~~Anti-Slavery~~ Convention; and had it not been for Stople dragging it before the meeting, and making a long, exaggerated, and ~~uncharitable~~ ^{uncharitable} speech upon it, ~~nothing would have~~ ^{nothing would have} the whole affair would have dropped ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~eyes~~ ^{eyes} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Convention.~~ ^{the Convention.}

of the Liberator, ~~in~~ your course is plain
Send me a letter, over your signature,
for publication, stating your ^{appreciation} ~~feeling~~ or be-
lief that ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~may~~ ^{may} suppose that I
meant to impeach your honesty at the
Convention, notwithstanding my explanation
at that time, and ~~request me to see~~
whether I fail to be sufficiently explicit
in reply to it. This ~~you~~ should have done
at the instant, if (as you say) it is a public
and not a "private" affair. My own in-
viction is, that a molehill has been magni-
fied to a mountainous size, and that a
true regard for the cause ~~that~~ ^{which} is so dear
to us will dictate the omission of all pub-
lic reference to it. If you think otherwise,
I have suggested the method of disposing of
it, ~~once for all~~ ^{once for all} in the Liberator. I should
prefer to have Stephen write the letter ~~it will be all the~~
~~be deliberate~~ ^{such} ~~reflex~~ ⁱⁿ ~~as~~ ⁱⁿ the bonds of
a precious friendship,

Yours, to break every yoke,
W. L. G.

I need not add, that we shall be glad
to see you all at our house at any time, and
that our latch-string will always be out
to you and yours as hitherto. Especially
do we desire, both for our pleasure and her
convenience, that Allen will make our
house her home, during her visits to the city