



















Boston, Jan. 29/67.

Dear friend Webb, - I delayed this to give you something more particular about the "Nation" subscription wh. A. M. Powell had paid, & to-day I have a letter from him, His recollection is at fault, & so his letter is not very satisfactory, but I will quote what he does say -

"The Nation bill, for R. D. W. (on acc<sup>t</sup>. of someone whose name I cannot call to mind) came to me at a time when many things were pressing for attention, - together with a memorandum, wh. P. Pillsbury left for back numbers of the Standard. I made a note of these, distinct from Standard business, & filed carefully away. - so carefully that I cannot find it now, as I look. I delayed writing till the Standard files could be searched. We find it impossible to supply the back numbers wanted." He then says he had been to "Nation" office, & examined their books, but could not identify the name of your friend for whom he had paid, & adds - "Please ask R. D. W. to re-state to you, w<sup>o</sup> me, for whom he requested P. P. to pay a subscription to the 'Nation'; his own answer will doubtless give name & address," &c. &c.

- I will pay the \$5. at once, & charge to you, as there can be no doubt of Powell's correctness as to the main fact, I feel very confident; I suppose you would have me do so. - Powell send me a duplicate receipt of your own subscription - for \$7.04, dated Apr. 12/66, & showing payment to Feb. 14. 1867. I don't suppose you wish this duplicate sent you; but if you do, please mention it. Also, - if you wish me to renew your subscription after mid. of February (at \$6.50) you will please so notify me, and I shall be pleased to attend to it for you. As I said, you are to send no money - at present, at least. - I shall not put up price of "John Brown life", unless you direct; but Powell agrees with me, that \$1.50. may very properly be asked for them.

You asked me what I think of W. Phillips now - if I don't think he is right. I do not, in the points where I have thought him wrong - 1. In his treatment of Mr. Lincoln, & espousal of your "Practical" claims (or cause) for the Presidency. 2. In continuing the Anti & Mass.

U. S. Societies. In regard to other matters, & especially, to  
all Antisl. principles, & as to the National duty, to the free people,  
- their rights, social & civil, their education, full protection, &c., there  
never was any difference among abolitionists. We were all deceived  
in Andrew Johnson, - Charles Sumner was deceived, & was the means  
of misleading others. When he came home from Washington, in December  
of 1865, he told us explicitly that we might trust Andrew Johnson.  
Johnson lied to him, has lied to the whole Repub<sup>n</sup> party, & to the  
Nation. This is not vituperation - it is the naked fact; and a more  
terrible fact to us, in the circumstances, need not be looked for.  
One fact would be worse, viz. to have a majority of the people  
uphold him - to have Congress the mere register of his edicts.  
Neither of these facts exist - We trust in God, in truth, in the right,  
& in the intelligence of the people, that neither of them will exist.  
- And we throw ourselves in with all the loyal people, - not to  
censure, or carp, or coldly criticize, but, as a part of them, to  
watch & insulate the public events, associate them in every  
right measure, & stimulate their faith & courage for the yet  
imperfect work. I hold it peculiar & cheap to censure  
the A. S. Societies. So far as they have now any effect, it is to  
throw suspicion on ~~the~~ all that has been gained, & checked for  
freedom, - to undervalue it, & disparage it. Consider, - the  
Mass. A. S. Socy. held its "Ann<sup>d</sup> meeting" here last week. It has only a  
name to live. It has not had one solitary meeting the whole year, to  
the best of my knowledge & belief - not one, nor did it out an appeal  
nor a lecturer, has no office anywhere & no operations. Last  
summer it nominally called 2 open air meetings, 4th July, & 16 Aug.  
But these were not, in any sense, Society meetings, but local  
meetings, wh. might have been (& would have been doubtless,) called  
without intervention of any Society. Much the same is true of the  
Anti A. S. Socy. It has no office, save the small edit. & mailing room  
of the "Standard", in 4th story of a building in the heart of the  
Commercial part of New York, where no strangers, customers, inquirers,  
ladies, or the general public, would ever go, for A. S. publications, &c.  
- It may be its existence, as you said some in a previous letter, "can  
do no harm"; - tho' I think it may also be otherwise. - One party,  
I think, attended the meeting in Boston last week. It brought

to its platform several weak, yet headstrong, individuals  
who thought it expedient to becoming to ~~the~~ <sup>congratulate</sup> Garrison for not  
being present at said meeting; (after he had distinctly withdrawn,  
& none could have expected him!), & to revile him as having  
betrayed & deserted the cause of freedom & of the Negro! Of  
course, this doesn't harm Garrison, - the "ham". I speak of it in  
another direction, viz. that the good old Anti-Slavery name  
& Cause ~~being~~ is brought into disrepute, so far as these men  
can do it; - & with those, who cannot or do not discriminate,  
it is brought into disrepute. And W. Phillips stands or sits  
by, & hears this reviling thrown on Garrison, & listens to the most  
falsome adulation of himself, without a word. - It doesn't  
seem to me good, or right, or scarcely decent. Wendell Phillips  
doesn't need these meetings for his own influence; - that is, probably,  
much compromised by them. He can have a much larger  
audience, at any time, when he wishes to publicly discuss any  
great topic. There is a bitterness, a savageness, & a most contemptible  
spite against Garrison, because, he will be his own man, and  
will not bend to the purposes of others. That I know. Phillips,  
while sedulously careful himself what he says of Mr. Garrison, gives  
countenance & encouragement to perfectly atrocious & shameful  
things, cast about by men, who have no self-control, no coolness  
of judgment, & in many cases, no capacity of thinking sensibly.  
- Phillips saw through Andrew Johnson somewhat earlier than  
Garrison, - & not much earlier; but P. was a general censor,  
& where all men, (& Congress especially) were condemned with most  
sweeping denunciations, (the "Sundry Congress", &c.), it would be strange  
if he did not sometimes (& often indeed) hit right. He has no eminence  
over Garrison, - but on the contrary, in my belief stands far  
beneath, in sound, clear moral insight, in reliable naming and  
doctrine, and in services of the utmost value to humanity in general,  
& our country in particular. But I desire none of these Companions  
& they are not of our seeking. The partisans of W. Phillips, it is,  
who are thrust; them before the public, whenever they can get a  
hearing. - I have written this sheet circula calamo,  
& with the postscript - have just at hand; - cannot read it over,

& you will please forgive blunders. — I don't like to be asked about M.P., for I am conscious of feelings so very strong a disapprobation of much that he has done & encouraged, that I am very likely to be biased; but when I am, again & again, required of, I am quite as up to speak out.

My wife & daughter don't give up asking, if you are not coming to this country. Couldn't you stop over at the Spring, & pass a Summer with us? You would see much that wd. interest you, & many who wd. delight to see you.

I can no more. Farewell,

Affectionately, Yrs. S. May Jr.

Do you still keep up Turkish baths?