

Newport. R. I.

Jan 16. 1866.

My dear Sir

I don't know whether you sent me your last sermon, because I was absent when it came, & didn't see the envelope. But I thank you for it, all the same, & yet I don't agree with all of it. I think for instance that you are injudicious to the capacity of average freedmen as to holding land. Nothing else developed their self-respect, I thought (except military service, under good officers) - & all admitted that those employed on Mr. Philbrick's plantations, with every advantage, made less progress <sup>in self-education</sup>, than those on Port Royal Island, who worked in a more independent way. These however are matters of detail.

I want to consult you on another matter. Do you feel sufficient interest in James Richardson to like to write a sketch of him for the Harvard Memorial Biographies?

I should like it very much. I want about ten pages (of Bancroft's history size) at most - with some extracts from letters, &c.

My cousin W. V. Channing wrote a letter about him in the Register (date unknown - last summer or so) giving an interesting account of his army service, which was chiefly spent in hospital duty where he was detailed. Tell me how this strikes you. I ought to have it by March 1.

Very truly yours  
Thomas Wentworth Higginson