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Boston, March 20, 1889

John C. Collins

Dear friend Collins:

Not having heard from you for a long period, and not being sure of your being still in California, I mailed at a venture two numbers of the New York Tribune to your address in San Francisco, containing my replies to Senator Blaine's discreditable speech on the Chinese question. These, it appears *by* your letter of the 11th inst., were duly received — a letter, the sight of which, with its familiar handwriting, is next to seeing you face to face.

I am glad to know that, on the question of human rights and human brotherhood, you still continue to be, "among the faithless, faithful found," unmoved by the general "craze" against the unoffending but scornfully treated Chinese that seems to affect all classes on the Pacific coast, and equally clear in vision and sound in judgment as to the purely selfish motives that prompt to this unmanly and unchristian persecution. For it there is no excuse whatever, for nothing can justify race proscription, or acting upon the jesuitical doctrine that we may do evil that good may come, and that the end justifies the means. "A man's a man, for a' that." This is the old anti-slavery issue over again, but in a different form, and in reference to another portion of our fellow-creatures, happily never reduced to a state of chattel servitude, though most shamefully outraged on our soil. It is to be met in the same manner and with the same weapons as of old.

Ms. A. 1.1 v. 9, p. 718

We have only to substitute for the opprobrious epithet "nigger," the equally opprobrious designation of "heathen Chinese," and the whole story is told. Shockingly paradoxical is it to find persons, otherwise respectable, decent, kind, and exemplary, following the lead of such a semi-lunatic, semi-barbarian as Denis Kearney, and vociferously joining in the hue-and-cry against a class who have done no wrong, whose right to come and go or remain (whether under a given treaty or without it) is as clear and absolute as that of any other foreign people, and who can be ostracized only in flagrant violation of all the "self-evident truths" and fundamental principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, and all the precepts embodied in the Gospel. But we had the same painful and revolting revelation of human inconsistency, folly and apostasy in our struggle to break the fetters of the Southern bondmen, and repress the persecuting spirit of color-phobia. How easily is this whole matter settled by an impartial application of the Golden Rule!

My dear friend, L. Maria Child, writing to me on this subject, says,—"First and foremost, I wish to thank you for your strong and earnest words about the wrongs done to the Chinese. It is really encouraging to see the moral sense of the people so far roused as it has been. I was particularly glad that the colored people of New York protested, because they "knew what it was to belong to a despised and persecuted race." In the universal scramble for gain, it sometimes seems as if the American people had lost all moral sense; and it is

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really refreshing to have some evidence that it is not so. How disgusting are our Christian professions, in view of our treatment of the poor 'heathen' whom we have invited to our shores! What a sham our religion must seem to them!"

Your analysis of the political corruption and rivalry growing out of this question is very just. Any documents you can send me, pro or con, will be duly appreciated.

Yours for the abolition of all castes,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

P. S. I shall send you by this mail, a small memorial volume in relation to my dear, deceased wife, which please accept for her sake and mine. ~~I send you,~~ Also, the latest photographic "counterfeit presentment" of my features, taken a short time since, in the 74th year of my age. If you can spare me one of your own, I shall be gratified to receive it.

Be assured, I shall never cease to remember the immense service you rendered the anti-slavery cause, during the period of your connection with it; and I rejoice that you have been permitted to live to see its sublime triumph in the total abolition of slavery, and the transformation of the victims of that horrible system into citizens, clothed with the same constitutional rights and immunities as all others,

though still suffering persecution at the South.

How many of our old and endeared co-laborers have been removed from this earthly stage of action to a higher plane!—Francis Jackson, Edmund Jackson and wife, Ellis Gray Loring and wife, Samuel J. May, Henry C. Wright, Samuel Philbrick, Theodore Parker, Charles F. Hovey, Andrew T. Foss, Charles I. Remond, Edmund Quincy, Marius R. Robinson, Benjamin S. Jones, Benjamin C. Bacon, J. Miller McKim, Gerrit Smith, Beriah Green, Joshua Coffin, David Lee Child, Joseph and Thankful Southwick, Isaac and Nathaniel Winslow, Abner Sanger, Josiah Hayward, William C. Nell, Andrew Robeson, Joseph Ricketson, Jonathan Buffum, Nathaniel Barrey, James Mott, Moses Thacher, Charles C. Burleigh, William H. Burleigh, Cyrus Burleigh, Nath'l. B. Borden and wife, Bourne Spooner and wife, Amasa Walker, Thomas Garrett, Levi Coffin, Thomas McClintock, Hannah Cox, Lydia Mott, George Thompson, Henry Vincent, Harriet Martineau!

I have never received the pamphlet concerning a homestead law, to which you refer in your letter.