

Leicester, Mass<sup>ts</sup>, May 6, 1860.

Dear friend Webb.

I had a pretty busy week, - the last, - and came home last (Saturday) evening, wearied quite out; and tomorrow morning, I am to start for New York, to attend the Annual Meeting there. - Last Monday, I removed my family from the neighborhood of Boston to this, our 25 yrs. country home (which Richard will remember, I doubt not); this was something of a job. I remained here one day, helping to get things "to rights"; on Wed. morn<sup>g</sup>. returned to Boston, & made preparations for another move - viz<sup>t</sup> of our Anti-Slavery Office from its old quarters in Cornhill to a new & much superior building in Washington St.; where we have a much more commodious apartment, considerably larger; and far more agreeable than the old office, which was contracted, impossible to keep clean, & ill-ventilated.\* On Friday, 5<sup>th</sup>, the removal was accomplished, and we are now established in new quarters, though it will take some little time to get our various matters into order & shape. I remained at the office yesterday until nearly 2, & then returned to order some small portion of the disorder, & then returned, the 50 ms., to Leicester; and have been thankful, I assure you, for the rest, body & mind, of this "First Day". - I should not now deem it in my power to write you a letter worth your reading, and certainly sh<sup>d</sup>. not be attempting it, did I not feel it my duty to write & let you know something about Garrison. - In my last - some 3 weeks since - I said to you that you w<sup>d</sup>. probably see him in your own country this summer; for he had gone so far as to get "the refusal" of a State-room in

\* I sh<sup>d</sup>. say that altho' we have so much improved our office - quarters, yet our Society's efforts to find it self-enlarged, as the House has refused to give the Annual Meeting room, on acct. of accommodations to thousands, who gather to the Convention.

the Mail steamer to sail from Boston May 16.  
He then was hoping that H.C. Wright would  
accompany him, - for he has, from the first,  
been exceedingly loth to go alone. H.C.W.  
could not conveniently go, and this aid to  
the enterprise was taken away. <sup>[Confidential.]</sup> But  
another difficulty presented itself, - not  
much heeded at first - but appearing  
more serious, the more it was thot  
of; - this was the fact of Frederick  
Douglass's being in England. Garrison,  
indeed, from the beginning had said he  
would have no controversy with F.D.  
whatever, and would make no allusion  
at all to him in any public meeting  
he might attend. But the difficulty  
attending this, in the circumstances,  
and the obvious look of the thing, as if  
he had followed F.D. to England, with  
some personal object, - the more they were  
contemplated, seemed to become weighty  
reasons ~~for~~ why he should not go. This  
view of the case has weighed a good deal on  
his mind. Then he is feeling considerably anxious  
about his wife's health, - altho' we think  
needlessly so, - and this, at present, discourages  
him from the thought of going. Accordingly  
the prospect of his going to England this summer  
looks decidedly less favorable than it did

When I last wrote to you, I do not think it is abandoned; but it is highly uncertain. It is quite certain he will not go on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, - nor at any time in May; - and no time is now talked about. - I think that, if I should go to England this Summer, he would probably accompany me; but there are several causes which prevent my deciding to do so, at present, although our Executive Comtee have passed a very kind vote, favoring my going, and individually urge me not to neglect this means of recruiting health, a good deal impaired the last 15 mos. - One of the strongest reasons why I should go now lies in the fact that <sup>as</sup> I am told) Mr. Garrison has recently said "he should go, if ~~it~~ I went." - or something to that effect. - Now the above is quite confidential; I think it only right to tell you just how it stands, but I am not at all willing to have it known <sup>among you</sup> that G.'s going depends in the least on mine; - and he has never said that to me, and it may not be just so. <sup>I am sure it should just be so.</sup> I hope you have not given any notice ~~\*~~ in the Advocate of G.'s probable coming, - and I w<sup>d</sup>. advise against any such notice being given. If you are writing to Elizabeth Migham (who is the only other person in G.B., besides yourself, to whom I named the prospect of Mr. G.'s <sup>visiting your country</sup>)

# National mind?

I wish you would say <sup>to her</sup> that the likelihood of such a thing has greatly lessened.

I have duly subscribed for "Zion's Herald" to be sent for 3 mos. to "Dr. Palmer, Tandem, Waterford, Ireland". The whole subscription including 2cts. (or 1<sup>o</sup>.) postage on each paper, came to but 63 cts., which I charge in acc<sup>t</sup>. with you.

You have, I trust, received before this the box of Antislavery books, &c. which I forwarded to you, nearly 3 wks. ago, by Steamship, to the Care of S. R. Graves in Liverpool, - notifying you by letter, - by same steamer, - of what I had done.

I may add a few lines in New York.

The ~~Charleston~~ <sup>National</sup> Democratic Nominating Convention, which met in Charleston S.C., after 10 days of vehement discussion, and of all imaginable manoeuvring, - in which however some of the Northern Democrats showed more back-bone, and <sup>few</sup> more boldness in resisting Southern dictation, than they have ever had credit for - adjourned without making any nomination a fact unprecedented & unheard of, - in every way remarkable & instructive; as an historical fact, showing the progress and strength of the Northern anti-slavery feeling, exceeding important. Depend upon it, "in the ears of the Oppressors there is a terrible sound" - the noise of many waters, gathering strength as they come on, and certain in their irresistible might to sweep away the abomination. - Are you as despondent as you were? Do you not discern some proof of the action of A. S. ideas on the

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\* J. S. P. say that after we have so much improved our office - quarters, yet our Society's cylinders of paint is not exhausted as to these "Zion's Herald" papers, the annual of the year, & the acc<sup>t</sup> of accounts given to the members, the Secretary of the Pub. Office