

From A. Brooke

Oakland April 17th 1848

GARRISON
MSS.

My Dear Friend,

I forward by the mail bearing this the Sabbath Reader, of March 23rd containing Judge O'Neal's decision in the case of the city council of Charleston vs. A Benjamin. Notwithstanding you may have seen it before but uncertain in regard to this and desiring it ^{to} come under your notice I have procured it for a friend for the purpose. The violation of the rights of conscience, and of the constitutional rights of the individual which it exhibits, as well as the sophistry employed to disguise the wrong, should be published through the length and breadth of the land.

This sacred regard for the Sabbath, this eversion of obedience to "an ordinance for the better observance of the Lord's day as a day of rest," comes with an especial grace from the same which pronounced sentence of death against John Brown for assisting in the escape from slavery! I wish the sentence pronounced this righteous judge against A Benjamin could be hunted up & published with the accompanying decision, side by side with the sentence of death pronounced on Brown.

28, p. 1
 My wife, a firm disunionist by the way has busied herself in vain to discover a meaning in a favorite quotation, "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell." Although aware it is a Scriptural quotation she is so unfortunately organized as to be unable to venerate what she does not understand. To obtain the beauty of society

Without perhaps losing any thing in definiteness of idea she proposes occasionally to substitute for it "a ~~compact~~
~~with mind~~" a covenant with mind and an agreement
with ashes;" Perhaps you can explain why the original
phrase is best and most expressive, but I believe I could not.
Some future spiritualiser might perchance be able
to discover a deep meaning in the employment of the
term "mind" as representing the earth to which we all
must return, and in "ashes" could perceive a signification
of what the souls (or bodies) of the unelect could never arrive
at during endless burnings! To be serious - may we not
do more for mankind by omitting the use of language which can
only excite a blind veneration? I know that habit, & opposi-
tion of ideas renders it hard to avoid them.

I begin to see dim in the distance a time when I
shall be ready to renew my subscription to the Liberator - & whether
I shall read it without paying for it - at every opportunity
that may come in an orbit determined
of prob, itation.

In several years I have been out
of mine if this be the true one, and it will take me some
time since falling into it again, to bring things round.
True I do, and after, believe me affectionately your friend
A. B. Cooke,

P.S. I noticed sometime since, in the remarks made by
you, I believe before a committee, on the ~~the~~ capital punishment
question, that you assumed as a position, the individual possess
no right to govern his neighbor, could not of course confer that
right which he did not possess upon a representative.

I state the idea in my own words, but having yours by
me to refer to. I was pleased to see it. I have employed
it habitually for several years to stop the mouths of government
men and have never met with a man of sense who could gain
it or a discourse than hold his head. A simpleton can and
will argue without any basis, but the intelligent man who does
not go to a Divine Source as the authority for human governments
but admits them to rest only on the basis claimed for them by
the Declaration of Independence, "the consent of the governed," is silen-
ced at once. How does our acute friend W. Phillips man-
age to continue to be a government man? I wish he would
tell us. He says so many good things I should like to see
how he would look dealing out absurdities. Could not
some of our most logical non-resistants in or about
Boston be induced to issue a tract upon

"Human 94-

governments, their origin, and value
to man kind" - elucidating the extent of human rights?

I have luckily got on to so wide a sheet of paper it
will perhaps do to shuffle any sins of scribbling upon
it in addition to its own and allow me to go Scott free,

WRB.

Oakland, Cal.
4m #15 }

paid 10

William L Garrison
25 Cornhill
Boston
Massachusetts.

