

Wm. Lloyd Garrison
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Boston, June 2, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

244 A whole week has transpired since I received your explanatory letter into my hands, when I did not mean to allow twenty-four hours to elapse before answering it. So much for continual interruptions and engagements.

At our annual meeting in January, I was surprised at what seemed to me the sombre and discouraging views of the state of our cause ~~set~~ taken by Mrs. Foster, Mr. Higginson, and yourself; and, in order to give a more cheerful tone to the meeting, I indulged in a little pleasantry—not dreaming of giving any offence, or exciting any feeling, in any breast. On leaving the platform, however, Mr. Higginson followed me into the ante-room, and exhibited a good deal of excitement—accusing me of attacking him personally, and attempting to throw ridicule upon him. All that I could do was to ^{propose} ~~propose~~ ^{invitations} ~~propose~~ ^{criticisms} ~~propose~~ test that I had not singled him out, as he had declared, and that I only aimed to throw a little sunshine upon what I thought was a depressing state of the atmosphere.

He did not seem willing to accept my explanation, but left me in an inflamed mood of mind, averring that I had made him the special target of my ridicule - &c. I was greatly surprised at his sensitiveness, and especially at his unwillingness to receive my statement as satisfactory; but I could do no more in the premises.

In the afternoon of the same day, you made a rejoinder to my speech - a speech which I understood you to say we did not hear - when you held me up to the audience, ~~as~~ (as I understood your remarks at the time, and so did all with whom I then conversed,) as simply out for scurrilous abuse and low ridicule Abby Kelley Foster; and intimating that, at some future day, in view of "her cracked voice and gray hairs," had you been herself out in the service of the slave, it would be no very pleasant recollection to me that I had sought to make her a laughing-stock - &c. Your aim ~~seemed~~ seemed to be to excite for her the deepest sympathy of the audience, and ~~consequently~~ ^{the most indignant} ~~strong~~ feelings of ~~condemnation~~ against myself. I thought you manifested a perturbed state of mind, and a good deal of personal feeling on the occasion. No single occurrence ever took me more by surprise, or ~~fallen~~ fallen me with greater astonishment; no ~~could~~ could rebukes ever seemed to me more uncalled for, or more unimpeachable.

more gratuitous and unjust. At the conclu-
sion of your remark, I rose, and, expressing
my surprise at what had fallen from your
lips, and that you could conceive it possible
for me to hold up to ridicule the "cracked
voice and gray hair" of one I so loved and
honored as A. K. F., (who has not a gray hair
in her head, I am told,) I emphatically disclaim-
ed the charge, and cast it from me as
the poles asunder; ~~and~~ saying that if you had
heard my speech, you could not possibly have
~~such~~ ^{these} such an imputation upon me. Mrs.

Forster followed me, exonerating me from the
imputation, and declaring that she took no offence
at my language. Under these circumstances,
I was greatly surprised and pained that you did
not come forward, and express your gratification
to find that you had got a wrong impression
of what had fallen from my lips in your
absence from the meeting; ~~and~~ and I felt
your silence most keenly.

In your letter, you say that you
protested against ~~my~~ the construction I had
placed upon your ~~own~~ criticisms, both while
sitting upon the sofa behind me, and afterwards
openly in remarks ~~after~~ before the meeting. To
this, I can only say that I have no recollection of
any distinct disclaimer on your part as touch-
ing the substance of your ^{imputation} ~~imputation~~ - (that is,
holding up to ridicule, with her "cracked
voice," &c. &c.) She herself, at the close of the confer-
ence, begged me to throw ~~it all into oblivion,~~
^{overlook it,}

apologizing for you that you were sick, and consequently ⁱⁿ somewhat morbid state. I followed her advice, and let it pass; though, as Mr. Phillips told you, (not only without my consent, but in opposition to my express injunction to ~~the world~~ say nothing to you on the subject,) I very keenly felt the ^{unwarranted} rebuke you gave me ~~at~~ on that occasion.

Referring to this unpleasant collision, (which to me came "like hail from a clear sky,") you say, "Now it seemed to me at that time, that I was the injured party. You put most severe & unjust words into my mouth, which I did not utter, could not utter, and then commented upon them with very great harshness indeed." Though I may not have ^{given} your language verbatim, do ~~you remember~~ ^{I understand you} to say that you did not represent me as acting ⁱⁿ an unfeeling & cruelly satirical manner toward Abby — nor mean any such thing? What, then, did you mean and say? ^{How is it that you say that you did not} ~~say that you did not~~ ^{mean} you recall your words? ^{For what was I censurable?} I used no names, ^{I cast no personal reflections,} but only spoke of the unusually lugubrious speeches that had been made that day, and tried to relieve the sombre shading of the picture — nothing more. The effect was certainly instantaneous — the relief universal.

I heartily accept the expression of your "deep regrets and deeper sorrow" that you should have "seemed" to do me injustice; and as I do freely say that I am not less regretful ~~that~~ ^{if} I have at any time, in your judgment, misrepresented or misinterpreted your words or actions. It has not been in my heart to do so; and I sincerely wish "bygones to be bygones."

I would on another subject. You say - "From my stand-point, and with my experience, I am compelled to differ with you in my estimate of the Republican party," ^{etc.} ~~and some~~ and you add - "Certainly, I cannot possibly regard that party, as you pronounced it, 'the hope of the country.'" This quotation does me gross injustice, and I am sorry, to see it in your letter. It is part of a dislocated sentence - a fraction of a very cautious and definite statement. After saying, "My hope is in the Republican party," I added with emphasis - "Mark me! not the Republican party ^{as} ^{now} its ^{now} stands, or as to its non-activeness in policy, but as to its materials, - embodying as it does the intelligence, virtue, moral sentiment, and political ^{U.S.} feeling of the North, - in contrast ^{to} the thoroughly demoralized, pro-slavery ~~and~~ Democratic party, which is ready to do any thing demanded by the Slave Power; and so, out of these materials, working up ^{the Northern mind} to our stand-point of Disunion." If I had said, "My hope is in the Republican party," and left the remark unexplained, I should have falsified all my declamations against it, in regard

