

Anti-Slavery Office,

New York, 7 May, 1861.

My Dear Garrison,

60 I snatch a moment from  
pressing engagements to tell you, in a  
word, what I think of the proposition  
to stop the Standard. My deep  
conviction is that never was the paper  
more needed than now, and that  
we should not think of stopping it  
until we have exhausted every  
means of keeping it alive. Indeed  
I can think of no reason for striking  
our flag now that ~~it~~ <sup>has</sup> not existed  
and might not have been urged  
with equal plausibility at any  
time since it ~~started~~ the paper was

started. Our work is not done, the  
four millions of slaves still  
clank their fetters, and it is by  
no means certain that the present  
war will give them freedom.  
Indeed it seems to me more than  
probable, that when the war  
is over, ~~our task~~ the need of  
our efforts will be as imperative  
as at any former period. The  
indications of the present, it seems  
to me, instead of leading us to relax  
our efforts and throw down our  
tools, should encourage us to go  
forward in the use of instru-  
mentalities which experience has  
proved to be <sup>so</sup> mighty efficacious.  
I do not think there is any need  
of taking the proposed step, for I

believe that the friends of the cause  
are able and willing to support the  
paper. The war will, of course,  
cripple our resources, but we  
must work the harder on that  
account. Don't let us surrender  
our Fort Sumter so long as it is  
possible for us to hold it.

As for myself, I have for some  
time past been hoping that the time  
was near when I might, with ad-  
vantage to the cause and to myself,  
retire from the Standard, giving  
place to a younger and more  
competent editor. It is my wish  
to go to my little farm, and spend  
what remains of <sup>my</sup> life in occupations  
less exciting to the mind and more  
healthful for the body than those in

which I have been so long engaged. But  
this device does not at all incline  
me to approve of the project of  
stopping the paper. On the con-  
trary, so strong is my conviction that  
it ought to be continued, that I  
am willing to bear my full  
proportion of the burden of keeping  
it alive.

Yours, hoping to "endure to the end,"

Oliver Johnson