

Leicester, Nov. 8. 1839.

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My dear friend Garrison,

A cold & fatality has prevented my getting to see you, since your return. I have unavailingly resolved on several times, but one after another, demands on my time when in Boston, have arisen, and I have seen compulsion to postpone my visit. - These reasons, however, I can better mention when I see you, than write about. - I may say, however, that my eczema is troubling me a good deal the past 6 or 7 weeks, & is very irritable & uncomfortable, & indeed necessitating my keeping as still as I can. - How much longer this will be, I can form no judgment. I am not laid up with it; but the physician says, 'Keep as still as possible'. This makes me hesitate about going away from home to necessitate brief absences when I do. I hope it is not too long before I see you face to face.

I am much obliged to you for several papers lately, - and to Frank also for one, - containing some articles of yours on the election & a report of the meeting in which R. T. Weston spoke; - thank you for all. Of course I was greatly interested to know of. Yours,

and of course it makes me feel very much disposed
to question my own views when I find them differing
from yours. I have been very much tried by
Gov. Rice, on acct. of his veto of the amended License Bill,
to the extent that I have said - some 6 weeks ago - in
a public meeting that I should not vote for him. I did
not mean, at any time, to vote for Mr. Pitman, because
of my firm persuasion that the temperance cause will
never be forwarded, or helped, by P. party nominations,
but hindered on the contrary. The case of Kansas
Luffage nominations, wherein I saw (as I have always
seen) entirely of C. E. Scovell's mind, as expressed in a
recent Woman's Journal; the reasoning of which seems
to me to apply ~~more~~ to the temperance cause equally
as to that of W. Luffage. My intent was to strike
out, or cut out, A. H. Rice's name, & vote the rest of the
ticket. But I changed my mind in that particular,
- I suppose we may rightfully do so, for good and
satisfactory reasons - and did vote the whole ticket,
Mr. Rice included. It was a hard thing for me
to vote for him, for I considered his reasons, in his
veto message, exceedingly weak, and I could not
excuse him - or even now cannot - for letting himself

as must both branches of the Legislature, who had
decided that the Law needed, & ought to have
remend^d in many particulars. So testified also even
the Officers appointed under that law. He ought not
to have had the Repubⁿ: nomination. — As it was,
however, the matter came to me in this way. Will
you stand any better chance with Mr. Gaston & the
Democrats than with Mr. Rice? 'No, verily?' was my
answer — but any help to them, even an indirect one,
will most surely be reported of bitterly by my temper-
ment man who shall give it. The probability of Dem^o.
success, seemed to me much greater than, as the event
showed, really existed. I sh^d. always have been
unhappy, & blamed myself, had I, by my failure to act,
been any part of the means of giving power & 'endorsement'
to the Dem^o. party, its policies, & measures.

But it is in regard to Mr. Hayes that I
discharge most from you; and by your letters &c. am
made to feel very solicitous. It is a matter for
the future to decide; and I confess that your
prediction of the political ascendancy of the South
seems not unlikely to be realised. But with us
a people as soon, with the unprincipled and

Missouri & other Democratic parts of the North, ready
to give everything up, year by year, into the hands of the
Southern Democrats, provided the Northern half can
have the ^{northern} National Offices, how was it to be prevented?
I do not see that you, or any one, had succeeded any
more of preventing it. Certainly, the method of holding
the Southern people in check by military force would
not have prevented it, even if it could have been done;
and we know, it was no longer possible. Now the whole
Country sees that a most generous attitude has been
taken toward the South, and all parties feel that they are
bound to make some sort of decent recognition & return
for it. If they abuse the confidence placed in them, or
fail to suppress violence & bloodshed, they will, it seems
to me, be far wiser to concentrate & unite the really
patriotic & principled people of the North upon their views,
than could possibly be the case otherwise. I admit it is
a moral & political issue; but I think measures of forcible
repression, when there is no war, are more likely to fail
than measures of confidence & trust, and throwing
them (as the South) wholly on themselves for the responsibility
of order & peace. — No. 1, for the present, I stop; and
am, as always, with the utmost confidence, regard Yours
Samuel May.