

Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 13 April, 1861.

My Dear Garrison,

46

Knowing your anxiety
and that of our friends generally
in Boston lest our meetings in this
city the present year should be
broken up or disturbed by mobs,
I write to assure you that there
is no ground for apprehension
on that score. In the Tribune
office to-day I met Mr. John Jay,
who said he had felt a good
deal of anxiety on the subject,
and had ~~had~~ written to Gov.

Morgan, entreating him, for the honor
of the State and the City, to leave
undone nothing that he could
do to preserve the freedom of
speech. He reminded him of
the disgrace of Boston, and
appealed to his pride not to
let such disgrace fall on this
city. The result of our talk was
a resolve to go together, and at
once, to the Superintendent of
Police, and lay the matter before
him. I have this moment re-
turned from the interview, and
am most happy in being able

to say that Mr. Kennedy not only treated us with great courtesy, but gave us the most ample assurance that he would see us protected. We were not a little surprised to find in him a former Secretary of an Anti-Slavery Society in Baltimore, and a partner of Benjamin Lundy in the publication of the Genius of Universal Emancipation. He removed from Baltimore to this city in 1827, and though he was a Democrat (both there and here) till 1856, he never quite lost the favor of anti-slavery principles that he brought with him

to the Empire State. He told us that while in Baltimore he did not a little in the U. G. R. R. business.

Of course, our interview was a private one, and you must not make any public use of my report. Indeed, it will be best for us to ~~be~~ say absolutely nothing of the assurances thus received, but to go on with our arrangements as if ~~we~~ apprehending no trouble.

The intensest excitement prevails here in relation to the battle now going on at Charleston, but our information is of course quite imperfect—perhaps more than half false. "God speed the right." Yours, V. Johnson.