

BOSTON, MAY 9, 1846.

DEAR FRIEND, — You doubtless recollect the determination of the members and friends of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society in annual meeting assembled, to raise an Agency Fund, for the support of Lecturers in this State; and also the pledge of the Managers of the "RURAL FAIR" to raise \$500 towards the fulfilment of the purpose you then expressed. We have since talked over the matter, and are convinced that a much larger sum might be raised, were the proper steps seasonably taken to improve the opportunity.

The beautiful grove in Dedham (see the Managers' Circular in The Standard and Liberator) is a place of easy access from Boston by rail-road; — crowds can be easily induced to go out from the city. The preparations that must be made for their refreshment, may, with your help and co-operation, be made *clear gain* to the cause. Milk, cream, sugar, lemons, ice, eggs, fruit, flowers, cakes, pies; hams, tongues, fowls, (ready cooked), cheese, tea, coffee, bread, butter, in *any quantity*, — (there can hardly be too great a supply for such a crowd as may be anticipated) — in fine every sort of refreshment will be the same as money. The Managers are already diligently at work to supply all the other articles needed for the sale. The occasion will be one of moral and religious improvement and high social enjoyment; and as it is but for one day, will be unmingled with fatigue, while at the same time it can be made a grand financial operation, by which your town will be supplied with Lectures from such men as C. C. BURLEIGH, PARKER PILLSBURY, and THOMAS T. STONE, who are already in the field.

The main purpose of this letter is to entreat you to call all interested in the cause together in your neighborhood, for the purpose, when the time comes, of setting all hands to work in collecting provisions, and beating up, among those not yet interested in the cause, for recruits to the ranks of those who will come, with as much volunteer music and as many banners as they can command without too much expense, to celebrate the FOURTH OF JULY with us, at DEDHAM. Do not forget to keep a continual agitation of the matter in your County papers — little paragraphs and notices, as well as advertisements. We shall make arrangements for the entertainment of "man and beast" — not only providing numerous tents, &c., for the sale of refreshments and other articles, but also accommodations on the ground for the horses and carriages. We hope to see "hay-riggings," dressed up with evergreens and flowers, without number on the occasion. You will hear more particularly respecting it in the Liberator, Standard and Herald of Freedom, from time to time. The best speakers will be secured from among the ranks of the devoted friends, and no exertion spared to make the day, so long desecrated by empty eulogies on liberties already sacrificed, worthy of the Anti-Slavery cause, and a "strengthening opportunity" to all engaged in it.

The Managers of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, for whose treasury this effort is made, have resolved, at their last meeting, to co-operate with us in this celebration. We entreat the aid of all its members and friends throughout the State, for the CAUSE'S SAKE.

☞ Allow us to suggest the appointment of a Committee to obtain the requisite contributions and secure the requisite effort in your vicinity; and, as soon as it has acted, to *let us know what may be depended on from your place*, whether in provisions, instrumental or vocal music, or in whatever way, that we may make all previous arrangements to the best advantage for the promotion of the cause.

In behalf of the Managers,

M. W. CHAPMAN.

E. L. FOLLEN.

Dear Lina,

Will you not be able to promise us your aid on this occasion? We want you to speak a few words to the Assen

ly — to be a "marshall of the beautiful
field" — not indeed to arrange a march, but
on the Scriptural principle of the greater be-
ing the servant. We want to make money
for the cause, & to do it we will be cooks
if you of the gentler sex will be bottle-wash-
ers.

Secondly, we expect to have a most
beautiful fet. day. If we can abolish
slavery & teach the people to enjoy
themselves as they go along, we shall
have done the National Union a double
service.

Do come!

I enclose the circular
of the Standard; would it not be practicable
to get a dozen or two in N. Hampton?
— now that the incubi, (as I call Sam
Jenny & Mary) in this connection, because our
assaults on their party &c made us unpopular
with all who wish the destruction of the Am.
Soc.) are removed, ^{from the impost,} I am going to
make great exertions to double the Subscription
list. I got 20 subscribers in Washington D. the
other day.

Wishing to hear from you speedily, I

love, dear friend

Yours ever truly

Maria Weston Chapman

Maria W Chapman
Sep 1845

Paid. Ch Box 1631



David Lee Child. Esq
Northampton

Chap.

Ms. A. 4. 2. p. 16