

To Mrs. Foster

22  
Boston, July 28, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

217 It was my wish and intention to have had a private interview with you at our Transcendental celebration on the 4th inst., in order to talk over various matters; but ~~there~~ no opportunity <sup>fairly</sup> ~~to do so~~ presented itself. In the forenoon, Mr. Phillips was busily engaged in conversing with you, at great length; in the afternoon, though I looked for <sup>you</sup> through the audience, ~~and~~ I did not see you, and was therefore unable to execute my purpose. i. e. convention,

I have been waiting, <sup>since the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>convention,</sup> hoping to hear ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> you in writing, (as I think I was entitled to <sup>have</sup> ~~hear~~) from you in writing; but as you <sup>pre-</sup> ~~sent~~ <sup>ferred</sup> an unbroken silence up to this hour, I ~~cannot~~ take it for granted you do not mean to break it until you first hear from me. So I will not wait any longer.

I have said that I think I was entitled to hear from you, because I understand that you <sup>felt</sup> ~~feel~~ grievously wounded in consequence of what fell from my lips at the Convention; and because you ~~fled from~~ <sup>fled</sup> my house, (when I was coming down stairs to greet you as usual,) in a manner that indicated a highly <sup>excited</sup> ~~inflamed~~ state of mind, - <sup>quitting</sup> ~~refusing~~ <sup>as you did</sup> ~~to see me~~ <sup>to take</sup> ~~me~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~by the hand,~~ <sup>page</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>to see me.</sup> "You 'sober second thought,' I was confident, would ~~lead~~ <sup>lead</sup> you to see that you had

acted in a manner not ~~so~~ justified compatible  
with <sup>with</sup> true self-respect, or personal fidelity to  
~~myself~~ <sup>myself</sup>. Why did you thus shun me? If you  
had any grievance to complain of, why did you  
<sup>not</sup> tell me of it to my face? For, remember, you  
have neither said nor written a single word to me,  
whereby I could even surmise that your feelings  
were wounded. Why, <sup>then, have</sup> you do you make the revela-  
tion to others, and not to me? <sup>and why</sup> Why should I be  
left to obtain through others, what you ought to  
have frankly <sup>and candid</sup> communicated to me? Is this  
becoming an old friend? I think ~~it~~ <sup>was,</sup> not.

It seems to me that your duty <sup>was,</sup> ~~to~~  
when you called that morning at my house for  
Alta, <sup>was</sup> plainly to say in substance - "I was not  
able to be at the closing meeting of the Con-  
vention last evening; but my husband, on  
~~coming~~ returning from it, gave me such an  
account of your remarks, in regard to myself,  
as to excite my grief and astonishment. But,  
inasmuch as he may have misinterpreted or  
misunderstood <sup>said</sup> you, though ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~essence~~ of the  
~~decision,~~ I desire to know what you did say,  
or intended to be understood as saying; for  
I cannot believe that <sup>you</sup> would intentionally say  
or do aught to impeach my integrity of ~~char-~~  
~~acter,~~ in the prosecution of the anti-slavery  
cause." Had you taken this course, an expla-  
nation might have been made on the spot, to the  
removal of all those painful feelings which  
have followed as a consequence of the omis-  
sion. Oct 21/59

Now, as you charge me with motley,  
face to face or by letter, What can I plead?

I hear that you believe or suppose  
that I attributed to you intentional dishonesty  
in the manner of procuring money of promi-  
nent members of the Republican party! Such a  
thought never entered my mind. It is true that  
I felt the ~~charge~~ <sup>charge</sup> pressed ~~by you~~ <sup>by you</sup> I endeavored  
to show the inconsistency and practical wrong-  
fully of your course <sup>as it seemed to me</sup> - without calling you by name,  
however; ~~in face of your motives~~, but I neither  
impeached, nor meant to impeach, ~~the~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> your  
personal integrity. God forbid! I believe you  
to have <sup>been</sup> <sup>acted</sup> <sup>by</sup> the highest and purest  
motives, however lacking in judgment or consist-  
ency. Of all the women who have appeared upon  
the historic stage, I have always regarded you  
as peerless - the moral beam of the world  
- and so have expressed myself to friends, far  
and near, again and again. My admiration  
of your character and moral heroism, of your  
self-sacrificing spirit and exhaustless philan-  
thropy, has been limited by motley but the power of  
speech to express it. Our friendship has been  
intimate and unbroken for more than a century of  
a century; and no one out of my family has been  
nearer or dearer to me than yourself. My heart  
has gone liquid with emotion as I have seen  
your self-denial, courage, perseverance, and  
in making yourself a life sacrifice upon the  
altar of bleeding humanity. How, then, was it  
possible for me to accuse you of intentional

wrong doing? Or how was it possible for you  
so readily to come to the conclusion that that  
was what I did, and intended to do?

I have not time to add more, as  
I must leave for Higham in the course of  
a few minutes. But let me assure that,  
widely as you and Stephen may differ from  
me, and ~~plainly as we may~~ on various  
points, I believe you both to be actuated  
by the highest considerations, and that  
you would both prefer death to the  
performance of any action, for the pro-  
motion of any object, which, in your judg-  
ment, involved ~~any~~ ~~to~~ ~~conviction~~ ~~of~~ ~~guilt~~.