

128 E. 12th St.

New York, June 17, 1873.

My Dear Garrison,

I think it probable, from information derived from one of the Clerks in the C. U. office, that "Fast Asleep" and "Wide Awake" have been sent to you by mail, and that you have got them ere now. They are very beautified chromos, fit to hang on any body's wall.

I think my plan of a ^{request} ~~request~~ to be addressed to you by some of your more conspicuous and influential friends, and asking you to write your Autobiography, will be carried out; and my opinion is, that, when it is once known that you intend to undertake the work, the publishers will be after you in eager competition, with liberal offers. It is not of much conse-

quence, I think, that you are destitute of
memoranda for such a work. The files of
the papers you have edited, supplemented
by your own recollections, will be all
you will need, and I believe that when
you have once begun, the work
will flow easily and naturally from
your pen. It must not be a series
of essays, but a simple, frank and
clear account of yourself, of your child-
hood and youth, of the circumstances
that led you to become a printer, then
an editor, &c.; of the influences that
made you a Reformer first and then
an Abolitionist in special, and of the
principles and motives that guided you
through the ^{anti-slavery} struggle. It would be well,
I think, for you to read some of the
best Autobiographies, in order to catch
something of their spirit and style. The
stately method of the essay will not do;
you want to put yourself on easy

and familiar terms with your readers,
and pack your chapters with incidents,
pleasantly related. But why should I spread
to you, who know far better than I do where
such a work should be? I do so only be-
cause I am ambitious for your success.
I believe you can and will make a book
that will live in history, and that your
descendants will regard with pride.

You speak of a recent letter of
mine as "severely unanioning" you. That was
not what I meant. It is not for me to
censure an old friend whom I love
and revere as I do you. I only meant
to tell ^{you} how deeply I was pained by what
I felt were your unjust censures of Mr.
Gouley; not that you were ^{intentionally or even} consciously
unjust, but that your view of Mr. Gouley's
character was a mistaken one. You
say you regarded him as "the incarnation
of the spirit of American compromise."
Just here is the proof of your injustice. He
was no more such an "incarnation" than

Giddings, ^{Lincoln} Henry Wilson, Sumner, and hundreds
of those whom you habitually eulogize. He has
never supported Henry Clay against Polk, but he
the supported him in spite of his compromise
of spirit, as Giddings and hundreds of other
of anti-slavery men did. Even you desired the
of election of Clay rather than Polk, as the
of Liberty party of that day charged. When Clay
of you and Webster made the compromises of 1850
of Mr. Greeley denounced them and ridiculed
of he called them, and that those compro-
of he mises and their authors fell into public
of the contempt was owing largely to his influence
of an error. He fought the Fugitive Slave law
of me with all his might, and while he gave
of an sort of support to Gen. Scott in 1852, the
of he "spit" upon the platform on which he
of the stood, and was among the very earliest
of I, to leave the Whig and join the Republi-
of can party. Read his history of "Slavery Ex-
of posed to Union," and his "Recollections of a Busy Life,"
of et and you cannot help seeing how unjust you
of y. are in regarding him as the "incarnation

of American Compromise." Having ^{well} put
him into that category, you readily believed
the worst that his enemies say of him. Your
credulity in this direction seemed to me phe-
nomenal. I, who knew him intimately and
thoroughly, felt your blows almost as if they
had been struck at my own heart; just as
I should have felt similar denunciations of
you. Thus you constantly assumed that he
~~plotted~~ ^{plotted} for his own nomination, and, for
the sake of success, sold himself to the Dem-
ocratic party; when I know that such charges
were absolutely false and without a shadow
of proof. I could not, ^{but} remember your
denunciations of Grant for sailing at
the annexation of San Domingo, and for
compassing the removal of Sumner from the
Committee of Foreign Affairs, and I could
not rewrite all this with the zeal with
which you subsequently supported his
re-election, and the harshness with which
you treated those who agreed with you

in the first instance and differed from
you in the fact. I do not say this to
censure you, for I know you but ex-
posed your honest conviction; I say it
to show you how I felt, and that you
may understand why I could not agree
with you. As for the Independent, its
treatment of Mr. Greeley was simply
outrageous, and it disgusted thousands
of the most earnest supporters of Grant,
including all the editors of the papers save
only the one who managed its politics during
the campaign - I mean the Rev. Dr. Spear.
Dr. Sewitt I do not mention in this connection,
because for years he has hardly been an
editor, only a compiler of the "Ministerial
Register" and an occasional contributor.
That he wrote the obituary of Mr. Greeley
I knew by internal evidence, and might
glad he was, doubtless, of the oppor-
tunity to disparage a man whom he
had always hated and misrepresented.

But enough of this. I want to forget
it all, though I was deeply wounded at the time.

With love to all your household,
I am yours, with unabated esteem and
affection.

Oliver Johnson.

