

Dorchester Feb 15, 1846.

My dear friend,

It is so far back, that I cannot tell when I have written to you, or received a line from you, and although this may be a very unsatisfactory reason for writing to you now, still that comes in with others more important, for writing at the present time. The few hasty minutes that friends get now and then at the Fair, to exchange thoughts and plans and purposes, afford pleasant reminiscences for months to come, but we all lost much at the last Fair by your necessary absence so much of the time, and I am seeking to have it made up to me, by endeavouring to get a letter from you. We live here in an Anti Slavery desert, and although the Liberator comes like a beloved friend laden with good things, and the Standard, and Prisoner's Friend, still I feel the want of an Anti Slavery atmosphere, some body out of our own house, ^{to talk over} some of the deeply interesting things that come to us weekly in our periodicals, and are taking place every day throughout our country. If I have ever felt anything like home sickness here, it has been when I have this yearning after abolition sympathy, this desire to find among the many people about us one, that can truly sympathize and deeply feel with us. But it is all in vain to try to find such an one. I have sought them among all ages and in both sexes, from the grey headed Christian, who comes to whitewash our rooms and talks piously of God's grace and the Saviour, to the fashionable lady and the great D. D., but not a heart responds, they talk a different language or they say nothing. However as long as I have the Liberator to read I can occasionally meet with abolition friends that

live at a distance from me I can never fall into the indifference of my neighbors. You know, Caroline, that I think a good deal of the doctrine of circumstances if we had moved here ten years ago, I might be now as dead as any of my neighbors. I wish I could always feel the faith and hope that always seems to shine in Mrs. Follens countenance and conversation, it is delightful always for me to see and hear her, and ~~say~~ Mrs. Chapman, also, who looks not at results, but at doing her duty.

I was sorry I could not conveniently go in to the annual meeting, but I had had a very bad cold for a few weeks before accompanied with an ulcer in my head, which had kept me quite sick and confined me to the house for some time, however, both my sisters were in, and with what they told me and what I have seen in the papers, I think I have got at most of the good things that were said and done there. Mr. Smith was sorry to be absent too, but he is very much confined at home at particular hours. We have no man driving the winter months, and he has cows and a horse to tend and scholars to recite three times a day. What a fine piece Garrison has lately written upon a free press, I am glad to find by the succeeding papers that so many responded to it. We have had two very fine A.S. Lectures delivered here by Remond, last Sunday & Monday, but nobody went to hear but a few large boys or next to nobody, a few ladies come in after their vestry meeting was through, but they evidently felt quite out of place and rather ashamed. What is Sydney doing that we hear so little about him, enjoying the honeymoon I hope he is not growing indolent. This day will pass for the stormy Sunday. We are all at home, keeping three fires warm, and reading whatever comes in our way; Mr. Smith and I have been reading together Gibbon's two famous chapters upon Christianity, those which more particularly give him the name of infidel I suppose. They are exceedingly interesting and I think may give a fair and impartial view

of the early christians. I like all he puts into his history
but his sneers. Mr Young preached here last saturday
and called him the infidel Gibbon. I do not see why
Unitarians should be disturbed at what he says, it
seems to me he would agree with them very generally.
You know I believe that we had a history class here last
winter, we continue it now, and are reading through
this historian. We meet once a week and have very pleas-
ant times. I also meet once a week with a few ladies to
study German. We have conversations earnest and long
upon the early christians, and early reformers, but they
know nothing of the present reformers or reforms.
The early christians were very much like the non-resist-
ants and come outers of the present time modified
somewhat by the spirit of the age, but my friends
here, know nothing really of non-resistants or come out-
ers. I am going to Hingham soon to make a visit and find
out whether Miss Thaxters chest has got home. It is
quite curious that with all the talk that we had about
getting the things home safe that were sent to the
Fair, and with all the promises that I made in regard
to the things that were entrusted to me, that this box
should be nobody knows where. I however, feel that it is
not my fault. It was not sent to me, but the Hingham
ladies, and we had two good and very efficient ones, had the
care and responsibility of the whole. I dare say, however, if
it has not been found that it will be and all safe. I see by
the Liberator that the Boston ladies are soon to com-
mence operations again for another Fair. They seem
never to weary in well doing. I hope you will write to me,
Caroline, although I suppose I ought not to ask it you
have so much to take up your time, ^{but} I hope you
will remember that I have not been importunate heretofore.
Give much love to your sister Deborah from me & Maria.
Mr Smith & Maria also desire me to presents their warm-
est regards to. Yours with sincere friendships
E. S. Smith



E. H. S. Smith

1846

October 14

Nov 17

Miss Caroline Weston

New Bedford,
Mass.