

Leicester, Mass,
July 3. 1865.

Dear Burleigh,

As I do not expect to write you any more letters, boring or otherwise, as to the American A. S. Socy's Report, I will just say that by the election of C. K. Whipple as corresponding Secy. of the Socy, and of an Exec. Comtee. with whom I was not willing to act ~~was~~ representing the Amⁿ. A. S. Socy, — so little of good sense & judgment had they ^{as individuals} manifested in forwarding the Antisl. Cause during the previous 12 months (I speak of the majority of them), — that whole subject of the Report-writing, &c. has passed entirely out of my hands, nor can I say what the new Ex. Comtee. may design in regard to that subject.

I have another reason for writing. In a letter which I wrote to you on the 22^d Dec^r. last, I asked you the question,

"What do you think of availability now" — referring to a sort of triumphant inquiry you had made of me, at the next previous N. Engl. A. S. Convention. In yours to me of Dec. 26th, you answer my question; — i.e. you answer it, as you undoubtedly understood it to be meant by me, and I should not suspect you of wishing to evade a full & direct reply.

— But my inquiry had reference to the support ^{given} by Phillips, the Fosters, Pillsbury (& others with whom you were especially acting, and whose course you had been defending,) to the Cleveland Convention, John C. Fremont, &c. and the results of that abortive attempt to cast out Mr. Lincoln, & expose us to the imminent hazard, — the almost certain consequence, — of the triumph of the Chicago Convention, their candidates & policy. — I wanted you to tell me what you thought; & how

you felt, about that Cleveland Movement;
its platforms, its 2 candidates, the letter of
J.C. Fremont, as representing pure and
unmixed Antislavery! Could you have
heard, as I heard, Wendell Phillips
defend & justify Fremont's letter of
acceptance on the ground that "it was
an available letter," & "calculated to
get Democratic votes", - you would not
wonder that I asked, "What do you
think of availability now?" When I
saw the men, who a few months before
were abjuring the doctrine of availability, &
rounding periods of scornful denunciation
of it, going into the Cleveland Convention
with all sorts of poor trash (among some
good material), nominating ~~or~~ were mixed
ticket, getting up new issues, &c. and
defending all on the ground of "availability",
I knew not whether to laugh or grieve.
One thing I did know - that was no

"light" for me to follow - there was
no wisdom there profitable to instruct
me. I had hoped that you would
see through that miserable farce, and
would have abjured it, and that, before
its own leading friends, distrustful if not
withered of it, had recommended its
abandonment.

Seeing nothing
& hearing nothing, on the subject, from
you - I asked that question; who
brought me some excellent truisms as to
abolitionists' standing by their principles
but did not clear up the point how to
was done by the supporters of the Cleveland
Platform & by the opponents of Abolition
Lincoln. - ~~with~~ I say these things at
late day, not to trouble you for an answer
against your inclination; but because Y^{rs} of
Dec. 26. last has been lying among my "unanswered
letters, and I thought I would clear up to you
own meaning before filing the letter away,
Fruit^{ly} Y^{rs}, S. May, Jun.