

Cambridgeport, Dec. 17. 1842.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>ant</sup> has <sup>just</sup> been received, and I hasten to answer it, although I am compelled by severe illness to employ you that purpose the hand of a friend. I am just recovering from an attack of Scarlat fever, which has reduced me to the brink of the grave, and which must be my excuse if I do not enter into all the topics suggested by your letter as fully, as you may think their importance deserves.

I do not think sent a Conference as you suggest would be of any service to the <sup>A.S.</sup> cause; because I think it must be based upon ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> admission <sup>to</sup> what I cannot give my assent. <sup>my presence, there</sup> ~~It~~ would imply <sup>1. 2<sup>o</sup></sup> that it is "minor differences" ~~of opinion~~, that keep the individuals you mention, from acting in concert with myself & the other members of the American A.S. Society; 2<sup>o</sup> that any "unhappy dividing" exist among the true Abolitionists of the country; 3<sup>o</sup> that "the great vital and essential principles of Abolition are held in common by all abolitionists" - <sup>Suffron</sup> ~~if~~ you intend to include the <sup>essentially</sup> ~~persons~~ <sup>you mention</sup> ~~belonging~~ to that number; 4<sup>th</sup>, that matters of opinion & modes of action, not necessarily connected with, ~~belonging~~ <sup>to</sup> the subject of Slavery" have ever been brought upon the A.S. Platform by those who now ~~occupy~~ <sup>occupy</sup> it; 5<sup>th</sup> that such an union as you propose is practicable between such men as myself and such

Here I state it, David being what  
men as those you mention, in which I have ~~reasoned~~  
their actions indicate, <sup>the attempt to</sup>  
~~and for their present state of mind; - that it should have~~  
~~proved it would be sustained & opposed with God's~~  
blessing; - & all which propositions I must enter my  
distinct, solemn & unequivocal dissent.

The Abolitionists of the County, embodied in the  
American & Prof<sup>ts</sup> A. J. Lovick's, with whom I am  
identified, stand in the same position, & present the  
same front to Slavery, that they have ever done since  
the commencement of the Campaign. Their Platform is  
the same it has ever been. If minor differences have  
caused any persons to leave it - they who remain upon it  
are not to blame for it. In my opinion, the true Abolitionists  
of the County were never more united among themselves,  
as to all the essentials of doctrine & measures, than at the  
present time. The individuals you mention I cannot consent  
to meet ~~as Abolitionists~~ <sup>in the way</sup> you propose, because by so doing  
I should recognize them as Abolitionists, & admit ~~their~~  
~~their~~ <sup>they have</sup> ~~perpetrated~~ all claims <sup>by</sup>  
- ~~then~~ <sup>I thank</sup> ~~their~~ <sup>their</sup> conduct in times past & present - by what  
they have done, & what they have left undone. <sup>in part</sup> I prefer  
to the the circumstances attending the transfer of the ~~Slave~~  
- ~~ceptor~~, <sup>the</sup> ~~management~~ <sup>mis</sup> of the other property of the Am. A. S.  
Society; to the false issues which were made <sup>at</sup> before the  
world ~~of~~ as to the <sup>Causes</sup> ~~merits~~ of the Secession of 1839 & 1840;

to the slanders & libels which were circulated in this  
Country in Europe respecting myself & other Abolitionists,  
for the purpose of destroying the confidence of the  
Public in our integrity & moral character. <sup>not there</sup>  
things, the persons in question <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>either as principals</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>in</sup>  
or as accessories, either by <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>direct</sup> agency, or by the silence of an ap-  
-trahy.

The Abolitionists of the Country, ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> I repeat, stand where  
they have always done. They cannot move from their position  
~~without~~ <sup>without</sup> secure the cooperation of any persons whatever, without  
compromising their principles. They are ready to welcome  
to their ranks all manner of persons who wish to enlist in  
the ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> warfare against Slavery. If the ~~persons~~ <sup>gentlemen</sup>  
~~to whom you allude~~ <sup>with me to meet</sup> have repented of their  
~~misdeeds~~ <sup>wrong doings</sup> towards the A. S. Cause & its supporters,  
and wish to make confession & separation, they will be  
received with open arms, & all that is past will be  
forgiven, ~~separations~~. <sup>no exceptions</sup> ~~can be made~~  
by those who ~~express~~ <sup>express</sup> ~~infirmities~~ <sup>with me</sup> ~~that will imply~~  
& secure their cooperation that <sup>was</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>imply</sup> that their  
action has been otherwise than blame worthy in the  
highest degree.

This imperfect sketch of my views on this subject will  
Satisfy you that, <sup>in</sup> ~~such~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~conference~~ <sup>opinion</sup> would be of  
no advantage as long as the persons you wish

me to meet remain unrepentant, & continue to justify their course in the particulars to which I have alluded, & others to which I have not had time to refer;— and when they do see the error of their ways and wish to amend them, it will be clearly unnecessary. All they will ~~need~~ have to do, in such case, will be to ~~set~~ express that state of their minds & to return to active duty upon the Platform, & by the side of the friends, they have deserted.

Excuse the imperfections of this letter which in consideration of the I have gone into my reasons for declining your proposition at some length— though by no means in as full & satisfactory a manner as I could have wished— because I deduced from the <sup>circumstances</sup> of your making that application to me that the faith in the cause ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> not fresh in your mind. <sup>Please excuse the length of this letter & all its imperfections in consideration of the circumstances under which it was written.</sup>

I am truly yours

Dec 17 1842  
Wm Lloyd Garrison  
Care of 97 North