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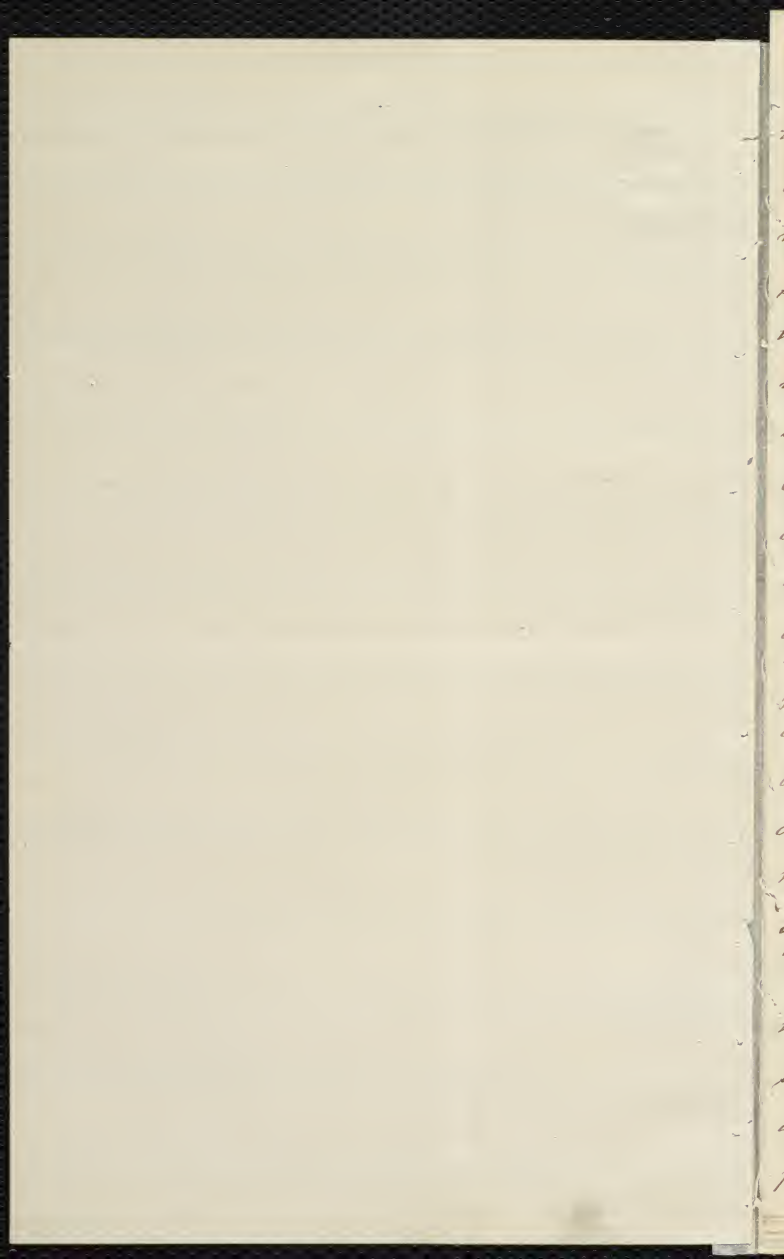
Boston, Sept. 9, 1862.

Dear Johnson:

I am such a laggard with the pen, in all epistolary matters, that I deserve to be cut off without a pen-sion, if not sent to the pen-itentiary; yet I am always pen-tential for my short-comings.

Certainly, I meant to have sent a reply to your first letter, in the Liberator bundle of Thursday; but I missed the opportunity; and just as I was about to sit down, and write a letter for the mail, yours of yesterday came to hand!

I commend your anxiety in regard to the course to be pursued both by the Standard and the Liberator, respecting the present critical state of affairs; and fully agree with you, that there has never been a time when abolitionists should weigh their words (whether written or spoken) more carefully than now, in order to avoid



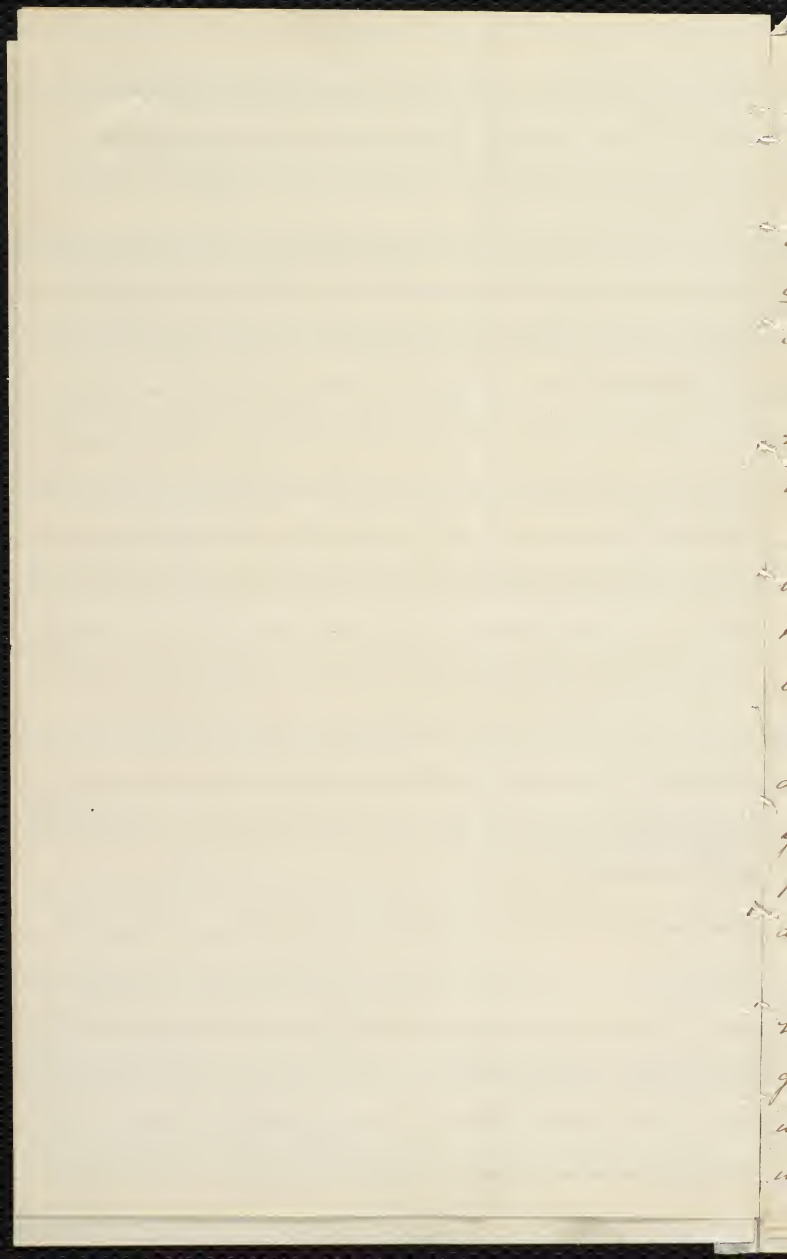
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needless persecution and baffle pro-slavery malignity. Our work, as abolitionists, is still to impeach, censure and condemn where we must, and approve when we can; but, in such an inflammable state of the country, the injunction, "Be ye wise as serpents, and harmless as doves," deserves to be carefully heeded. I have always believed that the Anti-Slavery cause has had aroused against it a great deal of uncalled for hostility, in consequence of extravagance of speech, and want of tact and good judgment, on the part of some most desirous to promote its advancement; but this is a drawback which has ^{ever} ~~even~~ affected the success of reformatory movements, and grows out of the incompleteness of human development.

It is very desirable, as you intimate that the Standard and the Liberator should harmonize, as far as practicable, in the mode of dealing with such correspondents as wish to make use of ~~their~~

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their columns to express their honest
but often badly expressed sentiments on
men and things. In common, on the
ground of free discussion, we are both often
called to publish what, on the score of good
taste and fair criticism, we cannot endorse,
but I grant a larger indulgence than it would
be proper for you to do, seeing that no one
else is responsible for the Liberator but my-
self; whereas, the Standard is the official
organ of the American Anti-Slavery Society,
and on that account should be conducted
with more habitual circumspection. Still,
I would have the Standard err on the side of
liberality, rather than of exclusiveness, so as
to always indicate its fearfulness^{lessness} of the most
thorough investigation and the strongest
dissent; while, at the same time, I would
have you exercise your own good judgment,
just as you have hitherto done, in deter-
mining what shall appear in the Standard.
I do not feel that I can give you any advice,
or that you need any. You did perfectly



right, I think, in declining to publish
Howland's attack on Mr. May; and it was
certainly very unfair, on his part, to send
it for simultaneous appearance in the Stan-
dard and Liberator, without intimating to
either of us that he had done so.

As to the Ellenville Convention, I have
not yet received any report of its proceed-
ings, but presume it will come to hand
this week. In point of attendance, it was
only a baker's dozen, until Sunday, when
the threatened arrest of Powell caused a
breeze, and brought out a fuller attendance.

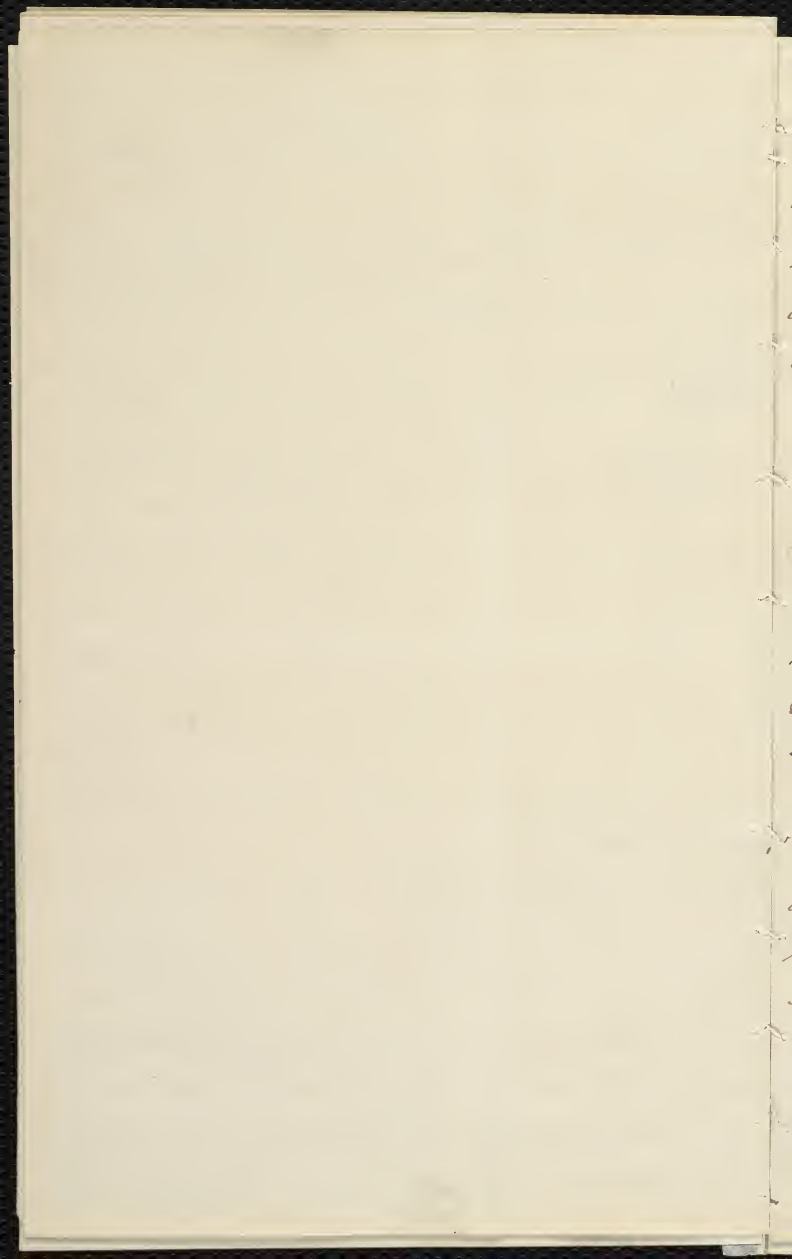
Pillsbury tells me the meetings were
dull, and quite dispiriting. Should
you receive the proceedings, in whole or in
part, I would have you do with them just
as you think best.

Your safeguard in publishing what is
not to your taste, or what may be extrava-
gant and indiscriminating in impeachment,
is in making an editorial note of dissent, or
in reminding the public that the editor

does not hold himself responsible for the views or sentiments of correspondents, or for the action of any independent convention, whose proceedings may find a place, as a matter of intelligence, in the columns of the Standard.

I am growing more and more skeptical as to the "honesty" of Lincoln. He is nothing better than a wet rag; and it is manifest that, in the appointment of Halleck to be Secretary of War, and McClellan commander-in-chief of the army, he is as near lunacy as any one not a pronounced Bedlamite. The satanic democracy of the North, and the traitorous "loyalty" of the Border States, have almost absolute control over him, and are industriously preparing the way for the overthrow of his administration, and the inauguration of, if not a reign of terror, at least one that will make terms with Rebeldom, no matter how humiliating they may be.

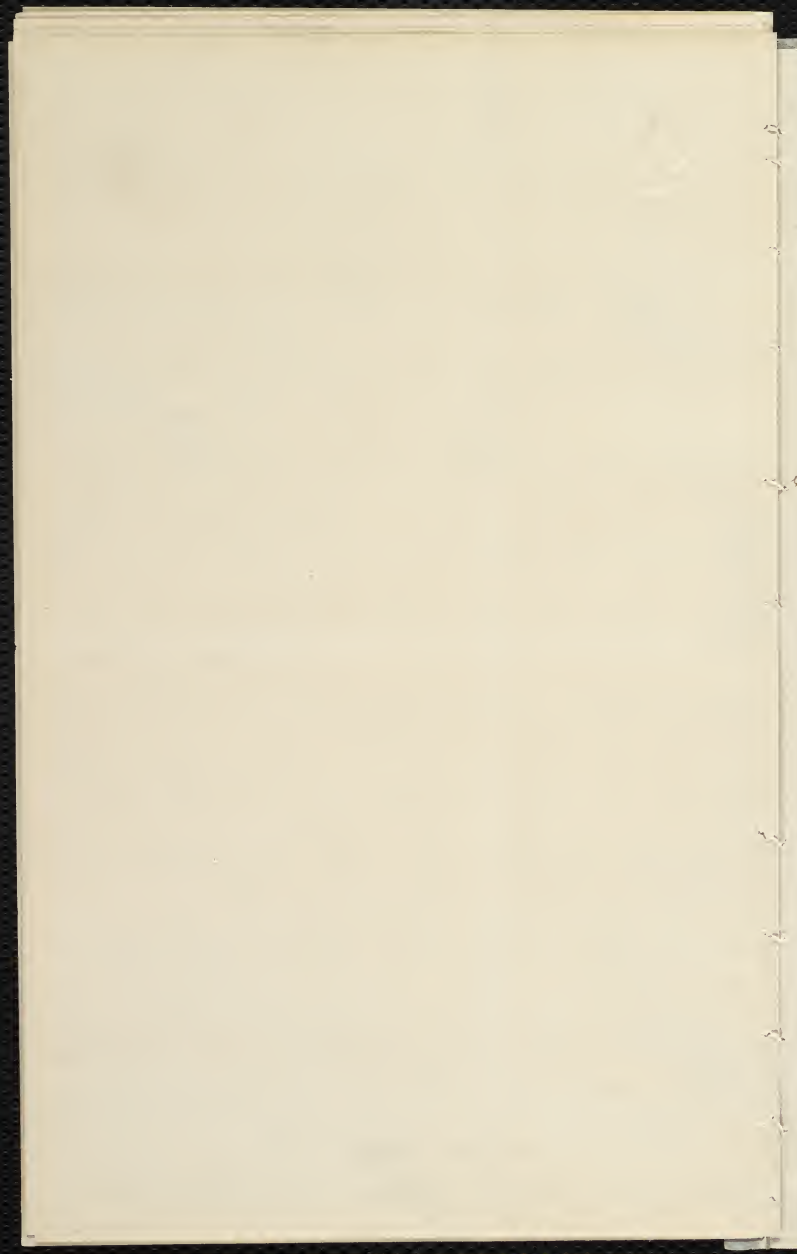
Only think of Washington, Harrisburg, Baltimore, and even Philadelphia,



all threatened with immediate capture by the rebel forces, now encamped in full strength on the Maryland soil! I think they are very likely to succeed in their purposes. So in regard to Cincinnati and New Orleans, it seems to me we are virtually betrayed by our leaders.

Perhaps before this reaches you, Fanny may have called at your office. She has been on a brief visit to the Powells at Ghent, and will spend a few days with the Anthonys, at 86 State Street, Brooklyn. It is her first visit, and I am anxious to have her make the most of it. She may conclude to stay a few days with Dr. Percy and family. If Mary-Ann is at home, put Fanny in the way of seeing her and Mrs. Savin, as well as Mrs. Gibbons, Dr. Smith and wife, &c; and consider me largely your debtor.

The Hoppers, I suppose, are rusticaling in the country; but Fanny might call at John's office, and leave her
card.



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Give my kindest regards to
Ward Beecher and Theodore Tilton.
The Independant is speaking out
bravely and eloquently, and I
read it with lively interest.

How does the war affect your
subscription list? The Liberator's is
minus at least two hundred.

Faithfully yours
H. L. G.

