

Leicester, July 23, 1844.

Mr. M. W. Chapman,

Dear friend,

I have been wishing to write to you ever since I received the "Standard" of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., to thank you for the leading article therein on "Unitarianism & Slavery" - to express my honorable but most cordial assent to (I believe) every sentiment & position there advanced, and my admiration of its spirit. I thank you for so plainly setting down the true position of Orville Dewey and Ezra S. Gannett - a position which they do occupy, let their intentions concerning it be what they may, and let them disclaim it never so earnestly. They and a few others (or must I say not a few?) are a millstone about the neck of Unitarianism, so far as its utterance of a true and powerful word on Slavery is concerned. It is necessary that their position should be thus distinctly declared; it should have been done before, perhaps, and from <sup>other</sup> sources. But if others have feared to do it, I rejoice that you have not.

Every week that has elapsed since the meeting of the A. U. A., at which the Resolutions alluded to in your article were adopted, I have felt an increasing dissatisfaction with the Result of the meeting.

The resolutions, when looked at by themselves, when read as they will be by thousands who can know nothing of the circumstances under which they were adopted, seem tame & spiritless enough; and how we could have voted (as we, who ~~are~~ <sup>were</sup> more nearly Abolitionists than the rest, did vote) for that first resolution, I cannot tell. It was not till I saw the Resolutions in print, that I was aware of the position, advanced in the first, that the Assoc<sup>n</sup>. did not regard any expression of opinion on Slavery called for, under ordinary circumstances, i. e. <sup>meaning,</sup> without some such occasion as the Savannah Case afforded. I would never have knowingly voted for so false & corrupt a doctrine, unless I at the same time stood ready to vote Christianity a sham and a nullity. I cannot account for my <sup>on</sup> misapprehension on the point, for the resolutions were read several times, & I endeavored to understand their purport.

Still in many senses, the anti-Slavery portion of the body, gained an important victory. The facts that the Association, by large majorities, refused to adopt any resolution censuring the vehemence and

demonstratory language of Abolitionists, and any resolution begging the South to be assured that we would countenance no incendiary doctrine, or send them an insurrectionist in the person of a missionary, are facts which do not appear in the Resolutions, and which I must think honorable to the majority in the meeting, far, far more so, than the adoption of the Resolutions themselves. — Do you know the fact that Mr. Garrison rec<sup>d</sup>. in that meeting a decided tribute of respect, and I may almost say admiration, from N. S. Folsom of Haverhill, he predicted (what indeed you have seen for many a long year) that coming years, & no very distant ones either, would honor Mr. Garrison as one of the noblest & truest of men, a the benefactor of men. — <sup>I mention this fact, as it happened to occur to me.</sup> — The Antislavery battle was fought over those resolutions of Mr. P.'s. That was, pro tempore, the fort — certainly not a stronghold — ~~for which~~ on the ~~proposition~~ of which safety or destruction of which rested the question of victory or defeat. It is no small thing that, with such leaders as Mr. Gannett, Dr. Parkman, &c. the enemies of Antislavery were utterly defeated. And that is the most I can say about it. I feel that it is a dishonor to the Association, that they could have said nothing more decided, open, manly than those Resolutions. Meaning to be clothed in a kind of charitable language, they have sunk into feebleness and, I almost fear, impotence.

So vain & foolish is it (as it appears to me) to attempt to  
compromise where the right path is plain - to strike a  
balance between truth and a lie - to please those who  
are at opposite points from one another, & make them  
speak in harmony. But I am at my paper's end, and  
must say, Farewell, with my prayers for your health  
and many blessings upon you at your arduous post, and  
with my sincere respects. Samuel May, Jr.

Mrs. M. W. Chapman,

Summer St.

Boston.

Gift of an Anti-Slavery Tracts  
from St. Cloud.

P.S. I presume it is needless to say that I do not  
write this for any public destination - but simply  
to give my humble mite of praise to your faithful work  
in the Standard.