

Boston, July 17, 1845.

Beloved Friend:

14 I am determined not to measure your friendship by the number of letters I receive from you; and I protest against your forming any estimate of my love for you by any such standard. Each of us is busy in his sphere, and much less sure is not a thing known to either of us. Though, in a bodily sense, you are further removed from me than ever, yet you are as near and dear to me in spirit as ~~though~~ you were constantly by my side. I deny the verity of the proverb, in your case — "Out of sight, out of mind." It may apply in some cases, to some persons; but not to me or to you.

How do you find yourself situated in Syracuse? As to the place itself, though I visited it in the winter season, it impressed me favorably. Of the inhabitants, I could form no just opinion, because I had no time to become acquainted with them. Some of them mobbed our anti-slavery convents; but such things have been ^{done} in Boston, you know — and I think pretty well of Boston, nevertheless. The few friends I met with in Syracuse were among the kindest of the kind, the truest of the true; and never shall I cease to remember them with gratitude and love. Especially shall I ever feel under heavy obligations to the lamented Wm Russell and his estimable wife, and to Stephen Smith and his wife. Their hospitality was really munificent, and their countenance and co-operation, at that trying period, of great service to the persecuted but godlike cause of anti-slavery. Do not fail to proffer them my warmest regards and my most grateful recollections. I wish it were in my power to make a visit to you all, before the summer waxes; but I can only commune with you in spirit — for here my body must be imprisoned.

The abolitionism which surrounds you, I presume is generally of the Liberty party stamp. How much does it differ from the new organization of the East? It has, no doubt, some excellent ^{supporters,} ~~adherents,~~ in intention, among the mass; but, as a political affair, there cannot be much real vitality in it. I trust your anti-slavery and Christian testimony is against any political action under the present pro-slavery, non-sanctioning Constitution of the United States. You have seen the Disunion and Anti-Slavery Peace Pledges in the Liberator. How many are there in Syracuse, who are prepared to affix their signatures to them? Whatever doubt or hesitancy there may be, on the part of some, respecting the Disunion Pledge, I should like to look in the face the professed abolitionist or peace man, who is unwilling to sign the Peace Pledge. We intend to canvass the free States on this subject; and that it is a vital movement is demonstrated by the vituperations of the enemies of the brotherhood of the human race. Let us be found wholly on the side of God and his dear Son, and have no part nor lot in the kingdom of darkness.

At that time since, I received a Syracuse paper, (probably sent by you,) in which is a communication, complaining of a peace discourse delivered by you, as though it were a very treasonable affair. I read it with a smile, and with gladness to know that you were determined to be faithful to the Master whom you profess to serve; whose kingdom is one of peace and righteousness, whose mission it is to beat all murderous weapons into useful instruments, and who came to save men's lives, not to destroy them. May you be strengthened from on high to declare the whole counsel of God, not fearing what men may say of you, or do to you. There must be no compromise of principle, even to save father or mother, wife or sister, children or friends. All is lost when the truth is surrendered.

My attention has recently been drawn to the subject of Phonography, and Phonotypy, and I want you, as a friend of universal reform, to look into it; for I am persuaded you will be delighted with it, as I have been. It is a new system of writing and printing, invented by Mr. Isaac Pitman, a teacher in Bath, England, by which the ignorant masses may be taught to read and write in ^{an} almost incredibly short space of time—compressing the labor of months into weeks, and of years into months. As a teacher, and a scholar, you know how monstrous and endless are the absurdities and perplexities of English orthography, and how laborious is the ordinary mode of writing. But here is a system devised, which brings order out of chaos, makes every thing plain, simple, consistent, and infallibly sure, surpasses stenography in the rapidity of writing, and is perhaps next in importance to the discovery of printing in the fifteenth century. It is making great progress in England, and is receiving in this quarter a strong impetus. Several hundred persons in this city, (a large number of school teachers included,) have already taken lessons in it, among whom I am one. Our teacher is Mr. Augustus F. Boyle, an English young gentleman, who has been teaching the French language for the last three years, and who enters into this new reform with zeal and spirit. He will probably send this letter to you, as he leaves immediately to attend a convention of teachers, which is to be held in a few days in Syracuse. As he will be able to give you all the information you may desire in regard to this matter, I need not add any more. I understand Mr. Peirce, of the Normal School, is much interested in it. This evening we meet to form an American Phonographic Society.

With much love to your wife and Susan, in which Helen warmly joins, I remain, faithfully,

Yours for the cross and the crown, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. Samuel J. May,
Syracuse,
N. Y.



Wm. D. Garrison
July 17. 1845