

Leicester, Dec. 22<sup>d</sup> 1835.

My dear Cousin & friends,

Why it is that I have not written you before, I cannot tell; - certainly, not because you were forgotten. We have both thought & talked of you often, - and I have had a vague kind of expectation that I should soon see you here.

~~When~~ I saw you last, you said you thought you should soon be in our neighborhood; - but that was a long time since. - I have had later accounts from you. - When making ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> little wedding-tour, we came to Springfield, and there passed the Sabbath. Your recent visit to them was spoken of by all I met, - Mr. Peabody, (Mr. P. was away) Mr. Geo. Howard & wife, &c. and, tho' last not least, Mr. Henry Sterns. It was he, I think, who told us that you were purposing to go to Northampton & there spend Thanksgiving; and we congratulated ourselves that ~~thence~~ thus we in Leicester would doubtless come in for a visit. - I was quite disappointed (my wife was too; she has very often wished you would come & see us) - that we did not see you, but was nevertheless glad

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to hear that you had passed that day <sup>my father's</sup> at ~~his~~ house,  
I hope it was a pleasant one to you. I am very certain  
that there were many there, whose affection for you was  
not a whit the less, because you have departed in  
opinion ~~from~~ them on a great moral question. I  
am ~~sure~~ <sup>sure</sup> that there was no one, whose respect for  
you was diminished thereby. For myself, I  
cannot see how any one, with a heart of flesh,  
can help honoring & loving you for your unwavering  
devotion to the cause of the oppressed. — That  
cause, my dear Sir, I trust advances. — Good men  
seem to be awaking to a sense of justice; and  
though the plan, generally proposed by abolition-  
ists, may not be finally adopted, yet I think  
the foundation is laid, never to be battered down  
or buried up, on which the universal acknowledge-  
ment of the rights of the slave will be built, ~~up~~.  
Certainly, while some men live, the truth will not  
sleep; — and when they are gone, God will raise up

others to defend the right. That shall be our hope, and  
our belief.

What a charming man Mr. Henry Sterns is! - I  
had never seen him before. He took us home to his house,  
after church, and did everything in his power to render  
our stay agreeable. I have rarely met a man, for whom I  
~~so soon~~ felt a warm regard.

We were really sorry not to see you at our  
wedding. We know the reason, & deeply regret  
it. Pray feel, Sir, that you owe us a speedy visit.  
To make some arrangement by which you can come  
to Leicester, and my house, while I have one, shall  
ever be a home for you. These last <sup>at least</sup> are words full  
of meaning; Sarah joins me in my request, and  
joins me too in sending love to you and yours. Louisa  
Rupell, who is with us, desires to be remembered to you.

Most affectionately, Yours

Sam<sup>l</sup> May<sup>r</sup>

~~Uncollected~~ Paid, 10.  
Dec 23

Rev. Samuel J. May.

Boston.

Care, Sam<sup>l</sup>. May Esq. (Mass.)



Samuel May Jr  
Dec. 22. 1835