

(Private)

1874

Rockport, June 28 1874

Dear Sir

J.L. Whitney  
Oct. 31, 1945  
Weymouth  
Mass.

I promised Mr. May to inform  
you whether I could go to Framingham on the 4th.  
I would if I could, but it is impossible. I am  
sick from overwork & with a bad cough. I am  
and very sorry remaining here. My heart is with  
the meeting at Framingham, as the ~~best~~ one  
in which the right view of our national condition  
is likely to be taken.

I have been grieved with you  
Dr. Emmons, for the unjust way in which you spoke of  
the attack on the Cent. Mass. The action which  
has given the greatest impulse to anti-slavery in Mass.  
since the first number of the Liberator was published,  
which not have been slighted in the Liberator as 'hostile  
expressions & ill-advised', (I quote fr. memory)  
To be sure it is well enough the dock should be the  
public Liberator now, to save those in his hands & in gen.  
But I stand ready to prove, when the time comes, that the  
attack was planned scholarly, cautious, & (as the  
ablest wits forced) most judicious. That if it  
~~failed~~ had not been made, no other would have been  
made. That this failed, partly thro' the cowardice  
of a mob, & some thro' the treachery of some of the  
very men whose courage was most relied on, & whose

Somehow we had have missed any enterprise, &  
especially a daylight one. That latter information  
was not sent to the leaders at Council Hall was  
not for want of effort, but for physical impossibility  
of getting it. For the same reason it was impossible  
for those who planned the attack to know that  
Wendell Phillips took the cause to die, however  
judicious the course under the circumstances as he  
saw them.

Of course I do not expect you, as a  
non-resistant, to sympathize with such an attack,  
but I am sorry that the Liberator, who will one day  
give the chief materials for the history of this matter,  
shall undertake its policy in a way which the Post &  
the Courier did not do. At the same time,  
for the sake of those who are to be tried for  
murder, I do not desire to have the error corrected  
now.

Yours with most cordial respect  
Thos. Higginson