

Northampton May 18. 1840

My Dear Friends

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I did not receive the communication of the Ex Comd. until yesterday noon, or it would have ^{had} an earlier answer.

During the past winter I was requested by the late Ex Comd. thro the Chmn (who stated that he had consulted the Anti Slavery friends in Boston & Philadelphia), to take the editorship of the Standard upon the retirement of my dear wife. I consented and wrote to that effect. I am still of the same mind, and am willing to devote such powers as I possess to the advancement of a cause on which in my opinion hangs the destiny not only of the American colored man, but also of this whole country. But I must declare that I cannot occupy that post unless I am left in full freedom to speak on all subjects connected with the Anti Slavery enterprise, as my judgment and conscience dictate. On any other terms I should be neither contented nor useful. I think moreover that it would be extremely unwise, to say no worse, for the Anti Slavery fraternity to appoint any person to an official station in whose fidelity, intelligence

and discretion they have not such confidence, that they can cheerfully accord to him this liberty. The manner in which the Standard has been conducted during the last two years has with a single exception had my hearty approbation. Had I been the responsible editor I should on some occasions have admitted more controversial matter. I can perceive nothing else that I should desire to alter, or see altered if I were to remain a simple subscriber.

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In respect to the political parties I agree in the main with the views expressed by the Ex Com^{tee} but that there may be ^{no} mis understanding I will state some points on which it is possible that we may differ. Both the political parties are bad, but both have done in the free States acts, which have deserved the commendation of abolitionists, and afforded the most substantial and cheering evidence of the success of our efforts. Whatever either may do in any State or in Congress favorable and friendly to our object, ought to be cordially and impartially acknowledged and welcomed. It is a fact however that the Whig party have made nearer approaches to our standard of political action than their opponents. This fact it would be doing injustice to men and to the cause to deny. There is neither honesty nor poli

icy in confounding half friends with entire ene-
mies. This half state, be it remembered, is one thro
which all the abolition converts, whom we hope
to gain, must pass ^{and thro which we have passed.} It is the transition state,
something as positive as either of the fixed, and
quite as interesting to our cause. I know that
it suits ^{the purposes of the} "third party" to represent both the
great political parties as in pari delicto. It is
a favorite tenet of the faction. It is an instrument
to whip into their ranks honest but ignorant
whig abolitionists. It is one and perhaps the
most effective of the many party tricks to
which they resort in the very worst spirit of
the parties, which they affect to arraign.

The ^{to} come inform me that the
"letters from ^{written} have been disapproved" This is
the first intimation I have had of the fact ex-
cept from adherents of the faction above men-
ed. I will not undertake to say without going
over those letters, for ^{wh} I have not now time, that
I may not have used expressions betraying
an undue leaning in favor of the whigs; but
this I may say that I believe the principal
and the most offensive portion of the corres-
pondence, as it related to the political parties,
consisted in giving a simple analysis of their
views. During two months and a half I was
a witness of the uniform servility of the northern

section of one party and of the independence
of the corresponding section of the other on
every question touching slavery. Should I
have done right to conceal this fact, and de-
nounce www.libtool.com.cn both sections as equally recreant
to their duty to the enslaved and to the free
men who sent them? The Emancipator
could do that in better style than I am capa-
ble of, and ought, if this office was demand-
ed, to have rec'd your patronage. I have
not spared Henry Clay nor any slave poli-
tician of his party. On the other hand al-
though a Northern democrat gave a righteous
vote, I took special pains to report his
name more conspicuously than that
of any member of the opposite, because I
thought it more meritorious to go against
a party in favor of the slave, than to go
with it. These were the general views with
which I acted, and I find nothing in them
that I can conscientiously say I wish to
alter. If at any time an expression escap-
ed me inconsistent with ^{them,} I should regret
and condemn it as much as any anti
slavery friend or third party opponent can.

but unless such expressions were specified or I had time carefully to review all that I wrote, I could make no modifications therein.

I have for several years voted for a thorough soe candidate in this county, whom I ~~also~~ know to be also a thorough abolitionist, in preference to his whig adversary, and this in reference to a principle unalterably fixed in my mind. and have during the same years abstained from voting, or given scattering votes, if I could find no candidate of either of the two great parties, whom I knew to be a decided abolitionist. On this principle I have never voted for John Davis, and have been held up to the derision of my neighbors by a democratic newspaper, for having voted for C. S. Remond, ^{na colored man!} for a governor. Nevertheless, I have not and do not ~~think I ever shall~~ "come out" of the political party ^{as a seceder} which I deem the least exceptionable. If that party at any time nominates an abolitionist for office, I vote for him in preference to any other, and if I think I can influence that party to propose such candidates, I do not feel that I violate any anti Slavery obligation, by communicating and meeting with them. Every man who has earned the confidence of his associates, by long acquaintance and good conduct, will have a weight with them that he

cannot have with new comrades nor a new
comrade with them. The sphere of a man's
old and familiar associations is the natural
and ordinarily the most useful theatre
of action for him in every laudable
work. He www.zibtool.com.cn therefore makes a considerable
sacrifice of his means of doing good when
in any sense he ~~consents~~ ^{abandon} consents to it. There may
be cases, I believe, when as much or more
good can be done by renouncing both sect
and party, and bearing a testimony against
their errors and misdeeds. These cases I have
always thought, and do still think, ought
to be left to individual judgment and voli-
tion. The salutary effect which they may have
when they thus arise, would be neutralized if
they could be supposed to be the result of
dictation from abroad. I may approve in
an individual, what I ^{would} resist as a test. This
I think is the necessary result of the broad
principle of association, that it should be
sufficiently comprehensive to embrace with-
out distinction of color, ~~sect~~, sex or party all
men who agree in the great object of destroy-
ing slavery. If we require as a qualification
for fraternizing with us, an abandonment
of parties or sects, we abolish a fundamental
principle, and sweep from our platform

that which distinguishes it from the new &
~~former~~ ^{the} ecclesiastical organizations.

With these opinions I would not un-
dertake to advocate the renunciation of
parties and sects as an Anti Slavery duty.
At the same time www.libtool.com.cn I should not, if I were
editor of the Standard exclude all disqui-
sitions on such subjects. If it could be shown
that on any point I am wrong, I should be
perfectly willing to be corrected, and ^{in all cases} that
other minds should be acted upon thro the
columns of the Standard. Still as the res-
ponsibility would rest on me I must
exercise the same ^{liberty} in choosing and reject-
ing, which others exercise in offering. That
I should on all occasions act with a sincere
and single purpose of advancing our great
and good cause I take it for granted that
you will believe without any new proofs
or professions.

In pursuance of the understanding
with the former Ex Comd. I have been mak-
ing arrangements to remove to New York;
and it is of the utmost importance to me
to be put in possession at the earliest possi-
ble moment of your definitive determina-
tion. I remain Yr affect.
Friend & Fellow Sot
Wm Lloyd Garrison
Pres.
M. W. Chapman Cor. Sec. Mass. D. L. Child

May 18. 1843
Letter of Mr. Child
accepting the
editorship of Standard

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Please to preserve
& return to
A.M.C.

Wm Lloyd Garrison
President A.S.S. in