

Mrs. Chapman

Summer Street

Boston

United States

Playford Hall
near Ipswich
Suffolk

Dear madam

I received your Letter dated May 30, but not the address of the Executive Committee of the American Anti-Slavery Society, said in your Letter to have been sent with it.

You asked me in that Letter to write some little matter for the Liberty Bell, which is to come out at Boston at the Massachusetts Fair in December next on the subject of Slavery. I was at ^{that} time thinking of writing a very small Pamphlet of less than twenty pages to be published at New York, as the last performance of mine to be seen in this world, for every day's experience tells me that I am not to be long here. In this state of things I was perplexed to know what to do, for I considered that I was not equal to both performances. That you might ^{however} not be wholly disappointed, I wrote my friend Bernard Barton, who has written some pretty pieces of Poetry, and who is really not a bad poet, to furnish me with a few stanzas on the Slavery Subject to be inserted in the Liberty Bell at your ensuing Fair. He immediately complied with my Request, and I now send them to you, such as they are, and you will use them or not, according as you ^{approve} of them or not. Though I send them, it is not necessary that you should print them. Having done this, and therefore secured something for you I went to work on my own little Pamphlet, ^{just as I intended} thinking it possible that I might finish it, so as to have a little time for you. This has happily been the case, and I now send it to you, imperfect as it is, to do with it what you please. If it is not worthy of being inserted in the Liberty Bell it must not appear there, but ^{if} there be any thing good in it do not let it be lost. If there are any expressions in it too severe, you can

qualify them. I should be obliged to you to let me know that you have received this, and as soon as you can, as I shall be in an anxious state till I hear from you

The Paper, which I wrote at your request is in the form of a Letter addressed "to the Christian and well disposed Citizens of the Northern States of America on the Subject of Slavery" If there should be any little Mistake or Errors in them you will be pleased to correct them. If they are worthy of Insertion in the Liberty Bell, I think Mr Garrison, if he approves them, might reprint them in his Paper, thus giving it a wider Circulation, and he might have Influence on the Editors of other Papers to get it inserted there. All this however depends, on your Determination whether it is likely to produce good, for at my Time of Life I suspect an impaired Intellect, and doubt, whether I ought to attempt to write any thing more. I beg that you would present my affectionate Regards to Mr Garrison - our great Cause is deeply indebted to him, for there was a time when it slept but could not have been recovered unless he had kept the Flame alive. and now, dear madam, I must take my Leave of you, sincerely wishing you your Health and every earthly Blessing, and that you may live to see your Hopes and wishes gratified in Relation to our holy Cause!

yours truly
Thomas Clarkson

September 1. 1844