

Middlebury, April 27<sup>th</sup> 1838

Dear Friend

Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo was received two weeks since. Reasons too numerous to mention here have prevented a more speedy answer. The few short, and swift passing days, that are allotted us in this world of changes, are fraught with cares, which accumulate with age. I have indeed found that the "path through this wilderness world is rugged and thorny". Although not deprived as yourself of home, and the society of brothers, and sisters, yet I have felt the heavy rod of bereavement. At the tender age of thirteen, when I most needed a father's protecting care, he was torn from me by the relentless hand of death. Many times since have I been led to exclaim when I recalled to mind the loss which I then sustained, in common with the rest of the family. What a mysterious providence. But it is good for us to be afflicted. God has declared that he designs our severe chastisements for our good. Yet how prone is the sinful heart to murmur, and repine at the <sup>his</sup> dealings with us. Sometimes when I think of the long forbearance, and tender mercy of God, exercised towards me in every period of my life, I cannot but adopt the language of another. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plentiful in mercy.

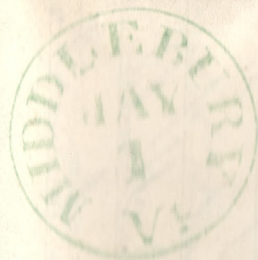
I most sincerely thank you for the papers you have been so kind as to send me. From them I have been able to derive much valuable information. Indeed I have been utterly astonished in reading Mr Lovejoy's anti-slavery principles. I perused them with the mingled emotions of joy and surprise. If these be the sentiments of the body of abolitionists, I must bid them God speed. I see nothing in them contrary to sound reasoning, and common sense must, and will approve of them. I have many times pictured to myself plans, which I thought would be better than immediate emancipation. But have never felt so satisfied with any as those of Mr L's, that emancipation to be of any use to the slave, must be the free and voluntary act of the master, performed from a conviction of its propriety. This is excellent. He also adds, this is, and always has been, the cardinal principle of abolitionists. How different from what I supposed. Never did slavery appear more hateful, and wicked to me, than when I read the soul appealing fact that thousands hold as slaves their own sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters, &c. O the abominations of slavery! Would to God that our boasted republic was clear of such a foul stain. Indeed I feel that God will visit <sup>the</sup> nation with speedy judgments for the wrongs, not only, of the oppressed and doctored African, but also for the unparalleled injustice, that they have shown to the Aborigines of the South. In view of these things

ought, we not, as christians to humble ourselves, and cry mightily unto God, that he would withhold the deserved punishment. Already a threatening cloud seems to hang over our devoted country, and shall we sit and see it gathering darkness and just ready to burst forth upon us, without raising our united supplications for her speedy deliverance. What would be our nations destiny God only knows, were it not that we have some righteous Lots among us.

As it respects our correspondence, I can say with you I hope we shall do nothing wrong in this matter. Should it be continued, you urge the propriety at fixed times to exchange letters which I think be very proper, in case it should be continued any length time, and in which, I would confide altogether in your superior judgment, and good sense. Whatever may be the result of your decision, in this, will be satisfactory to me. Should you deem it ~~proper~~ proper and profitable to continue it, I should think to exchange once in three months would be, as often, as I could make it convenient. I hope you will not be hindered from what you may judge most conducive for our good, from fear that it may not meet my views, for I will again assure you, that I have confidence to trust your opinion in preference to my own.

Mr George Shedd

Yours with respect & adieu



1838

*Q's*

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