

Rochester April 24. 1855.

My dear Sir,

There were two points in your address, which grated a little on my ear at the moment, and to which I would have called your attention immediately after ~~the~~ its delivery in Rochester had opportunity permitted. The first claimed that Mr Garrison originated the present Anti-Slavery movement - a claim which I do not regard as well founded and I think I have succeeded in showing this in a lecture recently delivered in Rochester and in several other places during the past winter. Mr Garrison found the Anti-Slavery movement already in existence when he stepped to the side of Benjamin Lundy in Baltimore. The second point was your very founded disclaimer, touching the social location of the colored ~~man~~. It seemed to me that, considering the obstinate and persecuting character of American prejudice against color, and the readiness with which those who entertain it avail themselves of every implication in its favor, your remark on that ^{point} was unfortunate.

I may be a little speculative on ^{the} subject of our social position. I think I have become more so of late, because I have detected, in some of my old comrades, something like a falling away from their first love, touching the recognition of the entire manhood and social equality of the colored people. I do not mean by this, that every colored man, without regard to his character or attainments, shall be recognized as socially equal to white people, who are in these respects superior to him; but I do mean to say, that the simple fact of color should not be the criterion, by which to ascertain, or to fix the social station of any. Let every man, without regard to color, wherever his character and abilities naturally carry him. And further let there be no public opinion already to repel ~~any~~ any who are in these respects