

35 Court St. Boston.

July 14. 1854.

My Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am gratefully obliged to you for the vol. containing the Census returns. There are grave defects in its execution, but on the whole I think it the most instructive document published at Washington.

Allow me to express my gratification at your two last speeches. Everybody here thinks them the most telling things you have done; & I have no doubt that the immediate effect of them will be greater than that of your more elaborate speeches. They have done a great deal to strengthen you, the great Cause, & the North.

Political affairs in Mass. are very much at loose ends. All parties seem to be approaching that happy state of solution ~~of~~ dissolution, for which we have sighed so long. The Mass convention was called too early. It will however, I think, be a large one, & have a good effect. Alas how, it cannot hurt us. Know-nothingism is to be an important, perhaps the controlling, element in our state election; & it will probably take us out of the hands of the Whigs. Into whose hands it will put us, nobody can tell. Yrs: Truly,  
Leth Webb Jr.