

(Copy.)

Nahant August 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear Letter

When I <sup>a few days ago</sup> acknowledged the receipt of your invitation to put <sup>in</sup> to writing my views upon the management of the negro race, as part of the free population of the U. States, I stated to you (a few days ago), that there was a preliminary question of the <sup>primary</sup> ~~ultimate~~ importance to be examined first, since <sup>whatever</sup> the <sup>may be</sup> convictions ~~once~~ formed upon that point must necessarily influence everything else relating to the subject. The question is simply this: Is there to be a permanent black population upon this continent after slavery is everywhere abolished and no inducement remains to foster its increase? Should the question be answered in the negative, it is evident that a wise policy would look to ~~remove~~ the best mode of removing that race from these States, either by accelerating emigration or by aiding its decay. Should the question be answered in the affirmative, then it is plain that we have before us one of the most difficult problems, <sup>upon</sup> from the relation of which the welfare of our own race may in a measure depend, - the combination in one social organization of two races more widely different from one another than all the other races. And in effuting this combination it becomes our duty to avoid the recurrence of evils perhaps <sup>130</sup> as great in a moral point of view as slavery itself, one