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JAN 8  
MASS.

Mr. Abner Wilson  
Sandwich Islands  
(via missionary house)  
Boston

Dr. Ligon's  
Received per. Youlan  
Aug. 23 1845

Reading W. Jan<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1845

Mr. Abner Wilcox  
Sandwich Islands

Dear Brother,

I rec<sup>d</sup> your

Kind letter of May 6<sup>th</sup> & one from Bro. Coan, about the same date, the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst. My eyes are about as when I left the Islands. I refer you to Bro. Coan's for an acct. of Mrs. Lafon's case. She is afflicted Oh, how greatly according to poor human computation.

Though I cannot tell you as in my former letter of having seen your relations, I may of seeing Mr. Chipman. He is settled in Athol W. where I spent a Sabbath with him in Dec. last. I was much pleased with both of them. He spoke of having visited your father's family, not very long since, and I mistake not got a kiss from your father for joy.

The windings, the doublings, and deep ramifications through which we are pursuing the antislavery Cause are indelible. The death struggle approaches. The Lion is driven to his den: that is, we see now where he is, and the man who does not vote against<sup>it</sup> and act against it, in his Church relationships, where he is a Church member, is either pitied for his ignorance, or denounced as a hypocrite, if he persists in saying, "I am as much antislavery as any body." Our gain is tardy. Every inch of ground is disputed with all the obstinacy, that talent, & power, and prejudice, can produce. New demonstrations of the wretched, and desperate condition of the institution are daily taking place. Ministers, and men, and women of character are falling before the Moloch. They go to the Penitentiary upon being suspected of being abolitionists, as it is said, and I am not able to learn that any thing more has

been proved against Miss Webster. The accomplished Miss Webster with felons in the Penitentiary of the noble hearted Kentucky!! She insists, that their mere suspicion that she was an abolitionist, is false. I hope two years apprenticeship to slavery will make her one. Since they must have a victim, I am really glad, it was none of our good abolition girls.

Poor Torrey. 7 years, with a shaved head, and partly colored garments, away from friends & wife & children, and intellectual & social enjoyments, at hard labor in the stagnant air of a Penitentiary! Well, reformation always required sacrifices, & more offerings than this are to be made. Some say he was rash. Perhaps he was. But if he was not, green eyed prejudice, and sneaking jealousy would hardly say so, when they had no direct crime to charge against him. Posterity will probably say he was generous, bold noble - i.e., timid, cold, prudent. He says, they told a flood of lies to get him convicted, but that he did assist slaves, to the tune of three or four hundred, to escape! Then too is poor weakert Boyer and Thompson, & Burr, & Brooks!

I am glad you & Ben Green stand aloof from such an antislavery Society as yours is. It is dead enough, why don't they bury it? When the Society was formed, the very announcement of the fact, and the publication of the proceedings, produced an effect here. Nothing more was expected, at first. Instead of yearly advance from the starting point, you have made one step backward, & there you (they) are. Some of that Society are trying to persuade themselves that they are so far off that they can do nothing. Far off from what? There is little danger of their getting far from slavery, till they leave this planet. The truth is, the difficulty lies in their proximity, and not in their remoteness from slavery. They are connected with a proslavery missionary B<sup>y</sup>. Have they no objection to that? They are supported by a proslavery and slaveholding Church, is that just what they want? They have a deadly opposi-

ism in the Islands, Can there be no direct antagonistic ~~man~~  
ment, in thought, word or deed in relation to it? Has the  
Society communitated with the B. in a firm and manly  
tone? Has it with the Church at home, for sending them  
the blood stained earnings of heathenized slaves? I am  
afraid they are consenting to it all. If so, like proflavory  
folks here, they say they are opposed to Slavery, but they see  
nothing in the world that they can do towards its abolition.  
I hope none of you will think that I presume to dictate,  
but it is proper that you sh<sup>d</sup> know that antislavery men  
here do not feel encouraged, or strengthened or helped in any  
way, as far as I know, by any thing the Society is now  
doing. Two worlds full of such antislavery folks would  
do about as much towards extinguishing Slavery, as a  
goatsucker would do in trying to spit out the sun.  
You can do much Brethren, your position is particularly  
favorable; but it is difficult to make people see it to be  
duty to quarrel with their bread & butter, though it may  
come at the expense of the groans, and sweat, and tears,  
and blood, and souls of somebody. If I acted inconsistently  
in any part of my course, profit by the experience, &  
do all of you do better; but for the sake of the cause  
of truth, and justice, & religion, don't settle down on  
your lees, and say that you can do nothing in  
this glorious cause.

The Texas question occupies Congress.  
I don't see that there is much more to be lost.  
Religion is approaching to a lifeless form, and  
freedom exists in name among us. The power of  
Slavery even cannot get much more. To the Lord  
let us commit all our cares, & rejoice that we must  
act for ourselves & not for another.

Love to all, truly yrs as ever  
Thos: Ligon