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Norwalk May 21. 1839.

Dr. Hudson

I regret that I could not have more time with you the other day, at Hartford, as I perceived from a remark or two that you made, that you are wholly deceived in regard to the real grounds of our differences in Massachusetts. I write this however, not for the purpose of correcting your apprehensions in respect to that matter - except simply to assure you that you have been & are deceived in regard to the real facts in the case - but for another purpose.

From a remark you made, in the moment we had together, & from a report that came to me from another quarter while I was in Hartford, I am led to believe that my non-appearance at your meeting, is construed by yourself & others into a loss of interest in the cause of the slave &c. &c. Allow me then to say, that ~~throughly~~ ~~particularly~~ I should have been at the meeting had it been possible. As it was, I had but two & a half days at home, instead of three weeks, as I had intended to have; & that the whole of those days was taken up in packing up my books for removal to Boston, & in attending



to other matters of a domestic character which must be attended to & which could not have been attended to had I been at Hartford.

Having made this statement, allow me to express my deep regret at that spirit of all uncharitableness which, on your part or that of any other person, could put no construction on my absence except such an one as I have noticed. I am not aware that the construction in question ~~is~~ was yours originally, but, from your remark, I ~~supposed~~ perceived some one had been magnanimous enough to make it.

In conclusion, I assure you, that while I cannot, I shall not cooperate with men who <sup>use</sup> ~~use~~ the cause of the slave, <sup>for</sup> the promotion of other ends & other views, I shall ever, I trust, in such ways as I can, do all in my power, for the promotion of that cause. The slave has my heart, & shall have my utmost efforts for his relief; but, for the slave's sake, if for no other reason, I shall set my face as a flint, against those men, be they who they may, who are dishonest enough to use the slave this cause as a mere tool to other ends. And such let me assure you is the fact, with the no-governmentists in Mass. at the present moment. They tell you, I know, that our controversy with them



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is nothing but an effort to "throw Garrison overboard," but this is false & they know it. Let Garrison go back to his original ground - let the Mass. A. S. Society do the same, & our controversy with them is at an end, & we stand by them as firmly as ever. But if they will insist on abandoning the ground of original abolitionism - on coupling the woman-question & the no-government question with that of abolition - in a word, of modelling the whole abolition enterprise, both in its doctrines & modes of action, after their views on these other subjects, they do so on their own responsibility. If for one hold on to original abolition. For the slave's sake as well as my own, I shall not budge one inch with them, but shall do my utmost to oppose them in this departure from the faith, & this, as I regard it, foolish & fatal sacrifice of the slave.

Yours for the slave.

A. A. Phelps.



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Dr. Hudson,  
Anti-Slavery Office,  
Hartford, Ct.

MAY 20 1841

Card.