

June , 1836.

Dear Mr. Milliken:

Thanks for your information as to the political status.

As to your suggestion to me that Mr. Johnson's action as to "Protection or Free Trade" was a gigantic blunder. I heard you on Monday night make that same suggestion to him, and on his reply withdraw the suggestion. That it was not a trick I know, and I understood you to profess the same conclusion after hearing what Mr. Johnson said to you on that very point. A savage attack in Mr. & Tucker's ~~Library~~ which you also can be hardly taken to represent the opinion of the world, even if the world were always right, and certainly carries no weight with me.

As to the Abolitionists. William Lloyd Garrison in a letter to me under date of June 3d, acknowledging a copy of my letter to Stevens, says:

"Your letter to Stephens meets the absolute approval of Fillmore and myself. It is not an infringement on the right of free speech when city ordinances are broken for the authorities to apprehend the law breakers. The abolitionists kept the distinction clear and had the law as well as the abstract right of discussion on their side. It would be the height of folly and unreason for you to go to Delaware to pose as a martyr. We must take what comes in the line of duty, but to carry a chip on the shoulder and to invite people to tread on the tail of our coats is to display the spirit of Bannockburn fair. That has evidently extruded discretion in Delaware."

A copy of my letter to Stevens which elicited this from Mr. Garrison was also sent to Mr. Stephenson and to Mr. Bolton Hall.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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*Wm. Lloyd Garrison*