

By carrier to Mrs. Friend, by the carrier

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Shelburne Vermont  
1842



M. Sherman  
1842

Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 1842

My Friend,

Yours bearing date of June 4<sup>th</sup> I took from the Post Office last Saturday just one week after the same was mailed at Shelburne, I began to think that for some reason or other you had concluded to drop me from the list of correspondents. But I am glad to find myself mistaken. The cause of the delay is the very same that has made me more than once slight at hand, the duties of the school.

Since perusing the above more than a week has elapsed during which time I have been kept from finishing this reply to an old friend by numberless petty causes. This is July 1<sup>st</sup> the day on which the great National act of declaring independence is commemorated. How well coming to in many places. How much praise is lavished on the untimely sagacity of the declaration, and upon the brave officers and soldiers of the revolution, but how little acknowledgment of the helping of Heaven upon their efforts. The human race is prone to idolatry. Even in our own times and in our own nation we see a propensity to forget the true God and make gods of heroes.

It is not doubtful whether greater good or evil has resulted from the Revolution as yet. Is the expectation of such death treasonable? You have heard that the Rev. Sylvester Judson was degraded from the Chaplainship in Maine Legislature for preaching a sermon on the evils that have flowed from the Revolution. What foolishness! I have not learned the contents of that sermon more than he is indebted by its title; but I presume it contains

much that we must assent to. That evils have flowed from that war is plain. Infidelity was introduced in the intercourse and alliance with the French. Men that embodied the principles of Infidelity, became extravagant in their views of the rights of Man, and in extraordinary efforts to extend those rights, they spread a broad and demagogic spirit of Jacobinism, which the friends of order and moderation have in vain contended with from the foundation of our government. Jacobinism, the spirit of misrule, and insubordination to the principles of justice, have been on the increase, and it is still triumphant, notwithstanding efforts made to arrest it. It has manifested itself in various ways proceeding from bad to worse and from worse to what is still worse. It first appeared in the shape of Jeffersonian democracy. And since the various manifestations I have been in Socialism, in the Workingmen's party, in Abner Kneelandism, and finally in Locofocoism, and Ultra abolitionism. And as it goes on it becomes more desperate, as is seen in the mobs of our cities, in the multiplication acts of the south, in repudiation of public debt, and in rebellion of the redoubtable Gen. Don. It is my opinion that we stand but one or two moves from anarchy and universal civil war.

Allowing the Revolution to <sup>have</sup> been a war of principle, and justifiable on the ground of self defence, it must be allowed that it has been the occasion of much mischief and trouble, not only in our land but in Europe. But is war justifiable on Christian principles, any war? Quakerism, Quakerism. I substitute at least.

This as I said is the 3<sup>rd</sup>. While others are making a great fuss perhaps, because they like to keep in remembrance fighting, for fighting

is fun to them. I am at home far from excitement, unannoyed by judging celebrations. I have given holiday to my school, which consists of four only. Peaches are ripening and melons have been stable for long time. Corn is hardening and cotton is from knee to breast high. The weather for three days has been cool enough to put on a woollen coat at midday and at evening. To day is nearly as warm as usual. The hot sun is very oppressive to the constitution but I think that white people could perform labor in the field; some, may mow, and appear to stand it very well so far as I know. My health has been good ever since I have been here, with the exception of now and then a day of dulness, caused probably by the action or want of action of the bile. You can believe health may be preserved here, but greater precaution must be used than <sup>there</sup> those men into excesses run great risk of their lives. Quilting is very fashionable in these parts. Several fights have taken place opposite town since I came down, one occurred last Saturday in which one of the parties was wounded in the leg.

Your views of teaching correspond with mine. I make my scholars work out the problems of Arithmetic on their slates, and then repeat the rules and perform the problems again before me upon the blackboard. Having gone through a rule, they review it, passing over it the second time as thoroughly as the first.

I wish you would give my respects to J. Allen and family, to his brother David and Co. and to all inquiring friends. Also to Mrs Harwood.

Your sincere Friend  
Arnold Glassman