

Inventory of the Abolitionist Papers Inventory, 1834-1888

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A Collection in the Special Collections Research Center 95 Ab7

Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary

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History

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Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

Mss. 95 Ab7

Language

English

Abstract

Letters, a speech, and a photograph relating to abolitionists Theodore Dwight Weld, Elizur Wright, Gerrit Smith, Henry Grew, William Lloyd Garrison, and Parker Pillsbury.

Physical Characteristics

9 items.

Repository

Special Collections, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

Use Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

Gift, 1941

Preferred Citation

Abolitionist Papers (Mss. 95 Ab7), Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Scope and Content

Letters, a speech, and a photograph relating to abolition. Correspondents include: Theodore Dwight Weld (1803-1895) of Lane Seminary, Elizur Wright (1804-1885), Secretary of the American Anti-Slavery Society, Gerrit Smith (1797-1874), philanthropist and reformer, Henry Grew (1782-1862), Quaker abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879), prominent abolitionist, and Parker Pillsbury (1809-1898), abolitionist author. Subjects include abolition tactics and organizations, expressions of sympathy to Garrison on the death of his wife and publication of Pillsbury's work. Also includes a photograph of Mary Grew (1813-1896), daughter of Henry Grew and abolitionist in her own right.

Contents List

24 January 1834

Extent

4 pp. ALS.

Scope and Content

Theodore D Wight Weld, Walnut Hills, [Ohio] to Elizur Wright Junior, Corresponding Secretary of the American anti-Slavery Society, New York City, New York. Received EW's letter; the decision that the letter requested was a heavy responsibility; has decided he serves the cause better where he is; has fought against slavery and colonization; colonization has able advocates; Brother Mehan and Professor Morgan have renounced colonization and come over to the abolitionist position; they are on the border of a slave state but within a year there will be 100 theological students at the institution. Lane Seminary in Walnut Hills, Ohio, - a strong abolitionist center that will influence the entire valley "more than a hundred societies in New York"; Beecher Stowe is dead set against their cause; believes the seminary would fold if he left; leads a bible class for colored adults; nominates Lewis Tappan as General Agent for the Society. JDW has secured EW's position of Corresponding Secretary in December of 1833.

10 October 1839

Extent

1 pp. ALS.

Scope and Content

Gerrit Smith, Peterborough, New Hampshire to "my dear Uncle", Daniel Cady Esquire, Johnstown, Fulton County, [New York]. Received DC's letter; hopes DC will be able to commence proceedings in the Case of the Delaware Lot [?]. Hopes a speedy settlement with the representatives of R.M. Campbell and John E. Smith; business is poor and GS has not had a paying customer in 8 days.

23 October 1861

Extent

4 pp. AD.

Scope and Content

Henry Grew, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, "to the Friends of Righteousness and humanity to convene at West Chester on the 25th inst." Regrets that he cannot attend the abolitionist meeting; hopes God will guide the convention; afraid that "the Tempter" will turn them from a "right end" and make them use

"wrong means"; God may use the Civil War to bring about abolition, but he may allow wicked men to accomplish this; the faithful are obligated to not support the war if it is not a "right measure to accomplish a right end"; the war is not just because it seeks merely to restore the pre-war government that allowed slavery; support for a government that merely prevents the extension of slavery is not enough; even if the ends were right i.e. total abolition, war is still wrong; God's command of "Thou shalt not kill" applies to soldiers as well; ministers who leave the pulpit and accept commissions are hypocrites; God's weapons are sufficient to defeat slavery.

March 1865

Extent

4 pp. ALS.

Scope and Content

James Miller McKim. Pennsylvania a Freedmen's Relief Association, No. 424 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to "my dear May (?). Relates establishment of the American Freedman Aid Commission; Judge Berd is president and Wendall Phillips Lawson is acting Secretary, a "grand" Anniversary will be marked by addresses by Phillip Brooks, Henry Ward Beecher, General Saxton (?) and Andrew; requests advice on choosing an editor.

4 February 1876

Extent

2 pp. ALS.

Scope and Content

H.G. Stone, Framingham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts to William Lloyd Garrison. Thanks WLG for his memorial card; expresses sympathy for the loss of his wife; hopes that he is recovering from his illness because his services to the country are still needed; Southern rebels are finding cause with power hungry Northern partisans

20 February 1876.

Extent

1 pp. ALS.

Scope and Content

Elizabeth L. Miller, 7 Fifth Avenue, New York, [New York], to "my dear friend" William Lloyd Garrison. Sends sympathy for his great loss of Mrs. Garrison.

11 May 1876.

Extent

4 pp. ALS.

Arrangement

. Mary S. Stetson for her father, Brooklyn County [New York], to "Dear Friend" William Lloyd Garrison. Written for her father, who expresses sympathy for Mrs. Garrison's death; he knew her as a child in 1825. Bears a short personal condolence from Mary herself.

2 July 1884.

Extent

4 pp. ALS.

Scope and Content

Parker Pillsbury, Concord, New Hampshire, to "My dear friend May". Mr. Phillips and the Wallcots have passed away and PP feels that there is nothing left that is dear to him; William Lloyd Garrison is hospitable; one thousand of his books have sold and he still has one thousand left that he cannot sell; he is in relatively good health. Stationary is an advertisement for PP's book, "Acts of the Anti-Slavery Apostles".

n.d.

Extent

2 1/4", 3 5/8". Ph.

Scope and Content

Black and white, head and shoulders view, of Mary Grew (1813-1896).

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