

My Dear Sir,

Your criticism of the President is hasty. I am confident that if you knew him as I do, you would not make it. Of course the President cannot be held responsible for the malfeasances of subordinates, unless adopted or at least tolerated by him. And I am sure that nothing unjust or ungenerous will be tolerated, much less adopted by him.

I am happy to let you know that he has no sympathy with Stanley in his absurd wickednesses, closing the schools again in his other act of turning our camp into a hunting ground for Slaves. He repudiates both positively. The latter point has occupied much of his thought; and the newspapers have not gone too far in recording his repeated declarations, which I have often heard from his own lips that Slaves finding their way into the National lines are never to be Re-enslaved- This is his conviction, expressed without reserve.

Could you have seen the President- as it was my privilege often- while he was considering the great questions on which he has already acted- the invitation to Emancipation in the States, Emancipation in the District of Columbia, and the acknowledgement of the Independence of Hayti and Liberia- even your zeal would have been satisfied, for you would have felt the sincerity of his purpose to do what he could to carry forward the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

His whole soul was occupied, especially by the first proposition, which was peculiarly his own. In familiar intercourse with

him, I remember nothing more touching than the earnestness and completeness with which he embraced this idea. To his mind, it was just and beneficent, while it promised the sure end of Slavery. Of course, to me, who had already proposed a bridge of gold for the retreating fiend, it was most welcome. Proceeding from the President, it must take its place among the great events of history.

If you are disposed to be impatient at any seeming shortcomings think, I pray you, of what has been done in a brief period, and from the past discern the sure promise of the future. Knowing something of my convictions and of the ardor with which I maintain them, you may, perhaps, derive some assurance from my confidence; I may say to you, therefore, stand by the Administration. If need be, help it by word and act, but stand by it and have faith in it.

I wish that you really knew the President, and had heard the fearless expressions of his convictions on the questions which concern you so deeply. You might, perhaps, wish that he were less cautious; but you would be grateful that he is so true to all that you have at heart. Believe me, therefore, you are wrong, and I regret it the more because of my desire to see our all friends stand firmly together.

If I write strongly it is because I feel strongly; for my constant and intimate intercourse with the President, beginning with the 4th of March, not only binds me peculiarly to his Administration, but gives me a personal as well as a political interest that justice is done him.

Believe me, my dear sir, with much regard, ever faithfully yours,

Charles Sumner."