Master may be upon you & guide you into all truth and love is the prayer of your loving friend J.A. Collins.

MS.A1.2. vol 11 (1) 1841 Anti-Slavery Letters to Garrison [93]
No. 4 George Bradburn to R.D. Webb

Boston, January 1st, 1841.

My dear Webb:

... I have received several papers from Ireland, since my return, some, I suppose, from yourself, some from friend Allen, some from friend Haughton, and some from Mr. Standfield of Belfast; the contents of all of which were not so much read as devoured by me, especially as they, in some instances, contained articles from the pens of all or several of these friends. It rejoices my heart to witness the interest you all continue to manifest in the cause of humanity, whether it be manifested in the form of sympathy for the enslaved, or for the intertemperate. I should be glad to hear that you were all to become "Repealers", also. But what will the author of the Repeal Movement say to the rascally conduct of his British ministry in recognising the national independence of Texas, that "nest of plundering pirates", as I once heard him call it? It makes the heart of philanthropy sick, to think of this recant conduct, and especially to read the laudations of it which have appeared in some of the English papers. The ministry enjoyed an enviable opportunity of bearing testimony against the infernal system of slavery, but it seems they were willing to forego it, to strike hands with men-stealers, robbers, and murderers, for the sake of putting a few shillings into John Bull's long purse. I have heard of nothing so deeply damnable for a long while....

My affectionate regards to your wife, and believe me very affectionately yours &c.

Geo. Bradburn.

May 1st, 1841.

MS.A1.2. vol 11 (1) 1841 Anti-Slavery Letters to Garrison [94]
No. 7 J.A. Collins to William Lloyd Garrison

Ipswich Jany 1st. 1841.

My dear Brother Garrison,

... Unless we succeed better than we have as yet done, you may expect to see me on the 15th of February. Would that I could leave earlier than the 1st proximo, but I have not as yet heard one word from the Broad St. Com. I am daily expecting a summons to appear before them. By the way, the Sabbath Convention has entirely changed the issue. Woman's rights & nongovernmentism are quite respectable, when compared to your religious views.... The Unitarians in this country are by far the most liberal & enlarged class of Christians, but, they are generally very worldly minded & do not take interest in anything but the accumulation of worldly honours & emoluments, with now and then, a peace offering to the cause of education. But few are what you would term, genuine reformers. I have fallen in with a few, however, who are in practice what they profess to be in theory. When I arrive at home I shall have a long story to relate to you. Your influence, in this country, is damned, by the sly & false & wicked thrust made at your religious views. Owenism in Gt. Bn. is considered double distilled infidelity. Your views are being considered of the Owen School. You are the Great Lyon which stands in my way; Yet if I had nothing to do but enlighten the public minds on this subject we should get along very well, but when we show up the division, as we have to, from the opposition we meet with, and after setting forth our position, it is hard to raise money, I can assure you. It is next to impossible to carry both together & actually impossible to get a farthing without combating the opposition constantly crossing my path. I feel the importance of having some able man in this country to keep the subject before the public. It should not be allowed to die away. As soon as I am off the new organization click will not give sleep to their eyes or slumber to their eyelids until every mind is brought to embrace their views. A good man, faithful to his principles, from our country, acquainted with all the facts in the case, would galvanise the country on this subject....

In the greatest haste, from your affectionate friend & brother 'till death

John A Collins

British & Foreign Anti Slavery Society for the Abolition of Slavery & the Slave Trade Throughout the World

27, New Broad Street, London.
January 2nd 1841.

Mr. J. A. Collins —

Sir

Your letter to the Committee of the British & Foreign Anti Slavery Society was laid before them at their meeting yesterday and was taken by them into full consideration. It appears that the Committee are to regard you as an authorized representative of the American Anti Slavery Society, on whose behalf you are deputed to raise funds in Great Britain and that you apply to them, either for "a grant of a sum of money" or for "an expression of their cordial desire for the success" of the Society you represent.

With respect to the former part of the alternative, the Committee have to observe, that, whatever the amount of these funds might be — they could not consider themselves entitled to dispose of them in the way you desire, so that they feel it their duty to decline altogether the consideration of a money grant. And easy as the adoption of the latter part of the alternative might appear, and painful as it is to find any ground for hesitation in this respect, the committee are nevertheless constrained to say that the course recently pursued by the American Anti Slavery Society has alienated their confidence —
According to your request the Committee forward this reply at the earliest moment. They have heard something indirectly of your wishing an interview with them, but they wait, before saying anything on this point, until they shall understand from yourself that this is your desire.

I am sir,
Yours respectfully
J. H. Tredgold
Secretary

Mr. J. A. Collins.

MSA.9.2. vol. 15 (1) 1841 The Weston Papers
No. 6 J.A. Collins to Henry Grafton Chapman

Norwich, Jan 2, 1841

My Dear Friend,

I had expected, till this morning to have remitted three hundred pounds to you, by the steamer, which sails from Liverpool the 4th inst., but I find no letters or bill as we had previously suggested. I regret this very much, as I am confident you must be suffering greatly. I do not know as I can promise another farthing. I would as soon go among the Southern slaveholders to solicit aid, as among the abolitionists of Great Britain. So much has been done, by Prest. Birney, Stanton, & Van Buren John Scoble, as they, in the capacity of philanthropic gentlemen, travelled all over the kingdom, to prejudice the mind of the leading abolitionists of the country, that we are shunned by them as we should have been by the ranket pro slav[er]y men of our country. And if, by a special act of grace, on their part, some one, more magnanmious than the rest, condescends to give us audience, we had as many objections to answer & remove, urged against us by an English abolitionist as by an Am apologist. So strong is the anti-slave current against us, that but few, when they are convinced, have moral courage sufficient to face the opposition.

I have received, this moment, through the post, from the hands of E. Pease, the following extracts, written either to the Broad St. Committee or to a prominent abolitionist.

"Boston, Nov. 30. 1840"

"Extract of a letter of Rev. Nathl. Colver." "Garrison has just headed an infidel convention, gathered from different states to call in question the validity of the Sabbath, the Church and the ministry. It was quite a gathering, & I went in, with two or three other ministers, & discussed it with them for days."

"Wm. L. Garrison's influence is on the wane — he so identifies himself with every infidel fanaticism, which floats, as to have lost his hold on the good. He has recently headed a convention to inveigh against the Sabbath, the Church, & the ministry. It was affecting to see what a company he had identified himself with — the mildest of the no-marriage perfectionists — Transcendentalists & Cape Cod — all the harmonious effort against the Bible as our Standard of faith, and especially, in denouncing the ministry & I think the a.s. cause will ultimately shake itself from that which has been a source of great reproach, & embarrassment — it has really been a cause of great trouble.

J. A. Collins, has in a few weeks since left for England, under suspicious circumstances. What are his objects we know not, but we fear to practice some imposition upon British sympathy for our cause. I hope you will beware of him — he is not entitled to your confidence. Friends here feel deeply on the subject, will you, if possible, ascertain what are his objects, & give us early notice."

Thus much for these letters, punctuated & underscored as per copy. I draw off in great haste, that you have it by the Caledonian which is to sail the fourth.

I find that the opposition is increasing in consequence of these letters to an inconceivable length. I shall have my hands more than full to warn off those more than murderous thrusts. Let Colver read these extracts in the Liberator. Send over some letters to prominent abolitionists upon this subject. Let the Board of the Am. Mass. N H & Penn Societies come out at once.

I have just this moment received a letter from Thomas Sturge saying that I must appear in London forthwith. I can assure you that I will do the best I can. But being unknown, cannot have great influence.

If a real steam can be raised, I may be able to raise some money, but I am inclined to believe that it is completely a case with us. Things have now assumed such an appearance, that I cannot leave until the storm subsides or increases to such a height as to blow me away.

Let a musterering of our Board be called forthwith & some documents be prepared not only for the American but also the Mass and other Societies, which will set forth in a clear, full & explicit manner the real cause of this division. Let be made to appear that this is but the taking of the old pro slay. arg[ument] of '33 '34 & '35. Don't fail to have it done immediately.

Gas & myself start for London this 4 P.M. We have had but one hour sleep & now we shall be under the necessity of riding all night.

In the greatest haste, I am your sincere friend. Love to all my friends

J.A. Collins

P.S. The poor man's heart (I mean Charles') is almost broken. He had hardly been able to endure the opposition, & now he is but poorly prepared for the crisis.

I think it would be well to write E. Pease, Thompson; & Thos. Sturge by all means. Sir T. F. Buxton & the B. & F.A.S. Society. Write to Danl. O'Connell & to Dr. John Bowring. If Dr. Channing was only true a letter from him would be of infinite service as he is venerated in this country universally. But I presume he is as much frightened as the rest at the Sabbath & other questions.