

Frederick Douglass to Maria Webb

Halifax, West Yorkshire, England, 30 November 1859.

Autograph letter signed, 4 pages.

Salem Parsonage. Halifax. Yorkshire.

November 30th 1859.

My dear Friend: I am not unmindful of your kind note received just before leaving America, in which you kindly welcome me to your dear home when it may be my good fortune to come to Dublin, as I certainly [*sic*] hope it will be. You have of course heard of the circumstances under which I was left no alternative but to leave the states or be implicated with John Brown, and perhaps, share his fate. I find here, as in America, some mis apprehension as to my relation to that brave and I believe good man. My letter, published in reply to the sayings of Mr. Cook, published in the American papers did much to set me right before the American people and I have no doubt will do much in the same direction here. [2] You will have probably met with this letter, and will, I am sure, [*struck: that*] be glad that I am able to deny any part of the charges brought against me in connection with the Harpers Ferry Affair. I went to Canada [*struck: not*] after the troubles at Harpers Ferry, because I had reason to know that measures were in progress to carry me into Virginia. And even if the Courts of that slave state should acquit me, as they would not have been very likely to do – I could never hope to get out of that state alive. If they did not kill me for being concerned with Dear Old Brown [3] they would have done [*strikeout*] so – for my being Frederick Douglass.

My friends here are doing their utmost to coneract [*sic*] the influence of the false statements of Cook which have found their way into some of the English papers – and to bring me well before the people of Yorkshire. What constant trouble do I give my friends? I hope to justify their kind solicitude in the end. My good friends Mrs. [Crofts] and the Doctor have made me welcome to a home with them while I stay in the country. Julia is the same zealous, active and untiring worker that she ever was – and you may well suppose [4] that our meeting was a joyous one.

I am to lecture here next Wednesday night – under the auspices of the Halifax Ladies Antislavery Soc: James Stansfield M.P. is to take the Chair. Hoping to see you ere many months. I am, with love to your Dear Husband and household your ever grateful friend

Frederick Douglass –

Maria Webb