

Columba Bay  
St. Walls -  
June 24/1945

My dear Friends -

How I have been kept from  
writing you for so long I cannot  
imply understand! It was a rush  
of plans & conflicting plans - organizing  
our own ~~own~~ meetings as we went  
along - speaking almost every night  
sometimes 2 & 3 times the same day,  
calling on individuals, conferring  
collectively - fighting our way - now &  
then a full day or so - Once a  
whole Sunday of <sup>(at a camp house)</sup> peace - ~~peace~~ <sup>priced</sup> ~~priced~~ <sup>hatted</sup>  
gated - but we are all alive & it  
is the work - though like new  
born things, it is hardly on its  
legs yet, hardly in condition to  
do - only to exist. ~~with the world~~  
The judges letter reacted on  
at a critical hour - & just gave

wider (that was like water to a thirsty <sup>thirsty</sup> soul) do not understand  
me the horizon. The future that how State laws interfere between  
see, till then, had not been able the Declaration of Independence, &  
to begin to awake to. The hope <sup>the</sup> the enjoyment of the rights, freedom  
~~which~~ well dwell in my mind assured to all Americans. But  
as ~~a~~ certainly, (barring those before you, dear friends, can  
accidents & interpositions which understand ~~the~~ the trouble that  
in America you call <sup>a</sup> "preventing" lies in <sup>our</sup> way as to our movement  
Providence) - that the judge will and before you can <sup>adequately</sup> advise one who  
came to England this fall. & <sup>solely</sup> needs the best of advice. I must  
with his powerful utterances tell you how hardly had we started  
(& by his ~~own~~ perhaps) confirm an anti Campaign, than I was so  
the facts we <sup>usually</sup> have told of. terribly unfortunate as to make a  
far to those who have heard bitter evening of the woman who had  
nothing, since the days of taken the first with us - Mrs. May.  
"Uncle Louis Cabot", who think It was at her house in the circle  
emancipation set everything on that we <sup>had</sup> formulated our  
a right footing, 30 years ago, - it scheme <sup>to</sup> go forth with  
is difficult to believe the stories it to the public. Miss ~~Wells~~ <sup>Wells</sup> & Miss <sup>Wells</sup>  
we have to tell of persecution, <sup>(under original)</sup> Wells & I went right up there from time  
defamation - lynching ~~shows~~ <sup>as well</sup> (Mrs M. could not come to <sup>visit</sup>  
They ~~are~~ (the common people) us in London, as we had hoped.)  
I mean

do not understand how State laws interfere between the Declaration of Independence, & the enjoyment of the rights, freedom assured to all Americans. But before you, dear friends, can understand ~~the~~ the trouble that lies in <sup>our</sup> way as to our movement and before you can <sup>adequately</sup> advise one who <sup>solely</sup> needs the best of advice. I must tell you how hardly had we started an anti Campaign, than I was so terribly unfortunate as to make a bitter evening of the woman who had taken the first with us - Mrs. May. It was at her house in the circle that we <sup>had</sup> formulated our scheme <sup>to</sup> go forth with it to the public. Miss ~~Wells~~ <sup>Wells</sup> & Miss <sup>Wells</sup> Wells & I went right up there from time <sup>as well</sup> (Mrs M. could not come to <sup>visit</sup> us in London, as we had hoped.) We had the benefit in our discussions of ~~the~~ several Indians & ~~other~~ <sup>other</sup> gentlemen who ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> visited with Mrs M. which in an movement intended to be as broad as humanity in its sympathies - was a felt advantage.

Mr. Crisis is a <sup>fierce nature</sup> passionate, as I knew well  
from my acquaintance with her before  
Easter. I had noticed how many good  
part of people she hated or repudiated  
because they failed at some point  
to come up to her standard. She seemed  
to hate the many & love few, both with  
an intensity that made her very  
terrible to me. That her interests &  
accompanied by her skill & power  
as a writer - should be dedicated to  
our cause was ~~in~~ a grand thing -  
though from the first I feared her  
personally, wondering how long before  
she would find cause for hatred ~~in~~  
my own imperfect self.  
It came like a ~~thunder~~ <sup>terribly</sup> soon -  
- the cause of my offence is most painful  
to speak of - but as she demanded ~~the~~  
~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~retirement~~ <sup>retirement</sup>  
from the work, I have seemed obliged  
just because it is a matter of too personal  
a nature to explain publicly - to let  
myself be set aside - even to the very  
great & grave ~~condemnation~~ <sup>condemnation</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup>  
it seems) ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> our work. ~~She~~  
By withstanding her, she in her irritation  
can I fear do it more harm than  
I can do it good. (I will enclose a note to Mrs. J. -  
~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> explains the facts)

(2)

Miss Wells has made an impression  
on the minds of thousands (perhaps  
ten thousand <sup>more</sup> besides those who read  
the press accounts), We were everywhere  
well received - In some places the  
meetings were packed - crowded  
& overflow meetings held - We  
let her tell her story first - chiefly  
(almost entirely) things she knew  
& could bear witness to from  
personal experience &c. - She spoke  
with a cultivated manner - with  
great simplicity & directness &  
with a burning intensity of feeling  
well controlled - it was the most  
convincing kind of speaking - it sounded  
to intense genuine & real - There was  
no attempt at oratorical - no strain  
after effects - a persecuted ~~woman~~ <sup>woman</sup> ~~suffering~~  
would have cause to lay her case  
before an impartial jury -  
After she began by telling of minor  
events - then of greater wrongs, of ~~quarrels~~  
acts of violence & outrage & ~~outrage~~  
such as the ~~outrage~~ <sup>outrage</sup> Texas burning &c.  
Then usually someone would

resolution expressing the horror  
& indignation of the meeting and  
in supporting His Lord the  
opportunity of inviting people to  
write - to form a branch of  
our Society for furtherance of  
Brotherhood - <sup>try to do some</sup>  
help - <sup>in some cases hundreds</sup>  
respected - in every case a large  
number <sup>of all best</sup> people -  
Doctors clergy - lawyers - & as  
well as the masses. Those who  
attended were the thoughtful  
classes - religious sober people -  
They feel it is impossible all this  
should go on & the world sit  
still & not protest. We don't  
know who will lead our pro-  
tests - we feel like witnesses to a  
murder - we cry aloud for help  
cry murder, murder! <sup>to me</sup>  
~~can~~ As soon as we see what  
next to do we feel ready to do  
it - Many say what influence

have we - we don't know how  
much till we try but we feel  
sure America as well as other  
nations is sensitive to outside Criti-  
cism - & though no one likes being  
adversely criticised yet conduct  
is affected thereby - And then  
the sufferers - surely as Mr Mayo  
said at our meeting - if one is  
being <sup>grossly</sup> wronged & stands alone &  
forlorn - ~~it is not~~ is it not some  
consolation for a friend to  
~~come~~ speak up & say "I see you  
are being wronged" - I would help  
if I could - or I am trying to help!  
A provisional council has been  
nominated - <sup>in each branch</sup> there are good  
earnest workers (a good local  
committee <sup>also</sup> in Birmingham)  
and there are provisional officers  
who seem zealous & earnest

