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Letter, St. John, to George A. Gordon, 1870 January 29||Letter, St. John, to George A. Gordon, 1870 January 29

H.L.

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St John 29 Jan'y 70

Geo A Gordon Esq

Sir: I have yours of

26th inst. Argument between
you and I can avail nothing,
but as business is dull to day
I will say what I think in
answer. I think that the
country owes its greatness and
even its existence to New
England and its ideas. Had
the ideas of such men as
"you most honor and admire"
been accepted, we should to
day be "without a country"
and vagabonds upon the face
of the earth. I remember the
time when the office where you
are could have turned out a
battalion to hang Wendell Phil-
lips, Chas Sumner - or "any other
man" who foresaw the events
that mark the last 10 years -

but time serves all - what they
foresee we have seen - and
what I most wonder at is that
all of us didn't see it years
and years ago. There were did
not stir up strife - They saw
the "irrepressible conflict" that was
going on between right and wrong -
They advised the country to prepare
for the decisive engagement that
must result - while the men
that you most honor and admire
said "let us sleep a little longer
we will submit to the tyranny of the minority
to we will bequeath the evil day
to our children." Had the country
been more thoroughly inoculated
with New England ideas, and paid
less attention to the teachings of
"Fessenden, Pierce, Webster, Griswold
and Seymour" - black rape would
be less in demand and the income
tax would be a thing not heard of.

It is enough for me that
New England ideas are the ideas
that the world condemns. Why
does the world condemn New England?
Because it has built up the
most powerful nation on earth -
(no bureaucrat) and it puts your
honored friends on the shoulder
because they have labored faith-
fully to prevent or check its
growth. Do you believe it is
because of Lee's purity of
character, statesmanship or
military ability that he is re-
spected and honored here and
elsewhere abroad - or that the pe-
culiarly moral and chivalrous
characteristics of the South
entitle that section to the fulsome
compliments that have been bestowed
upon it since the war? I know
that a man's ability is measured

by his success - and that if he
had been a man of the ability
which is claimed for him he
could have undertaken nothing
that he could not perform -
and I know that Gods light
never shone upon such damnable
wickedness and degradation in any
country profaning to be enlightened
as it has shone upon in the
Southern States. It will always
be a matter of pride with me
that I was born in New Eng:
land - of the same blood as
Channing, Garrison, ^{Butler} Phillips, Sumner,
Emerson & Whittier - and I firmly
believe - that after you and I
are gone - perhaps after the
Republic ceases to exist, these
names will be among the few
that the country has produced,
securing and deserving eternal
reverence. But this is not

to the point. Dilke says
we degenerate to "civilized
Indians" and our beloved
pastor, the Rev Jas Bennett
says "New England blood is
running out."

The characteristics of
a civilized Indian are

Ignorance

Indolence

Intemperance.

These are his only characterizing
traits — consequently Dilke
is a liar —

New England furnishes
the brain and the civil-
ization of the whole
Country ^{and in a measure of the whole world,} consequently the
Rev James Bennett is a
fool. Let he have statistics
to prove these assertions & oblige
Yours truly H. L. Spurr