

**LETTER FROM THE INHABITANTS OF
BRIDGEWATER, SOMERSETSHIRE, ENGLAND
TO THE INHABITANTS OF BRIDGEWATER,
MASSACHUSETTS, NEW ENGLAND,
AMERICA: DATED SEPT. 10, 1846: WITH THE
REPLY OF THE LATTER, DATED FEB. 10, 1847**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649016938

Letter from the inhabitants of Bridgewater, Somersetshire, England to the inhabitants of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, New England, America: dated Sept. 10, 1846: with the reply of the latter, dated Feb. 10, 1847 by Various

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VARIOUS

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TO THE INHABITANTS OF BRIDGEWATER,
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AMERICA: DATED SEPT. 10, 1846: WITH THE
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LETTER

FROM THE

INHABITANTS OF BRIDGEWATER,

SOMERSETSHIRE, ENGLAND,

TO THE

INHABITANTS OF BRIDGEWATER,

MASSACHUSETTS, NEW-ENGLAND, AMERICA,

DATED SEPT. 10, 1846;

WITH THE

REPLY OF THE LATTER,

DATED FEB. 10, 1847.

^c BOSTON:
PRINTED BY ANDREWS & PRENTISS,
11 Devonshire Street.
1847.

AN ADDRESS

*To the inhabitants of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, New
England, America, from the residents in Bridgewater,
Somersetshire, England.*

SEPTEMBER, 1846.

DEAR BRETHREN :—

WE rejoice that the disputes, which seemed to threaten collision between our respective nations, are amicably settled; and that the ocean which divides us is not traversed by hostile and destructive fleets, but bears upon it those gifts of nature and products of toil, by which life is prolonged and sweetened. We hope that extended intercourse will unite us more closely, as descendants from the same ancestors, speaking the same language, professing the same principles of liberty, and the same religion of love. We desire an interchange, not of commodities only, but of thoughts and affections, and, to show the sincerity of this wish, we are now induced to address you.

We deem it not improbable that, when your eyes rest on this paper, you will see familiar names; and that it was not without affection to many whom they left behind them here, that the founders of your town

called it Bridgewater. We are happy that this name is not disgraced by being affixed to a residence of slaveholders, and that those who went from us made their abode in a land of justice and liberty.

You probably share our horror at a system by which millions of those whom God has made of one blood with ourselves are treated as mere chattels — the victims of lust and cruelty — kept in brutal ignorance in the midst of light and knowledge, heathens in a Christian land — slaves whose masters receive as “self-evident truths that all men are created equal — that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights — that, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” But to our grief we learn that your republic supports an institution to the iniquity and infamy of which it would be an insult to your hearts and understandings to suppose you insensible — that whilst your State secretly offers a refuge to the fugitive, he does not become free by entering it, — that though you refuse your aid to the oppressor, you do not prevent him from snatching from your borders the man whom God gave him for a brother, not a slave — that, in too many cases, so far from denouncing his injustice, and awakening him to his guilt, you encourage him in his delusion that persons of color belong to an inferior race, which may be trodden in the dust, by withholding from those who reside among you the sympathy which the wrongs that have been inflicted on them would seem to demand, the equality which your free institutions would lead them to expect, and the social position to which their individual merits might entitle them.

As from this town, sixty-one years ago, the first petition was sent up to our legislature against the slave-trade, it seems not inappropriate that we should set the example of assuring your countrymen, through you, that we warmly sympathise with those who assert the rights of your colored population. As we know the deadening influence of habit, we think it possible that some among you may acquiesce in an evil which they know not how to cure. Let this voice from the Old World rouse you from your despondency, and be taken as a presage of the same good fortune which has attended the protracted labors of the friends of freedom in this land. From our common ancestors you received the institution of slavery, and also that spirit of liberty, which, among us, has led to its extinction; and so far from resting satisfied with our past triumphs, every year the desire in this country is growing stronger, to testify our abhorrence of slavery, wherever it exists, and our reprehension of all who countenance so grievous a crime.

You will see the signatures of men and women, parents and children, of persons of all grades of society, opposed to one another in politics, and differing in their religious creeds, but all united in an ardent desire that you should be among the honored instruments of delivering our brethren who are oppressed from the degradation of bondage, and our brethren who oppress them from the curse which this iniquity entails --- of averting the horrors which may attend the longer infringement of those rights, which, as sure as there is a Providence, must at length be yielded --- and of welcoming the colored race to the blessings of

education, the rights of liberty, and the equal privileges of citizenship.

We trust that we shall receive from you the same sympathy in our efforts to raise the fallen, and to remedy the evils of the past, which is now tendered to you by

YOUR FRIENDS AND BRETHREN.

Signed by

William Browne,	Emily Shattock,	Emma Nowell,
Fanny Blake,	Amelia Short,	A. Minipi,
Mary Browne, Jr.	Elizabeth Bruford,	Abraham Doble,
Richard Allen,	Isabella Short,	Maria Ashton,
Mary Browne,	Richard Collier,	Felicia Harding,
Lucy Browne,	James Taylor,	Mary Ann Buford,
Mary Ann Kinsman,	William Saunders,	James Richards,
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Sarah Mullins,	Walter Short,	J. M. Good,
Eliza Merson,	John Croker,	John Jenkins,
Charlotte Rice,	Thomas Locker,	Thomas Hurley,
John Board,	John Locker,	Caroline Smith,
James Wood Sally,	Silas Tyack,	Elizabeth Oliver,
Henry Trend,	John Stark,	Mary Jane Oliver,
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Richard Stowe,	Rebecca Farnham,	Jane E. Metford,
Eliza Sully,	Amelia Furney,	Mary Bruford,
Elizabeth Sully,	Elizabeth Ashton,	James Jenkins,
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Mary Sully,	John Jarman,	Mary Preece,
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Nath'l Date Croker,	John Cadille,	Sarah Cox,
James Fisher,	N. Stevens,	Louisa Pole,
John Whitby,	Mary Stacey,	Mary Burnell,
William Tapscott,	Levina Smith,	Sarah Moore,
J. S. Fisher,	James Peirce,	Joseph Turner,
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Joseph Wood,	Caroline Stitch,	J. D. Weston,
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Sarah Ann Tucker,	Sarah Jane Sanders,	R. J. Shaw,

Sarah Richards,	Tom Sly,	Francis Turner,
Catharine Kent,	F. G. Powell,	Charles Pinn,
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Charles E. Stillman,	Joseph Short,	John West,
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Thomas Good,	Thomas Powell,	Thomas Balc,
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Emma Baynon,	Thomas Hill,	William Stacey,
John Turney,	John Long,	Thomas Nation,
Charles Sears,	Samuel Crocker,	Thomas Gabb,
Cæsar H. Haste,	James Dull,	Elizabeth Board,
Samuel Wood,	Thomas Gardner,	Phillip Headford,
Richard Griffith,	J. Ayre,	John Nicholls,
John Stevens,	William Nicholls,	Henry Pearce,
Robert Tapscott,	Samuel W. Drownel,	John Headford,
John Goodall,	Joseph Manchip,	James Lang,
John Gaze,	John Hase,	James Long,
Reuben Jenkins,	William Badger,	Charles Phillips,
Robert H. Chidgey,	Frederick C. Foster,	William Mantle,
Robert Denner,	John Mantle,	William Fisher,
Edward Page,	James Brown,	William Headford,
William Jenkins,	Fanny L. Badger,	Henry Headford,
Maria Denner,	Charles Dyer,	Susan Headford,
William Gaze,	Thomas Mantle,	Robert Manchip,
Eliza Fender,	Henry Fursland,	Robert Manchip, 2d
Samuel Harrall,	Francis Badger,	William Turner,
Sarah Gaze,	William Owens,	John Pepperel,
Tom Gaze,	John Duckman,	William M. Martin,
Jemima Fisher,	Henry Duckman,	John Allen,
Charles Jordan,	Stephen Channon,	Sarah Channon,
Mary Gaze,	Frederick Pinn,	George Pearce,
Joseph Banfield,	Charles Badger,	Edwin Pearce,
William Townsend,	Mary Bond,	Henry Pearce,

Ann How,
 Luke Brown,
 Jonathan Jordan,
 Henry Ford,
 John Headford,
 Joseph Manchip,
 William Mantle,
 Henry Fursland,
 John Million,
 John Million, Jr.
 William Board,
 John Champion,
 George Stagg,
 Maria Board,
 William Stevens,
 Sarah Dyke,
 William Stagg,
 William Mouncher,
 George Fields,
 Charles Champion,
 Louisa Champion,
 John King,
 John Hunt,
 Ellen Champion,
 Caroline Champion,
 George Pole,
 Robert Headford,
 Thomas Mantle,
 Wm. Crowcombe,
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 William Hawkins,
 John Hawkins,
 John Crocker,
 Richard Gabb,
 Thomas Ford,
 Robert Headford,
 James Browne,
 Ann Giles,
 Jane Crocker,
 Jane Board,
 Betsey Board,
 John Briffit,
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Frederick Bond,
 James Pepler,
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 Job Pepler,
 Lucretia Pepler,
 Emily Ann Stillman,
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 Thomas Stillman,
 William Stillman,
 John Stillman,
 Henry Stillman,
 Arthur Stillman,
 Jane Eliza Rice,
 Thomas Rogerson,
 Wesleyan Meth-
 odist Minister.
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 Jonathan Gordan,
 S. Telfe,
 George C. Harvard,
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 odist Minister.
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 James Date,
 Thomas King,
 John Bishop,
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 William Wilkins,
 James Bishop,
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 R. Foltett,
 Fanny Hennett,
 William Bryant,
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 Thomas Kingwell,
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 Emily C. Peach,
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John Wesley Webb,
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 Tobit Gear,
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 Jno. G. Edgecombe,
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 Mary Short,
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 Ellen S. Whitby,
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 Thos. R. Richards,
 Peter Bennet,
 Robert Johnson,
 James Edwards,
 Richards Barings,
 Mary Hall Jones,
 Reubens Jenkins,
 Bill Jenkins,
 Rebecca Barings,
 Frances Stoneham,
 Billy Boos,
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 Charles Richsons,
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 Theoph. Curnick, Jr.