

Letter from Sarah Bagley to Angelique Martin (Jan. 1, 1846):

Lowell Jan. 1st 1846

Mrs. Martin,

Dear Madam, We received your kind communication with much pleasure and as I am President and have also acted as Corresponding Secy - it has devolved upon me to make a reply and I regret my inability to do justice to myself, or your communication. It is hardly possible for you to imagine the encouragement and hope with which your kind letter has inspired us, it is like an oasis in the desert of a weary journey. It is but one year since we commenced our association when five of our number met in "Anti-Slavery Hall" and made a beginning, and pledge our mutual assistance to each other, and though our beginning was very small - by perseverance and united effort, we now number six hundred. It may not be uninteresting to you; to learn the secret of our success. We labored long and hard to procure a press through which to spread our proposed remedies, for the ills, which society have forced upon us. Thanks Heaven! We have at length succeeded, and the laborers of New England have taken hold of the subject and our paper promises to meet the expense of publication. But the "Factory Tracts" it is for those to decide whether they shall be published, who are not willing to see our sex, made into living machines to do the bidding of incorporated aristocrats and reduced to a sum for their services hardly sufficient to keep soul and body together. I commenced them without any assistance from any one and "they" have not yet met half the expense of printing. I shall publish No. 3 and then if I do not receive aid sufficient to warrant the continuation of them I shall be obliged to discontinue them for the present at least. I have not taken any subscriptions for them but sell them in copies. I would not abandon an enterprise like the publication of a series of tracts, under other circumstances, but I have an aged father and mother to support, and with the mean and paltry sum allowed to females, who work for the rich, you may be assured that I am obliged to make the most of my time and means I possibly can. I have sent you a copy of the paper published by us, and also tract No. 2 which I trust you have received 'ere this, and as you have kindly offered to lend your assistance in behalf of womans rights, by giving circulation to our paper, or selling tracts for us or in any way spreading abroad the truths which these contain you will do something to aid suffering humanity. If you think you can sell a few copies I will forward them, if you will signify it. I shall see Mr. Brisbane in two weeks and will attend to your request and think it would be likely to meet the approbation of our Association, if it savors of the spirit of your letter. I have a personal acquaintance with Mr. Brisbane, and regard him as a real laborer in the cause of human improvement. I am very sorry to see the undue kindness of No[r]thern abolitionists towards our brethen of the south -not that I am pro-slavery No! God forbid, but because they have boxed up their sympathy and hold themselves ready to send it across the Atlantic or Louisiana at any time when it shall be called for. Alas!! How it is at home? How are they developed here? Why by compelling the females of New England to

From the Martin Family Papers and Campus Martius Museum Records, [Lilly Martin Spencer Papers](#),
Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

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labor thirteen hours per day in rooms heated by hot air furnaces and sleep on the average from six to ten in a room. These very men are now carrying into the rooms of these operatives protests against the annexation of Texas, and insulting them by asking them for their names Am I in error when I say that these men are mere partisans and not lovers of human rights.

[Address written across this section]

Mrs. A. L. P. Martin

Duppurford (near Marietta)

Washington County, Ohio

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