

Boston Aug. 1854

Sir,

We take the liberty of sending to you a copy of a speech, delivered before a Whig convention, in this city, on the 16th inst, by Hon. Josiah Quincy, Senior. The mental fire, the courage, and the love of liberty, exhibited by a gentleman eighty three years old, have suggested the idea, that there might be, in New England, many other gentlemen, of nearly the same age, who, if opportunity were offered them, would be glad, before leaving this stage of life, to place on record their sentiments on the question of liberty in this country, and on the duties of their fellow citizens in relation thereto.

We, therefore, propose to invite all those octogenarians, throughout New England, whom we suppose to feel strongly on this subject, to assemble in this city, at an early day, and give their opinions to the public.

If this invitation should be accepted, we anticipate, not merely a convention of the most interesting character, but one whose proceedings will command the attention and respect of the whole country; and also that the fathers will infuse some portion of their own uncompromising spirit into the hearts of their timid and compromising sons; and that much good to the cause of freedom and humanity will result.

Owing to the uncertainty whether gentlemen so aged will feel able to attend, no day has yet been appointed for the convention; indeed the convention itself cannot be determined on, until we know whether the gentlemen invited will come. Should the convention be held, we respectfully and earnestly invite you to be present. And we shall feel quite obliged, if you will inform us, soon as may be, whether we may expect you, than we may fix as early a day as possible for the meeting.

With the highest respect,
Your obedient Servants,

S.E. Sewall
Francis Jackson
Edward Beecher
W. Teerpoul (?)