Philadelphia, Feb 19, 1858

Most Esteemed Friend,

Being called away from home by death to Philadelphia, I have not as yet sent any answer to your first communication. I do so now. I was pleased to hear from you at last, after so long silence. I thought perhaps you might have to your more immediate field of premeditated labor, having not been or heard anything from you for so long a time; but, I rejoice, that you and Mrs. — in life and health with the same vigorous hopes as formerly. Your very commendable letter, measure to deliver the share, has yet my heartiest consent and co-operation. I have seen as yet nothing, in my anxious asserted interest to you in the matter. All I need is the clear intelligentsia of that gallant hero, distinguished in former triumphs, and now in quiet style.
I can go ahead, but you speak in your letter of the people I fear there is little to be done in the masses, the masses suffer for the want of intelligence and it is difficult to reach them in a manner like you propose. So far as it is necessary to depend their cooperation they are impulsive but they need sagacity to distinguish their proper cause they are like a bark at sea without a commander or rudder ready to catch fire or ice or just as it may be, and it is so difficult to strike a blow to meet them no one knows better than you how the truth of this but however I do not despair I only note it as it may form a part of the history of your undertaking and that it may not otherwise come under

I wish you the Gods speed in your brilliant work may nothing ever to prevent us accomplishing your intentions to this end.
will be charming. Please to make my house your home. I am not at home now but will be in a few days.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

James N. Gloucester

Mr. Gloucester finished a considerable portion of the later finds used by John Powell on the way to Va.

R. J. S.
Philadelphia, Feb. 19th 1858.

Most Esteemed Friend:

Being called away from my business, to Philadelphia, I have not as yet sent any answer to your first communication. I do so now. I was pleased to hear from you at last after so long silence. I thought, perhaps, you might have passed to your more immediate field of premeditated labor, not having seen or heard anything from you for so long a time, but I rejoice that you are still in life and health, with the same rigorous hopes as formerly. Your very commendable measure to deliver the slave, has yet my heartiest consent and co-operation. I have never as yet faltered in my previous asserted interest to you in the matter. All I need is the clear, intelligent watch-word of that gallant hero, distinguished in former triumphs, and then in David Crockett style, I can go ahead. But you speak in your letter of the people. I fear there is little to be done in the masses. The masses suffer for the want of intelligence, and it is difficult to reach them in a matter like you propose, so far as is necessary to secure their co-operation. The colored people are impulsive, but they need sagacity; sagacity to distinguish their proper course. They are like a bark at sea without a
2.
commander or rudder, ready to catch port, or no port, just as it may be, and it is difficult to strike a line to meet them. No one knows better than Mr. Douglass the truth of this. But, however, I do not despair, I only note it, as it may form a part of the history of your undertakings, and that it may not otherwise damp your ardor.

I wish you, sir, God speed, in your glorious work. May nothing arise to prevent accomplishing.

Your intended visit to this city will be cheering. Please to make my house your home. I am not at home now, but will be in a few days.

Your sincere friend

James N. Gloucester.

(See “Woman’s Journal,” Boston, September 1st, 1838, for an account of the death, and a biographical sketch of Mrs. Gloucester.)