

Mrs. Mann.

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Abraham Lincoln
President of the United States
Washington,
D.C.

1864

Apr. 20

Mann, (Mrs.) Mary
Concord, Mass.

To ABRAHAM LINCOLN
[Washington, D.C.]

Concord, Mass. April 20th
1864

President Lincoln,

My dear Sir

It was wholly without my knowledge that my name was sent to you in connection with the petition of persons under eighteen in Concord praying you to free all slave children. But I cannot regret it, since it has given me this precious note from your hand. I have been connected with some of the noblest most self sacrificing & best informed women of the North, in endeavors to assist the suffering freedmen, whose claims & touching aspirations for knowledge come nearer to my heart than those of any other earthly sufferers, and I assure you that there is no promise to us for the future welfare of our country which we value as we do the words for freedom which

occasionally fall from your
lips - for we consider the well-
being inextricably interwoven
with justice to the slave. We
often wish you could breathe
the atmosphere of N. England
long enough to catch the spirit
which would bring swift relief
to every one of those long-suffering,
hoping, trusting souls. I have
always known many of the
best colored people both in my
own free state & in enslaved
Cuba, & I love their natural
warm, loving, religious, patient.
Thank you for your good words
to the people of a landy land.
They were the best celebration
we could have had for the 19th
of April, a great day in
Concord. The truth im-
mediately to scatter sea-kimel
of your sweet words to the
children like apple blossoms

all over the Country - and we
look with more hope than ever
for the day when perfect
justice shall be decreed, when
shall make every able bodied
colored man spring to the rescue
of the nation which it is plain
the white man alone cannot
save. You who can hasten
it must be the happiest of
men, for in saving the colored
man you will feel that you
are doing equal service to
the white man.

With the highest respect & affection
I speak in the name of many
Your friend
May Mann.