

13.
I. Washburn
July 27/64
Portland July 27, 1864.

Dear Bro.

Sometime ago I sent
to the Prest. an article written
by me on the Rebellion, in which,
among other things, I considered the
expediency & efficacy of a law by
Congress prohibiting the inter-State
slave trade. To change the Consti-
tution so as to abolish slavery takes
time & arrays all sorts of opposition,
yet it can be done & will be, I think,
by & by - but, in the mean time
why not prohibit this domestic

Maud is in town - I shall send letters in her care to you. Henry Brettun as you may have heard is dead.

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Washburn Norlands Living History Center

MMN # 101032
Date: July 27, 1864
Description: Israel Washburn on prohibition of inter-state slave trade, Portland

Slave trade - there are even now laws regulating & recognizing a coast-wise slave trade, to our shame. By the prohibition I have advocated, slavery in all the rebel States, is as effectually squelched as if those States should by change of their Constitutions do it, unless the Pres^t fails to carry out his Proclamation of Emancipation. & I have no fear of this. But if the aim is to change the State Constitutions, what course will tend to bring this about like the

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prohibition of the slave trade among the States? - Slaveholders seeing that their system is gone by operation of the Proclamation & of the internal ^{prohibition} slave trade, will accept the further measure of abolition under State authority -

When you see the President, I beg you to ask him if he has read my paper, & if not that you will request him to do so - for I am sure that his practical good sense will appreciate the importance of the measure -

The Pres^t is wonderfully popular in the North, & is no where stronger than in Maine. Nothing but

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Some great blunder can prevent his
re-election. While I have very
great faith in him, a faith
growing day by day, & do not see
how it can in any sense be
wise to nominate any other man
for President, I am free to say that
in some respects I think he might
tho' I don't know any other man who all in all would do as well
do better. It is ~~probably~~ I suppose
not probable that any change will
be made during the present term, but
it is quite certain that there are some
men in the Cabinet who have no business there
and the Post, he, I am confident held on
too long by Halleck, Meade, et cetera -
including the 'Iron Man' of whom you note.
I hope in due time these will slide, & that
a little more pronounced recognition of earnest
ideas will prevail, & that all the powers of heat
& frost & thunder can't shake him. Truly,
I. Washburn

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P.S.

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On coming here I found certain things
in this office indispensable, & some
highly convenient, wise & right.
An enlargement of the Custom House
or a new one must be provided for.
The business here has increased many
& many fold within a few years, &
is rapidly increasing. Portland as an
importing city ranks among the
first 1/2 dozen in the U.S. - I
have made a representation, which is
backed up so well, that Mr. Chase & the
architect will see and the new
building as it will cost but a trifle
more than the enlargement - while
the enlargement would only answer
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New Custom House would be required
by 1870 - so the new building will
be earnestly recommended - I want
you to take hold & carry the
measure thro' the House,

Mr. Fessenden will look after
it in the Senate -

Further, the Dept will recommend
that Portland shall be classed
among the enumerated ports
where she belongs - having
a foreign commerce larger than
several ports already inclu-
ded, & that an appraiser
& other officers be given
us - This will aid the

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by 1870. So the new building will
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efficiency of the service, & is
in fact indispensable to it,
& I hope it will be no objection
that it will also place me
as to compensation on a
proper footing, & where I
ought to be in justice - if
treated as others are, & as
the responsibility & labor of the
position demands.

Please talk with Mr. F.
& do what is needed -

I.W.Jr

Please talk with Mr. Rogers the architect
Mr. Chase will show you the case.

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