

Rochester Aug. 8. 51.

E Montford.

Dear Madam.

Your letter informing me, of a course of twelve lectures in Portland, designed to be secured by the Society which you represent, - and that I am invited to give the ninth of said lectures. - came safely to hand a week or more than three weeks ago, and should have had an earlier answer but for my continued absence from home.

I am quite sorry that I cannot give you a positive assurance of my presence with you at the time you appoint. I am at such a distance from Portland & am so variously and constantly engaged in the Antislavery field west that I feel it hazardous to make eastern engagements.

This however I will say. Should it be in my power to visit New England during the ~~present~~ approaching Autumn or Winter - and your Society should desire my services they shall be forthcoming.

I rejoice to find that Antislavery has again acquired a "local habitation as well as a name" in Portland and sincerely hope that the Cause may ~~may~~ ^{shall} always lead to the abandonment minor differences and secure the united cooperation of all your members to the end of the ~~Rac~~ ^{Rac} race.

Most Truly Yours, Frederick Douglass

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society
 (Local code: Coll. 14, bx. 1 fl. 4)
 Date: Aug. 8, 1850
 Description: Letter to Elizabeth Mountfort of the Portland Anti-Slavery Society from Frederick Douglass declining an invitation to speak at a lecture series.