

copy

Paris -
December 2nd, 1907.

Geo. F. Cate, Esq.,
Amesbury, Mass.

My dear Mr. Cate:-

I have received your letter of November 13th and also the formal invitation of the Committee of Citizens of Amesbury to be present at the Whittier Centennial Celebration on 17th instant.

I should have been glad were I in America to be among those who will assemble on that occasion to do honor to him who has appropriately been called the Poet Laureate of Abolition. It would have afforded me especial pleasure by reason of the intimate sympathy and friendship which existed between Mr. Whittier and my father dating from the year 1845 when New Hampshire, until then the strongest Democratic State in the North, broke away on the Slavery question from party control and placed in the Senate of the United States its first Anti-Slavery member.

I will not speak of my father's part in that glorious victory which resulted later in the formation of the Republican party, but I cannot refrain from quoting a portion of the poem which Mr. Whittier dedicated to New Hampshire in honor of that memorable event :

"God bless New Hampshire! From her granite peaks
Once more the voice of Stark and Langdon speaks.
The long-bound vassal of the exulting South
For very shame her self-forged chain has broken;
Torn the black seal of Slavery from her mouth,
And in the clear tones of her old time spoken!

Oh, all undreamed-of, all unhopèd-for changes!
The tyrant's ally proves his sternest foe;
To all his biddings, from her mountain ranges,
New Hampshire thunders an indignant No! "

It is eminently appropriate that the descendants of the small but stalwart band of Independent Democrats in the Granite State who abandoned the Pro-Slavery Democracy, not for political gain but from conscientious conviction and in spite of obloquy and reproach, should join the sons of Massachusetts on this anniversary in honoring the name of Whittier, who by his inspiring lines did so much to encourage their ancestors in the unequal conflict.

I thank you and the Committee of the Town of Amesbury for thinking of me in connection with the Centennial Celebration of this great and good man who fought the battle of Emancipation in inspired verse and vigorous prose through the days of contumely to final victory, and who left behind him the record of a long and blameless life, combining the spirit and intense feeling of the true lyric poet with the noblest aspirations toward the right and the most ardent devotion to the service of Liberty and Humanity.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Edward Tuck