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William Lloyd Garrison

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William Lloyd Garrison : The Letters of William Lloyd Garrison, Volume V: Let the Oppressed Go Free: 1861-1867 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Letters of

William Lloyd Garrison, Volume V: Let the Oppressed Go Free: 1861-1867:

By 1861 William Lloyd Garrison's public image had progressed from that of impulsive fanatic to one of widely respected and influential abolitionist. As editor of *The Liberator* and president of the American Anti-Slavery Society, he was the acknowledged spokesman for radical antislavery opinion. Garrison was profoundly disturbed by the advent of war. In his correspondence, he kept military events at a distance, focusing on the morality of the conflict, an issue made the more poignant by his eldest son's enlistment in the 55th Massachusetts Regiment in 1863--the same year that his wife suffered a paralytic stroke. Gradually he became convinced that the war would effect the abolition he had sought for so many years. Likewise his attitude toward Lincoln underwent significant changes; he moved from critic to supporter, defending the President's re-election against the arguments of fellow abolitionists. His visit with Lincoln in the White House he described as "a very satisfactory one indeed," for he was pleased with Lincoln's "spirit, and the familiar and candid way in which he unbosomed himself." With the war ended and his goal as abolitionist achieved, Garrison discontinued *The Liberator* and withdrew from the American Anti-Slavery Society. Fortunately, friends arranged for a national testimonial that provided financial security. By 1866-1867 he was enjoying an active retirement with honors at home and abroad, and a "plump and cunning" first grandchild. His letters show Garrison as a family man and curious observer as well as a reformer with a vision of a free and peaceful land.

More than anything else, Volume V underscores the broad culmination of Garrison's antislavery career. But it also reveals a number of fascinating particulars about the man...Walter Merrill has done a masterful job of editing...annotations for the letters in Volume V are frequent and comprehensive. (Civil War History)From the Back Cover Garrison was profoundly disturbed by the advent of war. In his correspondence, he kept military events at a distance, focusing on the mortality of the conflict, an issue made the more poignant by his eldest son's enlistment in the 55th Massachusetts Regiment in 1863- the same year that his wife suffered a paralytic stroke. Gradually he became convinced that the war would effect the abolition he had sought for so many years. About the Author Walter M. Merrill was Professor of English at Drexel University.