

## William Handy to Thomas W. Higginson

This letter, written in Boston by William Handy, was addressed to Reverend Thomas W. Higginson, an abolitionist minister from Worcester, Massachusetts. In this letter, Handy proposes strategies to deal with the potential arrest of James Redpath in the aftermath of Harpers Ferry. Higginson and Redpath had both supported John Brown's raid on the arsenal in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in 1859. After John Brown's execution, some of his followers had fled the country, but Higginson and Redpath had both remained in the United States. Handy feared that Redpath would be arrested, and he wants to figure out the best way to protect Redpath's rights.

Creator: Handy, William

Date: April 3, 1860

Callnumber: Thomas W. Higginson Coll. #380 Box 1 Folder 8

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 90786

Item Identifier: 90786

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/90786](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/90786)

KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

William Handy to Thomas W. Higginson

201 Handy, Wm

Boston April 3/60.

Dear Sir.

Mr Redpath has got<sup>41416</sup> home from the West. In case of arrest by U.S. authorities he will place himself under jurisdiction of our State court and thoroughly exhaust all legal tests of power between the General and State Courts and then he want go to Washington - provided that at the outset a body of friends will help him personally if the decision goes against him.

Now we propose if his case is tried in Boston, to have in the Court room during the trial 25 men well armed under a competent leader. If the judge decrees that he must go to Wash<sup>n</sup> we will encircle and defend him against the Sergeant or U.S. Marshal.

You will at once per-



William Handy to Thomas W. Higginson

ceive the great results to flow  
from the collision between State  
Courts and the United States  
or between James Redpath with  
twenty five well armed men and  
both courts united.

Boston is a grand field.  
Will you correspond on this  
subject? Will you be interested  
to the extent of finding some  
men who will pledge their  
presence? The arrest may not  
take place; but it is well to  
be prepared.

If our L of F had been under  
~~thorough~~ thorough organization, how  
easily we might have effected  
a rescue of Horner at Phil<sup>a</sup>.  
Let us be prepared for another  
if necessary.

Yours for freedom  
Wm Handy

P.S.

direct to Case of Thayer & Eldridge.