

Mount Ida, Dorchester,
March 12th. 1850.

Hon. Pliny Merrick, of Worcester,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir,

Sharing, as I do, with many others a deep interest in the painful case of Prof. Webster, whose trial is about to take place, - I venture to make a few brief & hasty suggestions for consideration, which I promised you last week. It cannot be supposed that any thing which I can say will be of much value to his learned Counsel, - and I beg that you will regard my remarks as isolated hints from a common thinker, rather than any systematic outline of the case as would be made out by one of your profession.

— If my views are so common-place as to be of no service, - I am sure that they can be the source of no detriment, - and I shall enjoy the satisfaction of having contributed my mite to the cause of justice by the exercise of the best of motives.

In the examination of all cases of this class it cannot be regarded as an unimportant element to consider the season or the time of their occurrence. Every event is more or less explained by the concurrent events. This is particularly true of the moral world. The influence of mind upon mind is such as to lead us to look for causes in thoughts, as we look for causes in things.

In view of this fundamental truth, therefore, it may be proper to analyze the event of the disappearance of Dr. Parkman, - and the accumulation of evidence against Prof. Webster, as connected with the turpitude of the times.

The present age may be denominated as one ^{of} conspiracy. Wickedness seems to have lost in some degree