

TORREY, CHARLES TURNER, 1813-1846.

Collection, 1837-1846.

10 folders (1 box).

No access restrictions.

Received at an unknown date. Source unknown.

MS 4363

Congregational Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
617-523-0470

Processed July 1997

by Lisa Plato

Request information on copyright from the archivist.

INTRODUCTION

Available on microfilm (1 reel microfilm : negative ; 35 mm.)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in Scituate, Mass. Nov. 21, 1813; his parents, Charles Turner Torrey and Hannah Tolman Turner were first cousins and grandchildren of Rev. Charles Torrey; they died of tuberculosis in CTT's infancy. CTT was raised in the home of his maternal grandfather, Charles Turner, Jr., a member of Congress. CTT attended Phillips Academy and graduated from Yale in 1833. He entered Andover Theological Seminary in 1834; at Andover Theological Seminary CTT became an abolitionist and organized a students' antislavery society. Illness caused him to withdraw from ATS and he completed his theological training at West Medbury, Mass. under the instruction of Rev. Jacob Ide; CTT married JI's daughter, Mary, on March 29, 1837.

The Mendon Association licensed CTT to preach in 1836; he was installed as pastor of Richmond Street Congregational Church (Providence, RI) and served at Harvard Street Congregational Church (Salem, Mass.), where he was pastor from 1838-1839. Anti-slavery politics overshadowed his pastoral duties and in 1838 CTT organized conservative abolitionists against William Lloyd Garrison and founded the Massachusetts Abolitionist, with CTT as editor. In 1838 conservative abolitionists founded the Massachusetts Abolition Society, with CTT as their agent. He resigned within a short period of time and in 1841 began to work in Washington, D.C. as a freelance correspondent.

While reporting the 1842 Convention of Slaveholders at Annapolis, Md. in 1842, CTT was arrested and the case received national recognition. Following the incident, CTT was appointed editor of the Tocsin of Liberty, which later became the Albany Patriot; he left this position after several months and moved to Baltimore, Md. to become a businessman and assist slaves crossing the border from Virginia and Maryland. CTT was arrested and tried in 1844; he was convicted and sentenced to six years of hard labor at the Maryland State Penitentiary. CTT died of tuberculosis one year after his imprisonment (Dictionary of American Biography, p. 595-596) and was buried in Boston, Mass.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Outgoing correspondence contains a letter to: Hon. J. White, 1841; Robert Wright, 1841; Isaac Tyson, n.d.; manuscript copy of circular letter, n.d.; manuscript copy of circular letter, 1838. Incoming correspondence contains a letter from N. Adams, 1837; A. Brown, 1842; Geroge Bourne, 1840; Pompey Cesar, 1841; Edwin W. Clarke, 1840; Sylvanus Cobb, 1842; Ichabod Coddington, 1842; S. Collins, 1844; Parsons Cooke, 1839; William B. Dodge, 1839; Myron Finch, 1842; E. Fisk, 1840; N. B. Folsom, 1842; J. R. Giddings, 1842; Myron Holley, 1840; Gardner B. Perry, 1838; George W. Johnson, 1844; Joshua Leavitt, 1840; Joshua Leavitt, 1841; Ellis Gray Loring, 1841; Amos A. Phelps, ca. 1837; Amos A. Phelps, n.d.; C. M. Richardson, 1838; A. J. Sessions, n.d.; S. E. Sewall, 1844; S. E. Sewall, 1840; William H. Seward, 1844; Gerrit Smith, 1844; Gerrit Smith, 1840; R. S. Storrs, 1839; Isaac Tyson, 1842; Samuel Webb, 1840; Nathaniel P. Willis, 1839; L. Woods, 1840. Incoming and outgoing

RG 4363

7/2/97

correspondence of the Codman family includes: John Codman, 1838; John Codman, 1845; Richard H. Codman and John Codman, 1846; John Codman, 1846; Charles W. Greene to John Codman, 1846; Jacob Ide to Codman, 1846 (3 items). Other documents include: report of committee on a new paper, ca. 1836-1839, with Edmund Quincy, W. L. Garrison and A. A. Phelps; manuscript sermons by Charles Turner Torrey, 1822-1838 (5 items); manuscript Sketch of History of Ireland, 1838; manuscript Suggestions on Education, 1838; John Codman journal from Edinburgh, n.d.; miscellaneous (2 items). All items in list include one item, unless otherwise noted.

Organized into the following series: I. Outgoing Correspondence, 1838-1841; II. Incoming Correspondence, 1837-1844; III. Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence of the John Codman family, 1838-1846; IV. Torrey Reports and Sermons, 1822-1839.