

Oct 4. 1850

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Miss A. W. Weston,
Weymouth
near Boston,

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If any, touched by contemplating the wrongs of the American Slave, should feel a desire to hold out to him a helping hand, they may be assured that opportunity is not wanting. For many years Societies for the Abolition of Slavery have existed in the Free States of the Union. Boston, in Massachusetts, can especially boast of a noble band of men and women who are devoting their lives, amid personal dangers and ceaseless opposition, to the cause of emancipation. One of the instrumentalities they employ is a Bazaar, upon a very extensive scale, held annually, for a whole week, in Boston. To this the Anti-slavery inhabitants of the United States make large contributions; but its greatest attraction is found to consist in the presents of stationery, basket-work, toys, Honiton lace and other British manufactures, elegant and fashionable articles of wearing apparel, fancy-work, drawings, autographs, &c., sent from Dublin, Cork, Edinburgh, Perth, Glasgow, Bristol, Leeds, and occasionally from other towns.

This Bazaar is frequented not only by Abolitionists, but by numbers of wealthy and educated inhabitants of Boston and other towns, who take no interest in the movement, but are ready purchasers of the goods offered for disposal. A considerable sum of money is thus realised; this does not, however, constitute the chief value of the Sale. It serves the great purpose of drawing public attention to the question of Slavery, to the evils of which the mass of American society are, unhappily, indifferent, if not favourable. The energy exhibited by a small body of their countrymen in getting up so large a Bazaar, induces some to examine into the object which has called it forth; while it is especially found that the beauty and costliness of the articles transmitted from this side the Atlantic cause others to reflect upon the character of an institution which is regarded by so many residents in England, Scotland, and Ireland, as alike disgraceful to a Republican Government and a Christian Community. As the opinion of the English nation exerts much influence upon the people of the United States, it is important for these sentiments to be thus significantly expressed; while, to the Abolitionists themselves, the sympathy in their holy aims and unwearied labours evinced by the contributions of British friends, affords a support and comfort which they need as much as they deserve. 190,000

Much misapprehension exists in this country as to the views and operations of the Abolition Societies of the United States. They advocate no particular scheme of emancipation. Light indeed would be their task were no obstacles in the way but those connected with a change from slave to free labour. Their more difficult mission is to induce their countrymen to *desire* the removal of Slavery. It is not the *way*, but the *will*, that is wanting. They are striving to awaken the national conscience to the fact that "*Slavery is a sin*"—to urge upon the churches of America the duty of withdrawing the sanction and support which they now afford to this enormity; to persuade both ministers and people, that to sell human beings for the support of theological seminaries or ecclesiastical establishments, cannot be a sacrifice acceptable to God; that to purchase Bibles for the heathen of distant lands, and refuse them, under the heaviest penalties, to three millions of their own countrymen, is hypocrisy; that, with the Declaration of Independence, Freedom, and Equality on their lips, to rob one-sixth

of the population of liberty and the wages of their daily labour, is rendering their country a by-word among the civilised nations of the earth.

To enlighten and arouse the people of America on these momentous topics can only be accomplished by the machinery of Anti-slavery publications, lectures, and public meetings, for which purpose pecuniary aid is much needed. The proceeds of the Boston Bazaar are principally devoted to sustaining the "*New York Anti-slavery Standard*;" a weekly newspaper, conducted with much ability, which furnishes complete details of the Abolition movement, and is the organ of the "*American Anti-slavery Society*."

Whoever, then, is desirous to promote the efforts of the Abolitionists may efficiently do so by forwarding to any of the friends mentioned below (some of whom have long been annually engaged in this benevolent service) articles of the description previously referred to. The price should be affixed to each contribution, and (if not objected to) the name and residence of the donor.

Donations in money will be laid out in such articles of British or French manufacture as are known to be most saleable at Boston.

After each annual sale a "*Gazette*" is published and widely circulated among contributors, giving details of the Bazaar, describing the articles sold, particularising those that were most attractive, and specially acknowledging all money donations.

The following Ladies will undertake to forward to Boston any contributions received by them, not later in the year than the 25th of September:—

