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1 Copy of
extracts from Notes, June 28th - 1845
letters of Mrs. Wm. Chapman
& R.D. Webb

I wish you might feel a call to do one thing, i.e. to warn Douglas by the example of Remond, of the ill effect it has on a man's respectability to be aiming at any thing for himself in the prosecution of a philanthropic enterprise. I don't doubt he knows how great a crime it is to do so. I would like to know how great a blunder it is, without incurring the odium of telling him so myself. He has borne the discharge of the artillery of the enemy upon the score of being made the tool of a clique as well as one in a thousand. And I do not wish to advise him too much. It will be better that he should sit his legs firm as he rides. I hope Douglas will be wise enough to be helped, for he has the wisdom of a serpent. I like him. He has some right hints. Pray strengthen him with the example of Garrison, Phillips, and Quincy, who have been a thousand times offered all the Kingdoms of Popularity and solid pudding to boot - if they would but compromise, cease to clean the "Am. A. S. Society," & to suffer persecution with the people of God." They have the head to see that the Devil can't make his promises good, and the heart to say "Avenge Satan" if he could. So I hope it will be with

Douglas. But this is his first trial. The cause has been nothing but gain to him in a worldly point of view. I hope he will be strong enough to endure it when the endurance shall seem to threaten him with loss. He has uncommon abilities for a practical and useful sort. I earnestly hope he may not yield to temptation. When one word of concession or compromise, or even a look marking a bias of distinction drawn in favour of oneself between oneself and the American Society, will seem to promise so much of personal help and success, how hard not to say it. You know, I don't not how little I care for the Am. Society as an institution; how ready I wd be as I have been to send it in pieces if it compromised the truth. It is because it is faithful - perfectly so - tolerant, perfectly so - and diligent to its utmost means, that I would have it sustained.

[Here follows a ~~proposition~~ suggestion, that in the court of Douglas respecting his book in Dublin he should be asked to allow an advertisement of the Bazaar to be appended to it.]

2) ~~Oct 27. 1845~~ - I agree with you about Douglas & Buffum both. The latter I know and the former is not transparent. The cause has been such a means of advancement to him, that we have had no means of trial of him yet. ~~The cause has been such a means of advancement to him, that we have had no trial of him yet.~~ I hope and trust, being tried, he will not be found wanting. A clear intellect which he certainly has, helps me wonderfully to resist the devil by showing me his incapacity to be as good as he promises even if he would.

Jan. 23rd - 1846.

MS. A. 1. 2. v. 15 p. 41

If Douglas can but keep from the temptation to get into his own head (as we call being drunk with vanity) because of the general attention that his powers, cause and circumstances excite when united, and avoid the natural enough idea that all the fame accruing to him from the two last should be credited to the first (thus denigrating himself as a man, though the man he really is) he will not only do the cause great good, but receive & deserve a high place in the list of public benefactors. I see and know all his faults - but if his good sense prevails all will be well. He cannot but to get a knowledge of the world which might be of the greatest service to him if he could but win safely over this crisis in his life. I hope and trust he will. He is all that a strong mind in a strong body can make him, without genius; and cunning, so great as his almost amounts to genius. I do not here use the word cunning in a bad sense.

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Boston, Feb. 24 - 1846

I enclose a note to Douglas. Buffum tells me he is very sensitive and displeas'd at an intimation at an intimation in a letter of mine to you, that he would be tempted by offers from the London Committee to desert the Am. Society, & something to the effect. It was not in my head at the time - that I recollect - to think that he would yield - and the very savour of men was tempted - so that I don't feel as if I had done friend Douglas any wrong. If I thought he would yield, I would not have given him a letter of introduction to any friend in England. "I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy," was it Paul who said so?

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Boston, May 14 - 1846

I wish you would take me the circumstances which made it in your judgment requisite to read to Douglas my letter which though not intended for him I yet told him the substance of - warning him of the Committee and alluding to the temptations they would offer) before he left. He does not even remember a word of that, so little suspicious did it make an opinion and why I did not speak to him openly instead of "letting an agent to watch him for evil, &c." - so much suspicious did it make without I am sorry you mentioned it to him on account of its having produced the suspicion in his mind that there was unfrankness in my mind & course towards him, which I am equally confident in both cases is the farthest thing from the fact. As Douglas did not know the full of the entire confidence placed by me in you I looked to his (in one sense) unexperienced eye as if he were exposed by me to the suspicions of a stranger; whereas my work was by stating just what seemed to be the danger of the case - that his great abilities, circumstances, & experience together with his characteristic peculiarities, might put him in the way of temptation from the London Committee to afford you the knowledge on which to act for his help & health and act for his hindrance.