

And also from lack of interest in anything so far removed from their
scene of action, we wish ^{disputes} they could be kept out of view of the great ends
which all have in view made more prominent than the contro-
versies concerning the means of effecting them. I have read "Kings
& wrong in Boston" over & over again till I quite understood the bearing
of your different societies & the trials you underwent in the separation
of those who had been fellow-labourers, when the conflict became too strong
& the sacrifice too great for their courage; & we see that the same thing
is taking place now as then, & the same discouragements of sailing
you in the midst of many more cheering signs of progress. But while
our ~~individual~~ sympathy is with you, & our individual opinion
respecting the duties of your clergy & their people, very similar to
your own, we are very anxious not to disgust the generality of
friends here who give the subject but a cursory view, or who
have received their partial information from other sources
by presenting to them those divisions & disputes amongst you
to which would stand a chance of prejudicing them against
the whole enterprise. I hope my Father's little pamphlet will be so
expressed as to convince you that he does not compromise your
principles, tho' he speaks gently, & with the modesty becoming
one so far removed from the theatre of action, of all the actors & their
modes of operation. Had I more time & space I would allude to some
of the particular sources of trial you have encountered & obstacles
you have surmounted, to show you how lively an interest ^{we feel} & how
much acquaintance we have with the chequered but glorious career
you are pursuing. But this will suffice; & believe me I never questioned
your sense of the sacredness of your work, or felt other than deep reverence
& love for ~~them~~ ^{all} engaged in it, while lamenting the opprobrious epithets
wrested used by some of your number to those who differ from them.
I need not add, I trust that I have been writing thus unreservedly to
you personally; & that my hasty lines may meet no other eyes, ^{at least}
those of your immediate friends. It would be very interesting to me ^{at}
to see the happy union of great disparities for the promotion of this cause. It
is a thing I sigh after here, & often long to be where I could enjoy such a privilege,
but I am checked by remembering that freedom can be but nominal &
imperfect in a nation where slavery exists; & that we have no corresponding
means for concerted action. But in some of the philanthropic movements of the

day we can discern with the dawnings of a more comprehensive & latter
epoch, which we hail with grateful joy. Your argument respecting the nature
& imperfections of your opponents is one which I cordially accept to, & give weight
in your defence. The Abolitionists are the party ^{to whom} we should seek
for the most elevated standard of virtue, & conscientious adherence to it
in your country; & by degrees the work will polish the rough edges which
they apply to it. I omitted to tell you in my former letter, that an old lady
(an Aunt of Mr. Reynolds to whom you refer) had just completed & sent
a very pretty soap cover for the box, but she died before it was sent, & her friend
not liking to part with her last work, recalled it, sending a contribution of
the freight equivalent to its value. Thank you for promising to write again, but

Feb 1846
The Estlin's.
Mary Estlin
D. B. Estlin
Mrs. Chapman
Summer Street
Boston U.S.

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I do not like to impose upon time so fully occupied as yours & this miscellaneous
letter does not at all call for a reply. Any information however, that you think
it desirable to give me, shall be turned to the best account in my power. As a matter
of curiosity we should be pleased to know what my Aunt's basket of bottled flowers
sold for, & she will then judge whether it is wise to attempt something of the sort
again. She begs to add her kindest remembrances to ours, for the threes all our interests
& sentiments in this subject. We are now preparing a juvenile scrap book, we
wish we could learn some less expensive mode of transmitting the things to you, or
least if they increase in bulk in proportion to the previous times. Poor little Eliza Bates
is delighted at her name appearing in the notice. We did not think she would be living
to hear of the Fair, but she is still lying in the same position that she has for nearly
two years suffering dreadfully from abscesses & wounds upon the bones project with lying
down, but she still has the will to exchange places with the little slave who might be taken

Ms. A. 9. 2. 22. 16