

Dedham Feb. 9. 1871.

I return you a thousand Thanks, my Dear Friend, for the Copy & most welcome Letter wh. I found awaiting my return from a visit to Cambridge & Boston last evening. The intelligence of the prosperity & improving health of the dear travellers was indeed most welcome, & it was made doubly so by the kindness wh. induced you to take so much pains in my behalf. By the way, your Letter wh. is dated the 1st, did not arrive till Saturday night, & was not rec^d. by me until Monday aftⁿ, wh. must be my excuse for not acknowledging its arrival sooner. I wrote a Letter to Maria last week & left it at W. Chapman's - & if I have time peradventure I will pen another. The trouble about writing to them is that they have such pestilent good correspondents of their own households that I know there is no earthly thing left for me to say in the way of fact - so that I have to spin my cobweb of a lucubration out of my own brain - so that my epistles can have no value except such as they derive from their being proofs of friendship & affectionate remembrance. I trust you will let me see Maria's Letter [a such parts of it as are not inclosed in brackets, not to be shown to Uncle Lelby] when I next see you; & that you will keep me informed of the advice you receive from them; for you may be sure, that ~~not~~ we, out of your immediate family circle, feel a deeper interest in their welfare.

I did write to Collins by the Acadia a long Letter, containing all the facts & particulars I could remember, including an account of the Annual Meeting in all its details - so you may rest easy on that point. Your description of the office on the morning of the Acadia's sailing was truly Hogarthian. I would advise you to select yourself a committee of superintendence of the transmission of documents to Eng^l. I well remember to have seen boxes suitably packed for Mrs. Pease lying on the deck of the office on the day of the sailing of the Carl ^{Steamer} - & alas the philosophic equanimity with wh. my inquiries as to its destiny were answered - but I did not know before that it never went.

I think the woman question had better be practically carried out at the office - for the A. J. women are certainly more executive than most of the brethren. Now I think a couple of the sisters, under the direction of Chase, would do capital-ly well. I never thought of it till this moment - but it is born in upon my mind, as we Quakers say, that it would be a capital plan - what say you?

Talking of Quakers, I went to Lynn last week & delivered my Quaker Lecture before a very good audience. The Quakers were well pleased with it, as I understood. I fear their good opinion of me will last no longer than the appearance of the next N. Resistant in it. I am down on the present generation. I staid at W. Pappett's where Abby Kelly & sundry other friends spent the afternoon & with me among them Elix. Whittier (Dorus sister) a fine little Quakeress, with tremendous black eyes, who was apparently a little on course for the time whenever we walked into her by accident. Abby is one of the most charming women of my acquaintance. Her experience of the last year or so, in bringing her in contact with men generally, has been of great service to her both in mind & manners. It is not the pleasantest way of seeing the world but I am not sure that it is not the best for the character. She intends going back and bothering the Connecticut forums again. What a development of what New York is was contained in Tyler's article copied into the last Report of the Episcopate? The clown fool seems to be pretending as if to force itself upon the notice of the Pseudomonium for what it was intended.

On returning from Lynn on Thursday morning Garrison & I went, at Doctor Pappett's request, to a phrenologist's room (one Coombs) to have our heads examined. While the operation was going on, the excellent Doctor was very oracular & significant, giving the phrenologists to understand that they were as common folks who were under his manipulation. After the examination was over he wished to know who the two illu-
-trips were who had favored him with their crania

whereupon ~~the~~ ^{the} worthy Meronipian informed him that they were
the two most remarkable men in the country (upon w^h the
excited phrenologist picked up his ears, probably expecting to hear
the names of Dr. Webster & W. E. Channing) - none other indeed
than W^m Lloyd Garrison & Edw^d Quincy!! I must give Mr. Combs
credit for a large degree of keep-his-countenance-attitude - for he
received the announcement with the most surprising equanimity,
considering that he had never heard, certainly, of one of the celebrated
persons before him, & though he might have heard of the other, had
probably never ~~heard~~ had any idea of him except of a vulgar fellow
who "went with niggers". His distinguished visitors, if they did not look
like the greatest men in the country were not very far, for the reason
from looking like the greatest fools in the country. After having
had greatness thrust upon us by poor clothes we went
~~our~~ way, vowing we would never ~~go~~ trust ourselves in his
appetimate clutches again. ^{The phrenologist} gave us flaming characters,
of course, as all phrenologists do that I ever heard of. I should
like to see one who had told a man that his animal propen-
sities predominated over his moral & intellectual, - that he
was deficient in benevolence & personal worth, & that his
altruism was enormous. I suppose this man would
give Colver or Torrey almost identically the same characters
that he did to Garrison.

I do not know whether you have heard that Theodore
Parker came out on Sunday before last with an Anti-
Slavery sermon. Mr. Combs, a parishioner of his, & ^{the Abolitionist}
of his parish, who is an old Society & Liberator man, told
me that it was through no mistake. And I should
judge so too by what Parker told me of it - but he has promised
me to bring it with him when he next comes to see me and
read it to me. He has before recognized the A. J. & M. R.
movements as the chief, if not the only, manifestations of Christ-
ianity in the present age, without any Emersonian or Chas-
singian qualifications. I think that we shall get some work

out of him in some way. The is, I should judge from what he says, about converted to non-Resistance also. Dibley, by the way, Mr. Peapack tells me is a thorough Unitarian. Parker is a very remarkable man - a rare instance of a man who has raised himself by the force of his own energies, & by self-education, to the rank of the most learned men in the country, who ~~was~~ not overlaid by his knowledge & assigned to the grove of hopeless Conservatism. You of course will not count much upon him yet - nor do I - only I hope, for his temptations are many & strong. I went to his church in the aftⁿ & heard him preach a most capital sermon on Phoripism - the Phorip of the inside, street, politics, church & pulpit. He has already pretty nearly preached himself out of all

Feb 9th 1841.
 very interesting
 Theodore Parker

Miss Caroline Weston
 (to be left at Mr. Chapman's
 opposite the Church)
 Chancery Place

Mr. Peapack's opinion. You will see as often as you are wanted about you have sufficient to say or will. Don't let all Chapman in there. I have not yet left you. Truly yours
 Samuel May

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 respectable pulpits & will ere long I think preach himself out of his profession. The signing the call for the Lab. Cav. was of infinite service to him & I think may be the turning point in his life - as it helped him to get rid of a large proportion of that unpalatable which is the first thing a man has to free himself from when he wants to be good for anything - & moreover it conferred upon him a very wholesome share of odium - the true baptism by fire - & I think he will stand it. My sister who is to take this letter is on the early departure so that I must hasten to a conclusion. I thank you again for your letter & I pray you do not apologise for the length of your letters - you know me, & ought to, well enough to be sure that they