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Park St. Jan. 10 - 1853

Dearest Mr^s Chapman;

How you overwhelm me with your
generous devotion of your precious
time to me out of pure love! While
I, ungrateful recipient of your bounty,
am wont to content myself with a ^{circuitous}
acknowledgement of it thro' some
one of our family who may be writing
to some one of yours. This unreciprocated
your affection is far from being un-
appreciated. I think I know how
to value it, & certainly I count it
among my choicest blessings. The
last few months have been most
unsatisfactory ones in my personal
history. Indisposition in some un-
accountable & unpreventable form
proving a perpetual mar plot to
all my designs, & often a danager.

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to the energies & enjoyment of my
friends. Distant ones have been
neglected, while present companions
have been annoyed in consequence
of my capricious & unmanageable
maladies. But as I am never well
in damp weather & there has been
no other during the whole of this
four months I resign myself to
letting golden opportunities & hourly
duties slip daily away unimproved
& unfulfilled, & to wish for the ultimate
passing by of the wind to "cleanse the
cloud" which has so long prevented
"me" from seeing the "bright light" beyond.

When disposed to grieve over my own
incompetency to "improve the passing hour,"
(antillavery wise I mean) I turn with
self complacency to the abiding piece
of work effected by securing Miss Pugh's
presence in England. She does good
service wherever she is & convinces

the minds while winning the
hearts of all with whom she mixes.
She is at present with the Luptons
of Leeds that has been there about six
weeks. She is mixing with Quakers
& orthodox folks liberal & bigotted,
seeing the nature of the hostility
to genuine Abolitionists, & discovering
the depths of ignorance & miscon-
ception that exist, all which
she could hardly credit on our
evidence merely. Never was there
such an A. ferment over the land,
& such openings for truth to enter
& find acceptance, but alas the
labours are not forthcoming. Unless
some from America who can speak
in public as well as Miss Pugh
does in private will come to our
aid I fear the enemy will soon
take advantage of this newly ploughed

field to sow his tares in. Mr. W. calls "all this fuss about pennies & memorials, soda water" which is true, but until the angel had trodden the pool, its healing properties were not near enough the surface for us to benefit by them. Now I don't like to "step in" & deprive us of ^{for} another to "step in" & deprive us of him but long for some Wendell Phillips to come while the agitation lasts & proclaim the whole truth to the eager multitude. A few weeks of his labors amongst us would defeat the machinations of ~~any~~ ^{the} pro-slavery clergy to retain the English ecclesiastical sanction that they have hitherto relied upon.

This is a theme on which I cannot help harping, & which I must put forth to you & to all whom we fancy might aid us at this crisis, & their personal presence. Their words of truth I know you ^{will} think I am overestimating the importance of our little distant island to the cause, &

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Say that there is a work of greater
magnitude for all your laborers
in the immediate scene of action.
But I can't help looking from my
own "stand point," & after having
tried to pull down some barriers
to the triumph of antislavery prin-
ciples here, & seeing many others ^{crumbling}
tottering & ready to fall I do long
to have the finishing stroke put by
a few living witnesses to that of
which we have affirmed. The
power & prestige of "Friends" is on
the wane, ^{rapidly} they no longer give the
tone & circumscribe the bounds
of antislavery activity; but the newly
aroused sympathizers "see men as
trees ^{walkers} ~~stock~~ & are perpetually making
the most egregious blunders, which
Friends will catch hold of to shield
their own disgrace as long as often
as they can. The Advocate will be

a great help, but it can hardly
travel fast enough for the unpre-
cedented demand. Scoble has
departed this ditto Bolton, & ac-
tually Broad St. has a secretary
who admires & desires to fraternize
with Mr G. Thompson, & an associate
editor of the Reporter who venerates
Mr Garrison! So at least it is
rumored, & there are symptoms of
amendment in the ~~best~~ No. for
Jan 9. How long Friends will let
it last remains to be seen. My
Father is investigating the matter
in London, & will doubtless let you
know the result. Application was
made by Mr Chepson the thorough
hearted associate editor for our
Society's reports & papers & about
our separation; in his letter (which

was to Miss Matthews) after asking
you lights as to the extent of the
breach he enquires if it might
not be healed "now the evil genius
"of Broad St. has bolted" & his suc-
cessor is a man of totally different
spirit?" I don't often bother you
with details of what is going on,
believing that you prefer keeping
out of the fray while you can avoid
taking part. But the present is a
somewhat remarkable time with
us, & if you know its leading features
you may give your voice in our
favor, if you have any part in in-
fluencing the movements of our Ame-
rican friends whom we would find
welcome to our shores at this season.
^{we sh^d} hail them for the cause's sake yet
more than for our own. If it should
add a feather's weight to your motive

for repeating your visits to us or ^{going} to
any other English homes that your
presence would brighten & improve
I shall rejoice, tho' except as a state-
-ment of facts & of my own convic-
-tions of what would promote the
interests of the Cause, I know these
matters do not lie within my province
to discuss. You know my abiding
wish for you. I regret very much
my Aunt's inability to accept your
proffered hospitality at this time.
I wrote to her urging her to reconsider
before declining it, but she tells me
her strength is not equal to the journey
itself, & that she feels as if some
members of her family who are peculiarly
& painfully situated, might stand in
need of her presence. My private opinion
is, - but don't tell her so please - that if
she would only make the effort she

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I would be greatly benefitted by the entire change, & that there is no time when her brother & his family could better get on without her than during the next "half-year"; & that she would return to any arduous duties that may await her with much greater power of accomplishing them satisfactorily to herself. She has not however quite the requisite energy for such a step I fear. My Father declares that she never would have gone to Paris if the Coup d'Etat had not taken place for her ostensible hindrance. All this is entre nous. . . It seems to me as if your numerous English friends treated your tempting invitations much as the horse & the ass & the bee in the fable did the

sportive boy. I am not extending
the simile to you & the boy, but
we matter of fact business folks
seem very ungraciously heedless
of allurements to turning aside
from our proscribed path. Miss
Monticau tells me she is in-
cluded in your generous designs,
& she theorizes on your overlooking
the obstacles to pleasure. seeking
which public literary undertakings
of daily ~~recurring~~ ~~recurrence~~ recurrence
present. Will I trust we may yet
meet on common ground where
pleasure & business may be combined.
Miss Monticau holds out a hope
of our seeing her here in the spring.
How I long for you to have another
meeting with our Committee now
that they have attained their perfect

stature, & for them to introduce
you to their new allies. They have
long since finished their education.
Some have outstripped their teachers,
tho' they don't ~~perhaps~~ owe to such
proficiency. It is pleasant to
have no anxiety about them,
but to find every fresh recruit,
falling naturally into the right
track. There is one who I know
would be your heart's delight, Miss
Pugh, doats upon her - a Miss Chick
a great friend of former school fellows
of Samny Seaton's - A young lady
with considerable ability & leisure,
an inviolid, ~~but~~ a reader, thinker, &
ready writer, one who finds the Cause
fill up a long felt void, & opens a
sphere of useful action - to her mental
energy. We have a great contrast

in Miss Leonard the Secretary. She
is a steady, silent, methodical,
undemonstrative person, but
always goes right, & does off-hand
what has to be done, in the most
"perfunctory" manner, but Quincy
would say. Mr. Fiske continues
the star of the group, & a "terrible
evil doer". How I wish writing
didn't hurt me some time, then
I might describe the industry of
the Quakers &c. about this memo-
signing affair. They are so pleased
at the opportunity of appearing on
the field where all is glory, or
"controversy" or disgrace, how to
take to themselves the whole credit
of the Shaftesbury movement, been
following in the wake of the aristos,
they put forth this slightly amended
Address!! And in Bristol the Friends

4 look with such fear & trembling
at our little Society, wish they
could keep aloof, yet are forced
to defer to us & invite our co-ope-
ration to have appearances.
This ^{is} a good thing, for some who
dreaded us on hearsay find when
we come face to face that we
are very sober, practical, good tem-
pered people, & some we think will
not be in a hurry to part com-
pany. The whole town is being
briskly canvassed, & many new
workers are solicitous of more light.
There was a great meeting of ladies
to arrange the taking of districts, at
which a few gentlemen were present
by invitation. Two church clergymen
& two laymen of the same faith, a Unitarian
a Quaker, & two Independents were
selected, & a funny party they were.

Still they were all warm in the
matter & the presiding Clergyman
came out so strongly for Immediate
Emancipation that we gave a
slight allusion to the "five six"
a lady like work "at which Miss
Leonard grieved audibly. There
were about 120 ladies present.
You will see in the printed paper
I have put up the course that is
being pursued, & how we as a Comm.
treated the matter. Among the
hocks of letters of enquiry about various
A.S. topics I have tried to select a
few that would give you a little
notion of the "aspects of the Cause"
& the shades of darkness respecting it
which exist in different localities.
But the result is not successful,
for the letters which are most interesting
& most explanatory cannot be

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spared, as I need them to show
to those ^{partly} who are in the field. The
few I enclose are but a sort of
scum which you may not think
worth looking thro', with the exception
of some characteristic ones from
Miss Tribe, & Miss Chick whom I
wish to introduce to you. Will you
save those for me, some opportunity
of returning them may arise. When
there is a speedy one I shall send a
striking ^{letter} ~~one~~ from Mr G. Dawson
of Birmingham (the was Susan
Fanny Crompton) ^{others} from Mr Hap
& Miss Wigham. Mr G. Dawson,
who has paid but slight attention to
the subject, being much engrossed in
schools, &c. &c. says "What about
"F. Douglass & Rochester Bazaar, &
"Boston partisanship? I do wish
"people wouldn't quarrel over ^{stems}

"when there is such a quantity of
corn to be cut & carried. If you
know Julia Griffiths I have
only to say. I do too! But it is
of no use for me to say that to
Mrs Edmund Sturge when she comes
with her cat-like quaker-velvet
tongue & tells me Julia & Fred. Douglass
send things to Boston Bazaar but
Boston people won't or at least
don't help Julia. What is this about?"
~~Garrison~~ collected ~~me~~ I did not
like Garrison's speeches here in England
-perhaps I sh^d. say his words, his
collected writings strike me as
very scanty of facts & suggestions
to deeds, they are chiefly epithets;
all very well in their way, but usually
lumber when work is to be done,
& worse than lumber where prejudice

is to be conquered. I fell in love
with Mrs Chapman and can say
tho' I laugh at her Woman's Rights
Women companion in arms.
So that in my doubts as to whether
Garrison with all his real worth
hardly doing is not doing nicely
to his own cause. I am certainly
that Julia Griffiths wd weary and
the most determined of believers
"I am in a cleft stick."

So she goes on I only quote this as
typical of a very large class who
oral instructions would soon
set right. You will see how hopeless
it is to us with our very limited writing
powers to give the needed light, but
people's minds are open to conviction
when prejudices thawing, & the whole
movement is undermining sectarian

exclusiveness was doubly. I was
to answer your sweet letter which
I have not dared to touch upon
left strength sh^d fail for you
You do so exactly express my sen-
timents about "Uncle Tom". I
never read a word about slavery
except as a disagreeable duty,
therefore could only enjoy & give
thanks for the book as an un-
necess for penetrating where un-
adorned truth could find no ac-
cept. But I do rejoice in it. The Times
states that Mr. Stowe has accept-
ed an invitation to make a progress
thro' England. You must come
to catch her triumphal course.

The Explanation in No. 1 of the
advocate has quite satisfied those
who were disturbed by its very unca-
for "definition of its position", which
was calculated to convey a false im-
pression

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The "explanation" (which is not
 our wording) means to me, & to all
 whom it may concern, that much
 as we admire Reverence the Disunion
 Abol^{ts} we are not going to be dictated
 to even by them, that the doings
 of voters as well as non voters will
 be recognized & reported, & that our
 columns will be as open to the
 honest ones in their ranks as
 to any others, provided they don't
 enter upon the discussion of a
 question ^{with} which we are not called
 on to intermeddle. We can act
 ecclesiastically ~~theoretically~~, but
 not politically, so except as a
 simple fact in ^{the} history ^{of the movement}, it is not
 our concern. Some readers of the
 Advocate think Disunion doctrine
 sound, others very foolish, & so do
 some of its supporters. How I must

break off, - the theme on which
I have entered being interminable.
So is one to which you tempt me
by the remarks you make on
y^r "maternal duties." To them
I have the fullest accordance,
only it seems such a matter of course
to admit them that I sh^d. as much
think of writing to you a grave
apertion that dissenters were as
much entitled to state privileges
as members of the establishment,
if tested by their intelligence, or
their moral worth, ^{or to tell you} ~~that~~ as many
artisans were endowed with superior
talents to those of the wealthy owners
of country manors. There will always
be an interested class trying to
prove the reverse ^{in order} ~~to~~ maintain
their own ascendancy, but that
doesn't make liberal minded

people admit their claims.
I discovered very early in my youth
that the duties of the presiding
genius of a household were more
arduous, demanding far more
vigilance & variety of powers than
those which devolve upon the
pursues of any profession; duties
in a straight line, where every
blow tells perceptibly, ^{are} always
comparatively easy, & other things
are made to give way before them.
It was not without many a
sigh that I resigned myself to
abandon my cherished hopes
of bringing some one attainment
to a certain amount of perfection,
but it was clear that filling up chinks
& supplying wanting links here &
there & distributing time & strength

Thoughts were by "inferior"
as they are of the majority of the
sex. This is no admission of
inferiority but exactly the reverse.
I don't believe one man in a
hundred ~~thinks~~ holds the doc-
in children
in sincerity. I always used to think
men were secondary, or almost
supernumeraries, in a family,
tho' very well at their proper post
but that the nation was independent.
This of course was the class not indi-
viduals. That much abused
"woman" question will, I am per-
suaded, never be comprehended
in this country, for the simple reason
that the oppressions of the sex are
so merged in those where men are
their fellow sufferers as to be scarce
perceptible except to individuals wh.
attention is directed to them by some
special grievance. We suffer here
so much more as dissenters, as

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towns people, as untitled, as
destitute of landed property, or
^{from} some other social inequality than
as women, that people will laugh
for ever at the American Women's
Rights Conventions whose ^{are} proposed
fine sounding resolutions to
assert that they ^{women} are rational
responsible ~~and~~ agents free of
any outrage, or Hottentots! Such
seems the substance of their deli-
berations as the echo is wafted
to our ^{plodding, conservative} sober, ^{hem. 2 w. by} ^{conventional} ^{idly}
realm. I find very few people who
are aware that with you all white
men are on a legal equality & that
consequently our clap restrictions,
religious disabilities, landed property,
monopolies &c. & all the host of
oppressions under which we

groan resolve themselves
with you into distinctions of
sex or of color. If the English
public had this key to the enigma
they would be a little more merciful
to the transatlantic Amazon
as they suppose all the Advocates
of Woman's Rights to be. Still the
latter do give us plenty of provocation
& there is no convincing us of their
wisdom, in running in the face
of conventional notions & usages
by way of reforming them, & exciting
prejudice as the way to remove
it. But I have actually unboarded
my mind at your expense till I
felt tempted to end this effusion
in quest of the interesting one of which
you cheated me. Good bye for the
present. With much love to yr quartette
of ever affec^t & grateful
Mary Estlin.

Did I tell you of my Father's having
received a letter from Mrs Richard^{son}
boasting of the success of her scheme
for carrying on the Leaves
Trade while admitting that the
individuals over whom she had
sentimentalized were not to be
found? She made an excuse
for writing, of enquiring Mr Horace
Main's address! And my Father
coolly replied he did not know
his residence, & thought she
had involved herself in a dilemma
by raising money on false pretences.
The resolutions of the Philadelphia
Convention will make her very
rabid. I fear she will stir up Friends

to make England too high to hold
his Pugh. Our Committee have
the greatest contempt for Mr R.
Their "strong language" amuses me.
There is a curious medley in a
Report of an A.S. Meeting just held
in Dundee (Scotland.) A speaker
does justice to Mr Garrison, & thinks
his religious opinions are sound.
This if not it is no business of ours,
but he mourns that he sh^d be un-
avoidably associated with such well
known Pantheists & Rationalists
as P. Pillsbury, J. Parker, & Wendell
Phillips! How can any but living
voices set these misguided souls right.
The same speaker wishes to sympathize
with both A.S. Societies in America, & Mr
Garrison & Mr Chapman adorn one
& F. Douglass & Mr Stowe the other he
is sure they cannot be really at variance.
There are meetings all over the country now
where is the look of doctrine they hear.

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A note from my Father with the "Latest
intelligence from ^{London &} Broad St." says

"To day I have seen Juicedie, Mr Grant,
"Mr Chamcray (the new editor of the
"Reporter) - Messrs Cheffon, & Bolton. Long
"talk at 27 Broad St. with Mr Cheffon: he
"drinks tea with me to night.

I am hopeful about the new Secretary -
"He will commend the Advocate!!"
"Who w^d expect that from Broad St.?"
"Juicedie says he sat up till 1 or 2 this morn.
"reading the Ed. Matthews controversy wth J. C. Perkins

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