

Dec. 29 - 1837.

Dearest Miss Weston,

It is impossible to let anyone go from Bristol to the place in which you are sojourning, without making him the bearer of a few words of loving greeting; but when the chances are that the manuscript will be consigned to the flames without reaching you, the ardor with which one enters on the work of writing is greatly damped. We were very grateful for your letter written to relieve our anxieties respecting you, if you could have heard the number of applications for tidings of you to which it has been the satisfactory response, you would not consider the labor ill-bestowed.

People residing in Bristol called, sent,
stopped us in the streets to ask about
you, & those at a distance wrote to
know what news we had received.
Of course we continue watching the
progress of events with deep solicitude,
& have our opinions & wishes respecting
your whereabouts, altho' free from any
definite apprehension in regard to you.
I must confess that at the date of your last
letter altho' you were much in our thoughts
& the theme of our conversation, my chief
uneasiness was for my cousin Walter
whose prudence & safety was not so easily
calculated on. However we were not
long without his setting all these fears
at rest. There is something aggravating
in the sort of forced separation existing
between us now while we are comparatively
near neighbours, & it seems particularly
difficult to ~~know how~~ to keep you up

to our goings on, or to know what will
interest you. For our domestic concerns
I ~~know~~^{am sure} you will feel at home, so I will
just mention that we have been getting
on hitherto better than we did last
winter in point of health, & tho' now
we are both on the sick list, there is
nothing very serious or likely to be of
long continuance in our maladies.
Mine is only a cold which in ability
to nurse it in its introductory stage,
on account of my Father's indisposition
has rendered more severe & invincible
than ordinary. My Father has had
a collection of ^{catharrhs, rheum, stoppings & headaches} disorders, all chiefly
caused by exposure to cold & over exertion.
From his having escaped being laid
up for a longer time than usual, &
consequently always to be found
at his post, society has considered
him entirely at their disposal &

besieged him morning, noon, & night
for counsel or aid in their concerns,
public, private, philanthropic, me-
dical &c. &c., & at the same time came
all the Annual summings up of Treat-
ships, Meetings, Committees &c. together
with a set of unexpected & harassing
family affairs which could not be
transferred. So it really has been a
relief to me this last week to have
had him hors du combat. My life
has been devoted for a good while to
doing all the writing I can to keep him
free from that task (which seems
to hurt him more than any other)
& to offending as many people as
possible by refusing them access to
him, & taking all sorts of obnoxious
steps by way of ^{lessening the number of} brightening his future
opportunities. So you will make all
the intimations of ^{an Anglo-American}
-ance for any ~~beliefs~~ or misan-

- Thropic coloring my disposition
 may have imbibed in the process.
 My Aunt will no doubt speak for
 herself & say how she is come to entertain
 us herself with a little commu-
 nion, & give her version of our
 bodily & mental, & moral condition.
 You hear of course direct from Miss
 Follen; the Parkers report favorably
 of her, & tell us she is now staying with
 Lady Byron. They (the P's) seem very
 comfortably established in their
 winter residence. Some of your friends
 here are well, some ill, none forget you,
 all hope you will come again. The
 poor Armstrongs have had incessant
 illness, & M^r A. seems likely to be a
 prisoner during the rest of the winter.
 Mr James does not relax in his studies.

inquiries for Miss Weston, but as he has
invited me "to go with him to Germany
some town in Germany for six months
to study the language," you must
come to look after your own interests.
My ^{Father} reproves my want of spirit for
not asking my pastor on the spot
"What he meant?" Mr Tribe & all
the committee ladies are unremitting
in their affectionate inquiries. Miss
Tribe is better, but gives no encouragement
to expect her speedy return. So I have
helped in Anti-Slavery work which
keeps up as briskly as ever. I have
sent our "declaration of independence"
together with all the printed docu-
ments referred to the proposition
for a new paper to about 50 Societies
& a great many private friends, so
if we make no sensation it is no

fault of ours. We waited a month
after sending the celebrated Manifesto
to Broad Street, in the hope of some
public or private notice being taken
but at the end of that time we took
vigorous measures to circulate it,
& I am still at the work. Perhaps
Scoble will come down upon us in
the next "Reporter". If he does you
shall have a copy. He is now busy
attacking Ed. Matthews, the taking
away his character being a necessary
preliminary to putting forth the
scheme for getting ^{hold of} Davon Institute,
which Scoble has been plotting in
conjunction with L. Tappan &
Henson. His machinations for
this end, which have been traced
recorded by the F. Mission Baptists
equal any of his dealings with the
Am. Soc^y & Matthews has all the

documents requisite to expose his
dividing his time, meanwhile Mr
Jos. Sturge, Mr G. Alexander &c. into a
dilemma by direct applications to
them to learn whether they sanction
or condemn Scoble in his course.

We shall shortly be able to report progress
in this quarter, the campaign has only
just opened; Epov. L. Mathews had his
hands pretty full before, having brought
down upon himself the accumulated
wrath of the whole Evangelical Alliance
& the particular ill will of Mr Davis who
contrives to carry all his brethren in the
ministry with him, who spares no pains
to calumniate L. Mr. Epriudice's people in
all directions against him. I am not
going into the details of our line of action
in connection with Mr Mathews, for
I know you form too different an esti-
mate of him, & of the importance of this
course, ^{here} to render it interesting except a.

(3)

far as it tells ^{of} the exposure of Scoble.
We must leave ^{it to} the development of events
to undeceive you in the erroneous ideas
^{we consider} you have long entertained of the position
of the cause here. How erroneous it was
I never realized until your last remarks
on "the Church ^{battle} ~~question~~ having been
rendered so easy here by our agitation
that E. M. "empowered by his sect" will
hardly find it impossible to do other-
wise than fight it well! When not
one of his sect will give him a helping
hand, or let him in their pulpits even to
advocate the very principles they have
expounded their American brethren
to follow! I do not mean to enter on
your judgment of Mr. Matthews because
I have my feelings on the point ^{where} rather
too strong for expression. I must have
given a wrong impression ^{in writing to Emma} if you were
led to conclude that the depth of my af-
fection for you had any effect in inducing

320, 2.

me to rest on you as infallible. They ^{things} are perfectly distinct. My personal attachments, my admiration of your lives & characters & talents are unconnected with the confidence in your discernment which past experience had created. The first does not help me to accept your premises, or accord implicitly in your inferences, in cases where the elements are before my own observations. I think your persevering condemnation of E. M. for pursuing the precise course my Father had chalked out for him (in his disclaiming the erroneous designation of "Garrisonian conciliator") is not quite an evidence of impartiality. But you see that in the face of your accusations of him we obstinately stand by E. M. in unshaken confidence in his fidelity & integrity, & in the unchanged conviction that his services to the cause are greatly increased by the course you censured. It will be some consolation under your displeasure

...to go to feel that we shall no longer be
the subjects of an unmitigated praise from
you, while our equally conscientious fellow
workers ^{are} receiving a like undecorated blame.
I think you will admire our stubbornness
while lamenting our previous blindness.
I wonder how you would be inclined to
deal with the little sinner Mr. Keenji
who found it so much easier to propose
a resolution of sympathy with the Rev.
Mr. Lee in a meeting where all hearts
were enlisted in its favor, than to withstand
Mr. Davis, though to be his tool! He really
did behave most shamefully in coming
to that Committee meeting (after my father
had written to urge his taking part in the
meeting) as a spy, & not undeceiving the
un-suspicious arrangers till the meeting
was begun. Mr. Davis is fuming like a
lion in a sack, & has sent or caused to be
sent a description of this meeting to the
Rev. Times, the organ of the Young Alliance,
which is a series of untruths & all other

to speak on a very prejudicial topic.
^{Ladies}
The committee continues very desirous
of very harmonious & quiet union with
the ^{independent} friends of the broad St. Churches.
We must begin in a way, gaining some use
ful admissions, but not in the line
line, we make no advances towards
getting any more who are up to the mark.
We are perhaps better satisfied with the
numbers of the same than you would be.
They are unanimous in their admiration
of you & our Society individually & col-
lectively, bent upon helping you in every
practicable way, in making your work better
disposing your foes, & remaining the same
in respect about you, ^{but} making some amends
for the injustice which has been done by
-but here they take their stand, & are unani-
mous in their resolve to have no
alliance with any ^{other} Society, at least, & are
firmly re-assured by the conversation & in-
sistence of their impressions that I had abin-
ously labored to disabuse them of that the

No 17 12.25. 141

treacherable to avail ourselves of it seems
from your account very dubious.

I had a very funny letter from my Father's
"friend" full of the most glaring vanity,
beginning up with a disclaimer of
that sin (which she must have had
a consciousness she had been exhibiting
throughout). I intend to tell her she
is evincing a very new organization
spirit, for on a former occasion she
actually went out of her way to admit
she was affected by this infirmity. I wish
you could have heard my Father one
day after you left, figuring in a mischievous
tone: "What was that Miss Weston was
telling at breakfast, once about Mr
Garrison & my Friend, arguing together?
"Then remarking ^{as if just waked up} (after I had concluded
my reply into the words "W.G. maintained
"his heart was perfect but his judgement
fallible, - your Friend that her heart
"was true but her judgement perfect")
"Oh then they're a conceited couple."
320.C

But I must close, with the most
loving anxious wishes & prayers for
you all

Fondly yours

M.

Mary Estlin

Jan^y 1st 1852.

My Father has explained the cause of
this being delayed. I sh^d have written a line
to enclose with his ^{on Tuesday} but a feverish attack
laid me ~~aside~~ powerless. It is going off now
however, & Aunty ^{seems} beginning to take her
turn in an incipient cold. There is a thick
cloud overhanging the New Year which
gives a sombreness to our heartfelt greetings
but you have them with an added
depth, ~~while~~ ^{we} wait in faith that ere long we
shall see the "bright light that is in the
cloud" for "the wind will pass by & cleanse it."

American A.S. Soc. are very intolerant to
every one who does not belong to them,
Every unwilling to give other people credit
for sincerity or zeal. Having been led by this
to other causes to think there is some truth
in their conclusion we accord with them
entirely in reference to our course. as an A.S.
Society. Isaac Lloyd cannot be lured out
of his retirement so we know nothing of
his state of mind. Mrs Waring has run
back to a much lower point than when
first made her acquaintance, in con-
sequence of the reproach cast upon "Friends"
"who always have been, are, & will be."
"Anti-slavery." Miss Waring remains in a
confused state of mind, because her Uncle
sends her a "reporter" to prove that it does
deal with Am. Slavery & therefore is in-
vulnerable. Mr Ellis is very sturdy, & the
Faulders, & Mr C. Neil ^{keep right when}
sufficiently flattered. ^{all belonging to} All the other devo-
tionalists are sound.

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1831.

The above pages were written yesterday
in preparation; this morning your
letters are come for which you have
our warmest thanks. Tho' purposely
writing on other themes that which
engrosses you is uppermost with us,
tho' all our deliberations your name
are present with us. Our wishes about
you strengthen with every fresh intelligence
but we know you can better judge ^{of} ^{the}
the wisest & right course for you to pursue.
We will wait in patience for the issue
of events, tho' our philosophies do not
accord shall remain united to you in
spirit. I did send you that hymn
of my Father's last winter, but you are
very welcome to another copy. Will you
give me to Mr. Le. Coult with my kind
regards, & say how much I sympathize
with him in his trial. We hope to have
another opportunity of sending in a
few days, but how far it will be prac