

Leicester, Mass^{ts}, Nov. 2.^o 1856.

Dear friend, Anna Weston;

In the Romish calender yesterday was All Saints Day, and this I believe is All Souls Day, and where you now are (in Rome I suppose) the fact has doubtless been brought to your notice by some splendid ceremonial or other. What a pity it is that the great Apostolic & Universal Church, no less than all its off-shoots & descendants & imitators, should have so little of a genuine regard for all souls, and so little just discrimination as to the true Saints! and should content themselves with a great magnificent pageant, and pretence of doing, or rather substitute for not doing, the plainest of human and Christian duties.

I have not been so forgetful of you as I have appeared. My conscience smites me at having so long delayed an acknowledgement of your very kind and valued notes. I wish I could send you any-thing like an equivalent in reply. I hope I may not have lost my place in your friendship by this apparent neglect; for I assure you my 'good will' has been to it. It is certain that I have had a busier Summer than common. During August (I received your first July 16th) and into September, I was in Pennsylvania & Ohio - new fields to me, & somewhat laborious, but very refreshing & pleasant, especially Penna^a and when I returned, I found a great accumulation of things to be attended to, and the

Worcester Anti-Slavery Fair coming on, - and which was afterwards held with a fair degree of success, - indeed considerably beyond expectation, because Anti-Slavery sympathies & funds have been most largely drawn upon this summer & autumn in two directions, viz. the Relief of Kansas (in all kinds of ways), and the Election of Gen. Fremont. In spite of the really heavy assessments, for these purposes, on all who have ever named the name of Anti-Slavery (& of many too who never had before), the proceeds of the Worcester Fair were within a few dollars of those of last year. The same was the case with the Abington Fair, with perhaps a somewhat wider disparity, but not by any means discouraging, so, when it is also remembered that, the year before, the Fair there was an entirely new thing. We are therefore encouraged to augur good things of the great Bazaar, - and indeed some (outsiders too) prophesy a marked increase, more particularly if Buchanan is elected, - as he is pretty sure to be. - Day after tomorrow, by the way, comes the Election, and if I am delayed in sending this by next Wednesday's Commodore ship, I may be able to give you the great Result. -

Tomorrow Charles Sumner goes to Boston, for the simple purpose of giving his vote the day following. 'Tis his first return to Boston, since the first of December last. How painful, in some aspects, the return; yet how much nobler he is, & how much happier may he feel, than those traitorous, cowardly, heartless men,

Webster, Everett, Wintthrop, &c. &c. who have stood at
Washington in the same place he has occupied, and who
have returned home from time to time to constantly
show they have wronged and deceived - to a State
whose best spirit & principles they have helped to
debate and trample under foot. If Sumner would
consent - and he doubtless would, if it would not put
him back for months - he would have one of the
most triumphant ^{and hearty} receptions which Boston ever gave
to a public man. As it was, the Music Hall was
engaged, and preparations made for a grand banquet,
& the tickets mostly sold, when a telegraphic message
from him put a stop to it all. He will therefore simply
be met at the Boston & Roxbury line by a cavalcade of
citizens, and escorted to his home. The escort will
undoubtedly be very large. - Even as it is, he runs
the risk of great injury to his health by coming to Mass^{ts}
at all at this time, and does so against the decided
advice of his Phil^a. physician. - On one of the last
days in August, as I was passing over the Alleghenies, I
stopped and spent a few hours with him, and had the very
great pleasure of being his companion, on a most glorious
day, in a horseback ride of ten miles among the Mts. He
appeared very much like himself, and talked a great deal
as we rode, & without excitement, on all the topics of the day.
But his spirit evidently chafed, at his long imprisonment in
the Mountains and at his long, compulsory absence from his
post of duty at Washington. I find it to be the (I think)
prevailing, - certainly the very extensive, feeling that he will
never wholly recover his strength, & the full use of his powers.

The physician with whom he was staying (in the Alleghames - not a man of mark, however), thought otherwise, and said that in a few months, with ordinary care, he would be as well as ever. Two months have now elapsed, and he is very far from any such thing as soundness of health. Meanwhile the whole South, with scarce a known exception, glories in the blow which struck him down, and justifies the manner of it, and keeps all its honours upon the perpetrator. - And what is far more astonishing, far more disgraceful, our Northern people cling to what they call the "Union"! with this affair in & his crowds of backers - "lawyers, priests, politicians" all vying with each other in the zeal of their devotion to it. In their estimation, the Union must be preserved, no matter what else perishes or is overthrown; and they have no faith that the people will ever be brought, or can be educated, to the point of dissolving it. True it is that a majority of the people are morally incapable of receiving this idea or even of understanding the grounds on which it rests; - ~~but~~ even as it was in the Revolutionary struggle but, thank God, it is not necessary to get a numerical majority even of the North, in order to make the Disunion principle triumphant.

It was very kind and thoughtful in you to write to my sister Mary after her severe and almost wholly-unexpected affliction. For, sick as Mr. White was, & steadily losing ground from the day he left home, as all on the Tide the Atlantic could plainly see from the successive letters, yet Mary herself appears to have never thought it possible (might almost say) that he would not return alive to America, and his death was a severe shock to her. He was; himself, more fully aware of his situation; and was himself the first to say to Mary that he was dying. Even then, she thought him depressed by his illness & mistaken; nor could she believe him dead, till the physician came in, & said that it was even so, left no more room for doubt.

One of the last letters which Frank wrote home was to Rev Dr. Gannett. In it he expressed the regret which ~~he~~ he had long felt that the ministers of the North had refused to use their influence on the subject of Slavery, and his belief that, if they had done so, a far more favourable state of things would now be existing. He spoke of several hopeful circumstances of recent occurrence in Boston, and said it denoted a very encouraging progress since the time when "our Church" [i.e. the one he had attended, Dr. G.] was refused, when its use was requested for the delivery of a eulogy upon Dr. Follen. I should be glad to have you see the entire extract, for, though it was modest, it was firm & clear, & very well expressed. — Just before he died, he said to Mary — "Do not let me be buried in London. Take me to Edgbaston" — (a very pleasant spot in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, where a brother of my mother, with his family, resides.) — Mary, assured him she would never leave him in England, — but he should be taken home, — and this seemed to be very satisfactory to him. — By the very great thoughtfulness & kind attentions of Mr. Russell Sturgis, the best possible arrangements were made for the transmission of the body to America. The ship which conveyed it actually sailed from Liverpool two days before the steamer in which Mary returned. The body was received in Boston on the 7th October, and on the 8th the funeral services were held, and the interment made at Mount Auburn. — And then Mary appeared to begin to realise, as up to that time she had never done, that her husband was indeed gone from her. Her sense of loneliness has been very heavy upon her. — She has asked my wife & myself, with Ade and little Bessie, to pass this winter with her. And, having satisfied ourselves, that our company with her and the various help we may render to her, will be likely to exceed over-balance the amount of care we may give, we have decided to accept the invitation. —

Yours from Paris of June 24th was very welcome; and gave us a deal of satisfaction, and I hadn't a doubt in my mind but I should answer it in a few weeks. We thought much of you and your party, getting established on the borders of the Lake of Geneva - Oh! what a summer you must have had amongst those mountains and lakes - and I never had a suspicion but that my answering letter would greet you in that beautiful spot, till the fact came one day suddenly to my mind that it had got to be too late for me to send you a letter into Switzerland. Now, Mr. Chapman kindly sends, at my request, your address in Rome. We made up our minds, some time ago, that we certainly should not have your presence and help in the coming Bazaar; and, though we shall sadly miss you, it will be pleasant to think of the rare opportunities you are having, and of the stores of good things you are laying up in memory for future enjoyment. We cannot but hope that you will not so far go over to the side of "the foreign Westons", (as you once pleasantly called the European party of your family,) as to permanently ally yourself to that wing of the forces. It will be hard to break away from so many, that are all so near to your heart, - very hard to turn away and bid them good-bye. But whenever you do so, I am sure you will have the consolation & support of feeling how much there is for you to do in America, how much that nobody but you can do. We cannot willingly consent long to lose your immediate participation in the Anti Slavery work. Undoubtedly sterner scenes and more fearful conflicts, than any the past has known, are before us, and probably not afar off; - and, - your post is vacant. True - you needed the furlough and had earned it well; but you will not, we depend,

forget the rank and file, the foot-soldiers who yet stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight; but will come to take your place with them again, so soon as you rightfully can.

Have you seen the letter of Mr. Gladstone, about what he saw in Kansas, - originally published in the London Times? It is an independent and disinterested testimony touching the brutality & violence which bore sway in K. last spring & summer, or of such of it as he saw and heard. - In spite however of the multitude of unimpeachable witnesses to the same effect, the country is about to elect (probably) as President a man pledged to carry out all the villany of Peirce's administration, and to add to it whatever more the Slave Power requires. As Garrison said to a friend the other day, "Few know the heart of this nation, how corrupt & how wicked it is." He has always said, & has never wavered in his opinion, that Buchanan would be elected. Theodore Parker, who has been very sanguine in his belief that Fremont would be chosen, returned last week from a several weeks' absence in the West, a good deal discouraged (I was told) as to the result in Illinois, and elsewhere; - the loss of Illinois in present circumstances being equivalent to the defeat of Fremont. A vast deal of money, strength, eloquence, and time have been expended in efforts for Fremont's election. On the other hand the Democrats (!) have been comparatively quiet, saved their own strength & money mostly, and used the Government money and offices with that craft and tact which long experience in corruption & knavery have abundantly supplied. The struggle will soon be decided now. The ship of the 5th (by which I mean to send this) will carry towards you some, it must be imperfect, intelligence of the result. -

It has been an unfavourable time - the past two months especially - for our Antislavery work. People

have been so absorbed with their Frequent meetings, ^{or to have no time} to be unwilling to hear what our speakers had to say, (though there have been some decided exceptions to this,) and have been resolved to look, for the time being, at no other issue than the Presidential question. Now, we shall have the decks comparatively clear for action again. We have set on foot a series of Conventions in the State of New York - to commence 2 weeks hence - and hope much from them.

Your Paris letter left in our minds some concern for your health, and particularly for your eyes. But in your note from Switzerland there was so much evidence of your being stronger and better in all respects, that we truly rejoiced for you. Mrs. May sends her love to you, & says she is very glad to hear how much you enjoyed your summer in Switzerland, - thanks you for your kind message, & says she should indeed enjoy a visit to Switzerland. - Her health has been, for the most part, very good the past summer, and I hope she will find it continue so this winter. My children are all well. My father's health is excellent - mother is pretty well, ^{now} though she has had one ill-term this autumn, and I feel somewhat anxious for her. She has got little Nelly back again to Boston, and this will be a very great comfort to her.

We are very glad too to hear how well Lucia is able to bear the mountain rides and excursions, and hope that her winter's residence in Rome will greatly benefit her. Please give her mine & Mrs. May's kindest regards and best wishes. Please remember us, too, very cordially & kindly to Caroline and to Emma. Caroline's beautiful "St. Gotthard" book-knife or opener is the ornament of our book-shelves, & is often admired. I suppose Mad^e. Laugel has returned to Paris. I should be glad to send her my sincere regards.

Hoping that nothing may prevent your return next summer, and that meantime I may be favoured with another letter from you - tho' I don't deserve one, I know. I am, ^{Swiss, your friend} Yours truly, Sam^l. May, Jr.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 28. 72

OFFICE
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By Steamships from
Nov. 5th

Miss Anne Weston.
Care, Miss Takenham & Hooker,
Bankers,

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FRANCO

Rome.

Italy.

H. d'Anglès

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