

At Cornhill Boston,  
January 12. 1858.

Dear friend Webb -

It seems unusually long since I wrote to you, and whether now I shall be sufficiently free from interruptions, and other calls, to mention them all, or say what I wish to say about any of them, is very uncertain. An excellent friend, both of the ~~cause~~ & of ourselves, <sup>here</sup> personally, sits near me, talking on the state of the times & the character of certain leading men in the town where he lives, and I write to you, & listen to him (with an occasional reply), all at the same time, - a task to which my poor faculties never were equal. —

Here came two callers, on both of whom I had to attend, - followed by several more, among the whole of whom over 2 hours have been used up; - but you doubtless know how this thing is. — Now, Garrison sits near me, and I say "I am writing a note to Richard Webb," - "have you any word for him?" - "Yes" says he - "I wish him a Happy New Year, (laughing) - give him my best love" - and then adds, soliloquizing, "I ought to write him, now & then, & do something for the Advocate," - I add, "Oh, pray do; I don't know what would please & help Webb more." Then he asks how the Advocate <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ sustaining itself, and I had the pleasure of telling him of Miss Estlin's donation of £20., mentioned in your note received by me this morning, - via New York.

My principal reason for writing now is to notify you that I have today sent to the Steamship Niagara, for Liverpool, to sail tomorrow, the "Bell" Box, addressed to you, in care of J. R. Graves Liverpool in accordance with freight-receipt herewith enclosed. The box goes earlier than usual. Mrs. Chapman does not propose to publish, this year, the Bazaar Report in a separate paper or pamphlet; ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> will hereafter, either by mail or package, forward copies of the Standard or Liberator containing it. The box contains, principally, two ~~three~~ works - 1. The "Liberty Bell". 2. "Stroud's Sketch of the Slave Laws," in an abridged but still pretty extended form. There are also some copies of H. Greeley's "History of the Struggle for the Extension or Restriction of Slavery," which you will distribute as you judge best. There are also a few other tracts & publications. - Mr. Garrison sends you a volume, in token of his regard, I hope the box will reach you safely, and without undue meddling or grievous taxation by the Customhouse officers. Please let me hear of its fate. -

Our Bazaar closed the evening of Dec. 26. having received the gross amount of \$3500., which was \$500. to \$1000. more than the most sanguine of us had counted upon. Still it is \$1800. below what it was last

year. — In these circumstances, and  
with the certainty of diminished receipts from  
other quarters, our Executive Comtee have  
felt constrained to reduce the expenses of the  
Standard, and have voted to discontinue  
the editorship of Oliver Johnson at the  
expiration of the Society's year, viz: on the  
1<sup>st</sup> of May. — This has been a great disappoint-  
ment to Mr. Johnson & to numbers of his  
friends, but it was a sad necessity. Penn-  
sylvania was bound <sup>(this is private correspondence, you know)</sup> to contribute \$3000.  
annually to the treasury of the American  
Anti-Slavery Society; if it had continued to  
do that, or even \$2500., Johnson could have  
been retained. But their ~~subseq~~ payment  
have fallen off very greatly, (I can't name  
the exact deficiency, but I believe it to be from \$1000.  
to \$1500.), & <sup>they</sup> notify <sup>us</sup> that, next year, ~~they~~ will  
be able to do even less. — Is then the Ex. Com.  
to blame, for striving to bring its expenditures  
within the limit of its means? I trow not,  
yet, strange to say, we are blamed, and mainly  
in Pennsylvania, on whose <sup>acct. of</sup> deficiency mainly,  
almost solely, this step is rendered necessary.  
— We shall all increase our efforts to hold up  
the Standard, and not let it flag, or suffer  
in value or interest by the loss of O. Johnson's  
services, which really <sup>will be</sup> a great loss. He

is a very competent editor, and a most excellent man. Still, he has not done all for the Standard that it was hoped and believed he would do. — Our Committee will go on, retrenching their expenditures as wisely & carefully as possible, — but still, retrenching, because it is their duty to do so.

I am sorry to tell you we saw nothing of the Delta Rue box at the Fair. It was often inquired for, & much missed. The ship which brings it arrived here day before yesterday, Jan. We shall get it, not till next week, as these sailing ships do <sup>begin to</sup> not discharge until they have lain in port a week, to enable all consignees to enter their goods. But the delay, I hope effect, will eventuate well for our treasury. The paper comes in time to secure a good market, and will doubtless sell for its full value. There will probably be an After Sale at which we may sell not only the paper, but perhaps other articles remaining unsold from the Bazaar.

The January "Advocate" came yesterday. Really was surprised to see my name & letter staring me in the face. I am very happy you like my letters, & think them worth the room they take. My sister told me he was glad to see that I wrote from time to time. I told him, I felt cheap every time I saw one of them, and wished it were a great deal better.

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Garrison was saying yesterday, in our Committee meeting, that he hoped you would not take the silence of the Liberator & Standard, in reference to F. Douglass's vituperative attack upon you, as evidence of indifference in the case. - You are doubtless aware that it was resolved here, some time since, to take no notice of Douglass whatever in any of our papers or meetings, but leave him wholly to the infamy or glory, as it may be, which shall crown his hypocrisy, his lying, and his base ingratitude. - Measures are taking here, however, to furnish you with documentary evidence and support in regard to the mortgage case, and it will be forthcoming in due time, and I doubt not in such a shape as will fully justify your statements. Such at least is the belief of those here, who have given any attention to the matter, - which I cannot say I have done <sup>to any extent</sup>. - After this is done, and you have got it fairly out of the way, Garrison advises that thenceforward you never name Douglass or his female satellite in the Advocate. - As G. left the office, just now, he lifted his hat, and said, "Tell him I left my hat to him across the water."

I cannot wonder at any success which the said female satellite has among English people, &c.

When I look around and see the brazen-  
faced impostors and swindlers who infect  
our cause here, and obtain not only a  
subsistence, but very considerable sums of  
money, by their audacious and cool stories,  
many of them without the shadow of truth to  
support them. First, there is Delia Webster. She  
pulls the 'pious' string which Julia Griffiths is  
so artfully working at in G. Britain. She uses the  
cant language, the technical phrases, of the sect,  
- pulls a long face, - and passes for a very  
religious woman. She is a selfish, scheming,  
& unscrupulous person, without refinement or  
reliable principle, - in no sense a lady. But she  
has deceived many - clergymen and others - and  
has obtained considerable sums towards saving  
her \$40,000 estate in Kentucky (!) from the clutches of  
her persecutors. - <sup>then off</sup> there are quite a number  
of unmitigated scamps about, personating  
fugitive slaves, African princes, &c. &c. - all very  
religious!, so they pretend, while they tell the most  
enormous lies, and disgust sensible men by their  
improbable narratives. Their pious dodge secures  
them the favour of many ministers, opens the doors of  
churches and of pulpits, - all which being done,  
money contributions are certain to come in, from  
the large, uninformed, well-disciplined class  
who believe all the minister says, regard him as

their authority and law, and who do not dare  
to go contrary to his instructions. — It is a  
great disgrace, to both countries, that they allow  
these abominable impostures to flourish, when  
done in the name of Religion, or in any name.  
A very little manly firmness suffices to bring the  
most of them to shame, and to expose their  
fraudulent courses. As to Douglass, I consider  
him no better than a swindler. I consider that  
he is getting money on false pretences. His  
story of his religious experiences and character  
is, in my belief, a mere fetch and pretence,  
a cover for mercenary purposes; and he uses  
falsehood himself, and allows & encourages  
his subalterns to do the same, in order to break  
down those who are fearlessly contending with  
Slavery face to face, and who mean to strip the  
disguise, thin or otherwise, from every wolf  
in sheep's clothing which crosses their path,  
though he come in priestly garb, or arrayed even  
as an angel of light. — All our wise ones  
say, Avoid controversy with these bad subjects,  
for it is what they covet, & get notoriety on; but  
lose no opportunity, when it can be effectually done,  
to expose their tricks, their dishonesty, & fraud.

I received to-day letters from Eliza Wigham  
and Mary Estlin. Am I not honoured in two  
such correspondents? Both letters mentioned the  
very sudden death of Mrs. Prichard, Mary Estlin's

Aunt, & only remaining member of the Estlin family, save one I believe who is very infirm. Mary feels the bereavement very deeply, and seems to be even more solitary than before.

She mentions, - what E. Wigham says nothing of and what <sup>only</sup> an uncertain rumour of had reached us before, - that E. Wigham's father has been a very heavy loser, & <sup>is</sup> perhaps quite impoverished as to property, by the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland. This is a sad confirmation of what we had before put away as ~~an idle rumour~~ <sup>a rumour</sup> which might prove quite unfounded. Do pray let me know whether his losses are as heavy, his case as hard a one, as it now appears.

I shall hope soon to hear from you about Gilroy's note - what destination to give it. I suggest its being sent to Gay, or some other New York friend, who might at least occasionally see Gilroy.

You <sup>have</sup> received, doubtless, my request to send the "Advocate" to Susan B. Anthony, Rochester, N.Y. - & to diminish the number of papers sent to me to one, owing to the discontinuance of J. Wilson Jr.

The newspapers will give you particulars of a fracas in the House of Representatives, last week. The ~~to~~ tried an all-night session, the Border Ruffian party, aimed to tire out the Republicans & Douglas Democrats, & carry their point with the Secessionist Constitution. About 2 o'clock A.M. Keitt of S. Carolina, (Preston Brooks's right hand man when he made his assassin-attack on Charles Sumner) called Grow of Penn<sup>a</sup> (& Democrat & Republican) a "damned

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"black Republican puppy", and attempted to throttle  
 him - twice Grow knocked his hand up - again Keitt  
 collared him, when Grow by a very powerful blow on  
 Keitt's left ear knocked him at full length on the floor.  
 The friends of both ran together, and there was a  
 "free fight" just before the Clerk's desk for some  
 minutes, when it was stopped. Keitt was a good  
 deal intoxicated. Yesterday he made a very humble  
 apology ~~to~~ the House, taking all the blame to himself.  
 - If they must fight, I rejoice that Pennsylvania  
 knocked South Carolina down. - But what a "heavenly  
 Union" we have, to be sure, with these dear  
 Southern brethren of ours. They are loudly  
 threatening disunion, if Kansas is not admitted  
 as a Slave State, <sup>or</sup> if she is admitted as a Free State,  
 and many, I fear, will be frightened with their  
 empty threats. But they will ~~never~~ <sup>not now</sup> secede; they  
 know when they are well off, and that it would be  
 suicide to themselves, and the speedy end of Slavery  
 to go out of the Union. - Mr. Chambers calls ~~it~~  
 for our plan of effecting Disunion, and is troubled  
 that he can't understand it. The plan is, to  
 proclaim God's truth, I make villains as uneasy  
 as possible in their villainy, and the disunion  
 will be hastened on, quite as fast as men  
 can get themselves ready for it. The Union never  
 hung by so slender a thread as now, and it is  
 weakening every day, I am confident.

[Confidential.]

I hardly dare venture on one topic, which  
still however I feel I must name; and yet  
it must be in entire confidence - quite private

Perhaps you may have heard of it. - Mrs.  
Chapman thinks the Bazaar worn out,  
cumbersome, effete, clumsy, a clog & fetter  
on the Cause rather than a help. She has  
decreed its abolition, I believe. She has  
great plans of something better in its place  
which are yet to be unfolded, but which  
I but dimly understand. - Laborious as  
working as the Bazaar is, there are few who  
agree with her, in the policy of dispensing with it.  
But its downfall is decreed, as I have said,  
and you will look to see the better thing shape  
itself into something great & tangible. But  
do not spread the rumour, on the strength of it.