

Leicester, Mass,
June 28. 1869.

Dear friend Webb;

I hope you have not really thought me forgetful, or even neglectful, because I haven't written you for so long a time. Certainly I am not the former, - though I could not so easily defend myself against the latter charge. But indeed I hope I am not that, either. It is true that, for years, I go to pen & paper with less ease & readiness than once, and so I seem to neglect old friends when I have no such design. But the more immediate & special reason is, that, as you have another & more lively correspondent in this house, it seems really superfluous to burden you with another, - or, not to say burden, to take up the time with another. And to this conclusion I am the more impelled, when I think how numerous y^r. correspondents probably are in this country, and how much of y^r. days & eve^s. too must be consumed in y^r. endeavors to give a portion of the expected time to each. Then Ade. is so much better at recollecting and setting forth the ~~reminiscent~~^{little} incidents & matters which characterize our home country life, that I feel you will be the worse off, rather than the better, by my taking up the correspondent's rôle; - & so, one & another thing ^{has} deter'd me. - Yet I must not let you forget me, or imagine we don't, - all of us, - keep you in fresh remembrance. Particularly were we glad, when the news came that you had authorized Deborah to give up her return-ticket, & remain with her cousins in Ohio; (you know Mary Howitt wrote a book with that name;) - and that with reference to your visiting America again at a day not very remote. That is very good news to all who saw you here on your first visit, and will be, we are fain to ~~think~~^{hope}, not less pleasant to Deborah and to yourself, - in the actuality, - than your first visit.

The passage of the Irish Church Bill through the Lords was a remarkable circumstance & triumph: - I was often present at the latter and too late to speak.

I wish I could leave them the Dublin way on - Barnum's - I have not heard any mention of him -
said to be much improved in health. Ruth Roberts, or Dove, Weston is now in England - for a short visit. I hope you will meet Caroline Weston.

It is longer than usual since we have heard from Deborah.
Miss Sarah Pugh made us a visit of a day & night, a fortnight ago. We c^d. keep her no longer; so carried her over to Stephen Foster's and she passed an evening & night there; & then went on to Chas. Burleigh's at Northampton. I have had a very pleasant note from her since she got home. She is very full of the Woman Suffrage Movement, and particularly desirous to bring the Lucas Stone wing of that movement into harmony & active co-operation with the Mrs. Stanton & Susan B. Anthony wing. I don't believe that will be accomplished by any manipulation; - but I think it highly probable that all ^{public} criticism of each other will cease; and in course of time, perhaps, they will occasionally unite in public meetings. But there is a clear difference in their aims & methods. Lucy Stone relies mainly upon what we may call the old antislavery methods, - argument, appeal, persistent agitation, the essential justice & right of the cause. Mrs. Stanton, & Miss Anthony, - particularly the latter, - are for gaining their end, anyway; and so court politicians, & political parties, not matter how hollow & intriguing; - delighted beyond measure if they can get recognition in such quarters. ~~I don't expect~~ I don't expect the latter will change - and I devoutly hope - and believe - ^{that} Lucy Stone will not go over to any such methods. There is this danger in her case - that her husband is about as much of a "politician" - in the sense I have been trying to describe - as Susan Anthony herself, and is ready to help any political set who will promise to help him. He is a very weak brother, in my opinion, - although a man of many excellent qualities doubtless. But I have known Lucy Stone long - & always found her true & noble; - and also ~~feel~~ know that she has been educated in that excellent school - the antislavery Society's work - and I trust her

with him; - but wretched a fate; & the limit of our moral state, have I don't say "No!" -
should be glad to see him again. If you come back to America; surely he will slip over the Great Eastern way to see you! Mrs

I lately sent you, I scarcely know why, a quantity
of "Advertiser" slips, describing the "great" Musical Festival
in Boston, commemorative of the return of Peace, &c. &c.
I could not suppose you would be very much interested in
it, - far less read the half of it. However it went, and will
serve to amuse you for a few minutes, & show you that we
"meant well" - even if, as Garrison w^d. say, we "had poor luck."
It really was a great affair, in many senses; ten thousand Chorus
singers and eleven hundred musicians in orchestra, - including
the very best musical talent in America, whether native or
European. Ade and I were there at one performance, and were
exceedingly well paid for our time and pains in ^{going} ~~getting~~ there.
- I have been cutting out from papers a number of things, to be
sent to you; but most of them have lost their interest by the
weeks that have passed, & so I send only a couple - both from the
Worcester Spy, - a leading Republican paper of this State. You have
probably seen the whole of the article of W. Phillips, which is commented
on in the paper of June 12th. The other dates back to the time when
the London editors were pouring out the vials of their wrath upon
Charles Sumner for his speech against the treaty; - & expresses as
plainly & directly, as any one piece I saw, the general impression
here ~~of~~ ^{about} the tone of feeling & talk in England, & the reasons
for the outbreak of anger & defiance there. It was palpable
to nearly every person here that Mr. Sumner's speech was not
comprehended by the great majority of his critics, and probably
was not even carefully read by any one of those who were so loud
in their contempt and abhorrence. - I would like to have
you send the slip concerning W. Phillips & the Indians, when you
have done with it, to Mary Estlin, with my kin'd regards.

I am greatly obliged to you for the little volume of Cavour's
on Ireland. I have diff. mt. it, but not as yet given it a careful
reading, as 'tis my intent to do. The Latin races never seem to have
thought the races of Northern Europe worth much consideration or study; &
there seems something really original & surprising that an Italian sh^d. have
made this special study of Ireland & her people. - There appears to
be some new political phase about to develop itself in the Irish in this
country. They are largely (it is said) quitting the Democratic party, which
has befooled them from the first, and inclining to the Republican
ranks. I rather dread their becoming a power there. Certain
republicans, chiefly of the middle & western States, would be very willing

with him; - but miserable fate, & the limitation of our mortal state, have sternly said
I should be glad to see him again. If you come back to America, surely he will slip over the great pathway to see you!
No!
No!
No!

Will you please tell Richard when you write what it was by my visit & satisfaction to maintain a correspondence

to make use of the Irish hatred of England, to stir up bad blood, even to a war, provided it would carry them into power and profit. We shall be able to check-mate that infamous game, I think. — But England has got to pay for the damages done by the Alabama & other privateers fitted out in her ports, and re-fitting in them, to the very last dollar. There is not the least doubt about that; nor will there be the remotest chance for any stable and permanent peace between the two countries until England does pay that debt, & that without asking a shilling for her blockade-runners captured & confiscated. It is not a case for standing upon technicalities & legal phrases. What was the feeling, intent, action, of England towards this country? that is the question. Did she honorably observe her treaty obligations towards us? or did she lend her powerful aid to ~~our~~ Confederate enemies so far as she could, under her own laws, & under her own construction of those laws?

It is impossible for this country ever to have a cordial unity & alliance with England again, until ample reparation is made for all the mischief & loss occasioned by those vessels. The letter of Laird strengthens the American side of the question exceedingly. In so far as it establishes the point that all he & his partners did was strictly accord^d to English law, & done with knowledge of the English authorities, it helps us, by removing the controversy away from a private Co. of shipbuilders to the British Government itself, — where we have always believed it belonged.

The volume of Croker - Legends of Ireland - has amused us much. Several of the stories appear^d in American papers when I was a school-boy. I well remember the intense delight with which I read "Daniel O'Rourke" and "Master and Man", at that time of my life. The humour is so fine & so genuinely Irish; — I think these stories have never been excelled in that respect. —

We have been very sorry to hear from time to time how little you seem^d to get the better of the harm to your back. We hope to hear that the summer weather works a marvellous change. My own health has been quite indifferent all this Spring. So has Mrs. May's for 4 or 5 weeks past. We have our Georgia Freedman's teacher with us now; and our Seaside Society has determined to sustain her there another year.

I am, with best regards to Alfred - & to Richard when you write
Yours truly
Saml. May Jr

The passage of the Irish Channel will through the Lord's was a remarkable circumstance throughout the letter and my 100
Mrs. B. L. v. 10, p. 84
? No John Bright's