

Glasgow 11 April 1855 -

Dear Friend May -

Your letter informing me of my appointment to an Agency, reached me last Saturday - I improve the first return of Steam to me -

The form of my stay in this country, as an agent, would seem to require more attention, than it is probable can be expected of me. But you set all this matter at rest, by assuring me that I was still to make the restoration of my health a paramount object -

It was perhaps unto the note for me that the Advocate for Church contained so full an account of my

Lectures and labors - I perform-
ed all that & even more - But
it was overwork altogether.
And the weather was cold
beyond parallel almost, and
that for years had been one of my
grievances - I have not been
so well since February, and
have not held a public meeting
since leaving Manchester, ex-
cept the one here - and shall
not risk another for a month
perhaps - certainly ^{not} unless there seems
some special reason for holding
one -

My time however has not been
unemployed - Indeed most of my
severest labor is of a subterranean
character - At an instance we
have come very near an open
rupture about Fred. Douglass -
Mr. A. Channing & Russell Con-

Quarter of Bunker Lead, con-
trived a plan to get Douglass
eulogized in the A. S. Advo-
cate, at almost the utmost
hope of Anti Slavery - And we
had to write, I know not how
many letters among us all, to
smother down the paltry flame
before it should break out to
the gaze of the world. It was
most vexatious, as well as a
laborious piece of work to ac-
complish -

The London Conference
too made a good deal of this
cautious kind of work need-
ful - And the present course
of New Broad Street and its
Shiny Society, also keep
us most watchful - That
pretended Union was the
most dastardly attempt, to give
us the final, fatal stab even

Continued on conceived by Mon-
tal Mer. But I am hoping we
shall be able to show you ere long
that it was as signal in its failure
as it was infamous in its designs. &
we shall stand more firmly & trust
at last than we did before.

And then besides the contin-
ual correspondence, I am hold-
ing frequent private interviews
with Committees, Bazaar Circles
& Associations of that kind, which
tend I think greatly to our advan-
tage; as we go into all the diffi-
cult points, and have them as far
cleared up as possible. We had
one or two of these interviews at Ed-
inburgh, of which Miss Wigham has
written to Miss Estlin in very ex-
alted terms. Indeed I doubt
whether any public meeting we
could have held, would have re-
sulted in more real good.

And then an occasional call on a Minister or other influential person not much conversant with our Movement tends also at times to good results - so that you see much can be done in other ways than by public lectures - and indeed there is very much most important work that can only be done in more private ways -

But all this I was doing as far as possible, without thinking of an Agency appointment - My connection with the Cause is a voluntary one - & it is for life too - and I trust the consecration is without reserve - to do & suffer, when, & where, & what its true interests may require -

And I doubt not it was with
this view, that the Executive Com-
mittee have honored me with
this appointment. I feel flattered
with this new assurance
of their confidence ^{& regard.} I only wish
I had more vigour of body, more
culture of mind, as well as
the deeper sublimer training of
the spirit, for the high trust. But
such as the offering is, it is
most cheerfully laid on the altar.
I have done what I could, without
an appointment. In accepting
the trust now formally tendered
me, of course I can not do less.

And as to compensation, I was
only sorry my circumstances make
it needful for me even to think
of it. But in this instance I fear
the work done, will not equal
the proposed reward. The time how-
ever will not be long - for it

will be rather needful for me
to return in August - or at furthest
September - I should not
dare come, with my state
of health, too suddenly upon our
autumn & winter weather.

The disease with which I was
attacked at Bristol, was one
from which few ever wholly
recover - especially when it
happens late in life - Its effects
in my case, still linger, and
probably always will - But
I never mean to give way to
undue solicitude about it. Tho'
every physician who speaks
to me, counsels me to care.

I hope you will improve
every opportunity to advise
me, on every subject that
may demand my attention -
You will know how "Foreign Diplo-
macy" is sometimes abused.

So far as I advert here to pecuniary aid, it is always with reference to the Bazaar - And our few friends, (alack how few!) are still in good heart, and are already at work for next year. This very month I have been interrupted by a gentleman ^{a genuine abolitionist} who has come in to exhibit some magnificent stuffs for window curtains, precisely what they manufacture for the palaces in Portland Square & Piccadilly, which he proposes to ~~be~~ ^{sell} at cost prices for the Fair - & the Patrons say they will undertake the business in a way much to our advantage. And in other places too, I have seen the work going forward. I hope to be able to open a few new fountains, whose annual streams shall hereafter make glad our hearts and richer our Treasury. But you must not expect too much from my efforts.

[I thank you for the intelligence you give me on American affairs. You cannot be mistaken in your estimate of the Know Nothing influence.

And equally am I obliged for your friendly interest in the ^{matter of the} assault upon me in the N. Y. Independent. It has ever been my object in this country to give that paper the best name in my power. I have commended it from the Times to the Tweed & from the Tweed to the Massachusetts to the Liberator. I have told the people of Mrs. Stowe's connexion with it, and also of her brother's H. W. Tucker, as assurance that it is unlike most of our religious Journals. And now my reward is to be assailed in it, with a brutality almost unparalleled. I am charged with uttering "huge falsehoods!" I am called a "fool-mouthed reckless reviewer!" And then with equal coolness I am denied a hearing in vindication or explanation. If ever I uttered a "huge falsehood" when

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The Independent, ^{I fear} it was when calling
it a better, & more Christian paper,
than Bennett's Herald, or the New-
York Observer.

I never asked the London
Conference to believe one word a-
bout the American Board of Missions,
except as it came from their own
official Records & Reports. If these are
"huge falsehoods"; I am not responsible
for them.]

If you think the above,
as enclosed in brackets, worthy to go
into the Liberator, I wish you would
be so kind as to send it there. I should
like to say just this much, & no more
in the Liberator & Standard - And I
prefer that it go as an extract from
a private letter. If Mrs. Stone & Matt
Bucher let these articles pass un-
noticed, then my opinion of them is for-
feited. I have seen two of them in the
Independent - It seems to me the Stand-
ard is rather quiet over them.

I have just been looking over Doug-
lass's Lecture - He is sending to this
country, to persons who have discon-
tinued his paper. But the less no-
tice taken of him, the better for
us ~~and the better for the cause~~. Let his
name never appear in our papers
at all, & it would ^{be} the best dispo-
sal of him possible, for this side
the water. He is quite tender
of Mr. H. Seward now in the hands
of Witt Smith - He has got to se-
lect soon from Seward, Smith
& the Brown Brothers, whose man he
will be - It will try his mettle as
it had not been tried before.

I hope we shall have no
further trouble about Geo. Thompson.
He is wholly absorbed in the Peace
Cause now, & I hope will continue
to be, while in the hands of Sturge &
H. B. Wood. We are only
striving now to keep every door

that he may return without even
hassassment, when he is tired of
the company & camp of traitors - of
traitors sly & subtle as serpents.

I have sent Miss Martineau's account of the authoress of ~~the~~ June Eye to the Bogle. So now
said to read it, when you get the
London News. I am glad she lived
long enough to add this obituary to her
other wonderful writings. She is now
engaged I am told, on her own Autobiography.

Thanks My excellent friend for the parcel which you say is on its way to me I shall doubtless find it at Dublin when I shall be in a few days.

Poor Busleigh! He was a noble, truly noble spirit - and he has followed Walker while I am left. A year ago, who would have predicted it thus? So mysterious are our dispensations & disposals. But with my heart
entire & love to yourself & family, & also to
office friends & the Ex. Board - I subscribe
Ever most truly yours J. P. Wilson

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