

29 Charlotte Terrace, Brompton Road,
Islington, August 27th 1851

Dear Madam.

By this evening's post I have written to Mr. Estlin respecting the Bristol Anti Slavery meeting, the arrangements for which Mr. Thompson is anxious to have settled, so that it may be held before you leave ^{that city.} ~~Bristol~~ I know that ~~Mr. Thompson~~ ^{he} will be grieved if he misses the opportunity of meeting yourself and the members of your family ~~with you~~ in this country.

I am sure that you will be pleased to learn that Mr. Thompson has now held with his Constituents - viz public meetings, including an aggregate of at least ~~spaces~~ of 10,000 of the electors and non-electors, with only nine hands held up against him out of that large number of persons. His Lilliputian opposition was confined to one meeting - the last. You will no doubt enquire who are these opponents, and what are Mr. Thompson's sins in their eyes? ^{of antagonists} ~~They are~~ no doubt among that class called "influential men;" the disqualification of Mr. Thompson ^{to represent} ~~among~~ these "respectables" is two-fold - want of wealth and want of religious ^{memberships.} ~~connections.~~ The ~~weight~~ ^{lightness} of his purse has no doubt had much to do with this much talked of "dissatisfaction;" for rich constituents, even with Radical professions, are not content to forego the honor and pleasure of eating dinners at "the Mauler's" table; and soirees and balls are of more value than political integrity in the estimation of the wives and daughters of such demagogues. But that difficulty might have been got over, had it not been for the second and damning sin of Mr. Thompson in the eyes of the chief priests and rulers of the Tower Maulers, his refusal to become identified with, and subservient to, the dominant sectarianism of this country. Had he been a pliant conformist

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to ~~the~~ respectable Nonconformity, no doubt the riches
of his mind would have been admitted as a set-off
against the ~~poverty~~ ^{plainness} of his larder. Poverty will pass
muster in the circles of respectables, provided it can pay, as
the price of admission, talent and toadyism. We have had
abundant instances to prove, that the loss of the pecuniary
qualification does not exclude a man from association
with the great men of the Synagogue, provided the
absence of that main element of ~~social~~ ^{respectability}, standing is com-
pensated for by genius, even subservient to the will, and
available for the purposes, of the leaders of the Pharisees.
I dare say your own imagination will readily furnish
you with a remarkable specimen of this class, ^{as in a}
man, who by a little talent, great docility, ^{habitual} ~~solid~~ ^{solid} of
tongue to the rulers, ~~his~~ ceaseless activity in ^{spitting venom at, and} changing
blasphemy upon a ^{certain} great Reformer, and stirring up the
prejudices of the people to cry out "Away with him!
Away with him! Crucify him! Crucify him!" - by the
length of his prayers, and the breadth of his phylactery
in the market place - has not only managed to work
his way to the upper seats in the Synagogue, but in a
worldly point of view has by no means made a bad
thing of it. Well, these ~~rulers~~ ^{rulers} must have been sadly
deficient in capability of judging character, when they
imagined that a seat in Parliament would have brought
^{George Thompson} ~~down from~~ the high moral position he has so long
occupied, to bend his neck to the yoke of such a servile
dom. A man who ~~had~~ would scorn service in
Downing Street, is not likely to accept patronage in
Hackney.

It is curious to trace the close resemblance in the characteristics of pro-slavery men on both sides of the Atlantic. An evidence of this identity of character ^{and means} was observable in the Hackney meeting on Tuesday last. Episcopalian, Unitarian, and Independent were all bound together, in ~~the~~ ^{of sectarianism} common cause, The Deweys and the Springs were acting in loving and harmonious concert. Self-righteous Phariſeism was willing to join with infidel Sadduceism, in the endeavour to destroy the political life of the stern and intractable reformer, whose inflexibility disturbed the peace of their Israel.

You will not be surpris'd to learn that these respectables paid for their temerity. If their hides be not tougher than that of the rhinoceros, they must have suffered intensely under the flagellation they received. The self-sufficiency of Phariſeism is, however, I am quite aware, one of the most imperious things in nature. It may be that with some of these men, the keen sarcasm of Mr. Thompson falling upon obtuse intellects and chary hearts, produced no more effect than that which would be ^{put off} ~~produced~~ by chopping blocks with a razor. If there was no moral influence produced upon the actors, there was upon the spectators, by this ^{scene} ~~occasion~~. The Spartans produced a love of temperance in their youth by the disgust occasioned by the exhibition of drunken belots. In like manner Mr. Thompson may have induced a greater love of the paramount cause of humanity in the people of the Tower Hamlets, by exhibiting to them the ~~unusually~~

disgusting features of besotted sectarianism, of that spiritual drunkenness which extinguishes the divine image in humanity, and reduces men to a state of moral bestiality. I will not, however, occupy your time with the particulars of this meeting, as I propose to send a somewhat full report of it by the next mail to the Liberator, which will be read by you.

Mr Thompson has subsequently ^{to the meeting} received a letter from the Rev^d D^r Massie, who since the last election has ^{recently} become one of the Tower Hamlets constituency. It is a choice specimen of the peculiar insolence of priests, and that, too, of priests of the Puritanical order. His alleged statement of facts is so far from the truth, that had it been any one but a divine, we should not have hesitated to charge the writer with falsehood, but being an eminent minister ^{of the gospel}, we must give him the benefit of clergy, and use the milder phrase of negligence. I suggested to Mr Thompson the punishment of a polite acknowledgment of ^{the receipt of} the communication with a statement that a copy of it had been sent to the writer's wife. I know nobody better able to reply to such a letter than the noble and true-hearted Mr Massie. Mr Thompson's answer is a choice rare instance of that curious process of "skinning a doctor." Having waited ample time for a reply, the honorable gentleman has now laid a copy of the correspondence upon the table of his Committee, who are included in the insult, and who on their own account will probably hereafter take action upon it. You will most probably have an opportunity, in the columns of the Liberator of seeing the Epistle of Massie to Thompson and the commentary of the latter thereupon. The Alliance creatures are at their dirty work again. The reception given to D^r Baird from America, and the applause bestowed upon his pro-slavery speech in that

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assembly of divines, almost leads one to paraphrase the words of Christ, and exclaim, "How hardly shall they that be priests enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." The flippant attack upon Mr. Thompson by the Rev. John Angel James, D. D. was as disgraceful to the divine as it was cowardly in the man. He would not have dared to utter it in an assembly where Mr. Thompson would have had an opportunity of replying to him. I wish we had an Anti Slavery organization in London that would bear the expense of a meeting in Birmingham, at which the Doctor might be challenged to meet some of his fellow townsmen, and justify his statements face to face with our friend; as Dr. Hardlaw was challenged for his statements in the Evangelical Alliance in 1846.

Mr. Thompson touched lightly upon Douglass's letter the other evening at the Hackney meeting; he will dissect it more completely upon some future occasion.

Mr. Thompson will preside at a Grand Banquet and Fete of the Exhibitors of all Nations at Gore House, Kensington, on Tuesday next. The Vice President will be the representative of the one of the greatest manufacturing districts in England, Birmingham. The members for the Tower Hamlets will also be supported by some of the most distinguished men from all parts of Europe. This will furnish a practical answer to the American pro-slavery statements of the lowest caste forced upon him by his countrymen and the world.

On Monday last I had the gratification of meeting Miss Pease at Mr. Thompson's house. She has very kindly offered to aid Mr. Thompson in his endeavour to procure the means of education for the fugitive slave youth. Charles B. Sumner, who has ~~now~~ been for some

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time domiciled under his roof.

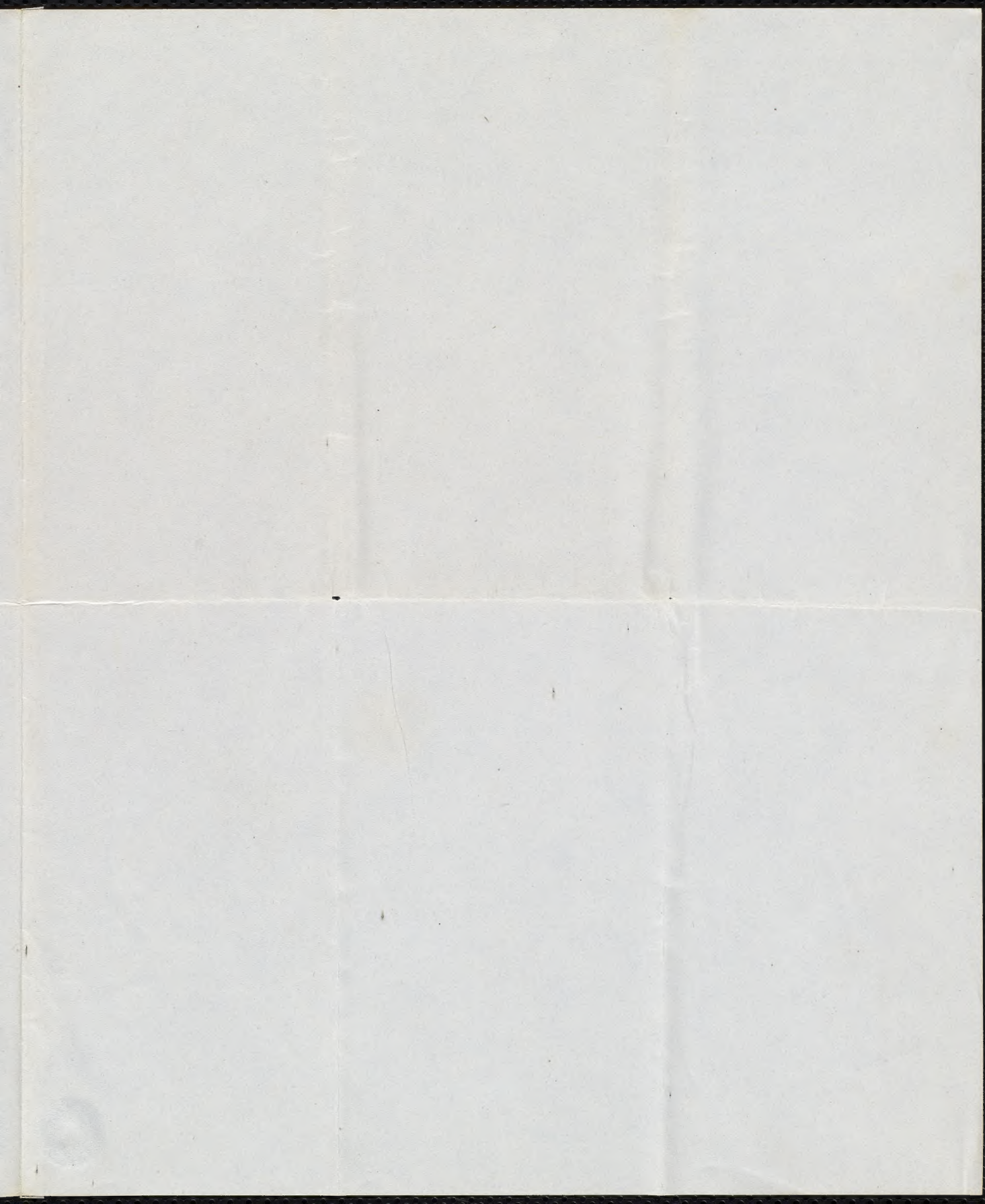
You have no doubt received the communication of Miss Thompson's marriage. I have just risen from breakfast with the bride and bridegroom, who returned last night from their tour in the South of England, and who proceed to-day to Manchester, where Mr^{rs} Nosworthy will be installed into her domestic dignity, and be invested with that authority — always an object of ambition with young ladies — "the power of the keys."

Apologizing for having trespassed at such length upon your patience

I remain, Dear Madam

Yours very truly
H. Hamer

M^{rs}. M. W. Chapman.



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