

Dublin, 11th of December - 1869

Dear Miss Maternal W. Parkins

I despise the Republic - I hate the
President - and I love the Republican
postage stamp. It is always the herald
of good things. When I opened your letter
the other day - (a little sooner with a dreadful
deal of stuffing) my first reflection was "what
can have come over" Mademoiselle Caroline
that she calls me "Dear Mr Will" - after two
pages of our excellent friend Mr Little's
printed when he writes to me - and then I thought
she must have got a very good pen the writing
was so pretty - and then I looked to the
end and behold there was your dear maternal
so politely expressed, leaving out one third of
your name in deference to my lack of memory
that I might not feel rebuked. I assure you
I fell a little conceited to think that I had
added another volume to my list (it is a very
little one) of my correspondents. If you
only knew what great people I thought you
ten years ago - and now are you not aware
that family's breed contempt? You
may make your mind quite easy about
Mr Eddy. She shan't touch you. I write
to her the very day I get your letter - and

I apologized for the lateness of my reply to
his note by declaring that it had been
delayed by Nobody's fault - and as Nobody
has had such an immensity of peccadilloes
imputed to him from the foundation of the
world, he is well able to bear this little
addition to his load. This ~~little~~ letter can
hardly be the additional feather that is
to break the camel's back. It would be so
lawful for you and me if ^{we} had Nobody no-
longer to accuse for our sins of corruption
and mischief. Was I not very prompt
in sending off my reply to Mrs Eddy the day
I got her letter - I thought it would ease
your mind, you seemed to labour under such a
load of remorse - and beside the pleasure
of exercising and displaying my own mag-
nanimity I had the satisfaction of showing
the lady that no matter how remiss ~~she~~
Nobody might be, I was myself a pattern
of most constant attention to my corre-
spondents. I am greatly gratified by your
assurance that my letters are welcome - I
cannot do less than say that you are
heartily welcome to them, more especially
as you find such peace in them that it
would take me now so long before I could
find them myself. I write with all the
more pleasure that having seen you and heard

we talk so much and so unreservedly,
you are still ready to put up with me. This
puts me on very good terms with myself,
seeing that whether you be or not the people
I take you for, I am exceedingly satisfied
with what I have seen - and shall be humbly
thankful and very grateful for every fresh
opportunity of renewing and deepening my
acquaintance. You see it is a great
pleasure for me. From my early childhood
I had a great tendency to form strong attachments
- and I have a good deal of the Irishman
in me) and many that I justly loved &
loved me - and some few have been
estranged by my Abolitionism. Even in
their countries neither man or woman can
think highly of Garrison and say so without
some disadvantage accruing in a worldly
way. It cannot therefore surprise you
that I who have thought more of the Anti
Slavery cause than of any other subject
for many years past, should feel honored
and delighted by the friendship and kindness
of so many who have been amongst its
ablest and most unswerving supporters &
advocates. This being the case I cannot
look on you as strangers or your letters as
those of chance acquaintances. No indeed.

my heart warm to you and to all that
belong to you. When I was in Paris I often
thought you must have considered me very
foolish - my tongue ran on so about old scenes
and old friends that I had not talked of
for ever so long. It seemed as if I could say
any thing to you and so I made you acquain-
ted with even my dead friends, as if you
ought to participate in my recollections of
them.

Now I suppose this is all rather
ridiculous - but I learn it as best it, and
if you should laugh over it, your health
will be undoubtedly the better for the exercise.

It is several days since I wrote the above
beautiful effusion. We have now for our guest
my mother's young lady from the west of Ireland
- a Miss Henrade whom I am sure your father will
remember as an anti-slavery contributor from her
rickonhammas. She is a nice little body - an
only child - and a great devotee of Douglass.
Her acquaintance with him is entirely in con-
sequence of our American sympathies. She
is spending a while with us which under the
dentists hands. She has discovered a gentle-
man who is going to Paris and as he has a
letter there, a particular friend of her father's
she offers to send a letter for me to his friend
care - and for this reason I am now about
to finish you off. It would be gratifying to you to
know the particular occasion which led to this
catastrophe.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 24. 17

Some time ago in a ¹¹⁵⁰⁰ ¹¹⁹ methodical newspaper that
I found and therefore must read I met with
a glorification of your Adolphus legend - so that
his name is not new to me. It must be a
delightful thing to be otherwise provided even
think your self in a state of peace and that
you are not endowed with such a feeling
would be to feel particularly anxious about
your friends who are not in the same boat
with you. I am utterly unable to comprehend
how the righteous manage to keep their
heads cool on this point - if they truly believe
what they profess and believe they believe.
Being a very voracious reader I have had a
deal of religious reading and thereby of late.
In the first place the lady article in the
last Edinburgh Review is more than com-
monly able and interesting and has excited
considerable attention. Could not you
get it at Glasgow or read it - Your mind
being made up I need not want to know your
opinion - but I would greatly like to know
Caroline's view of it if she care to look at
now. I think it is powerful against the
Parkerite and in proof of the New Testament
Miracles - but it don't appear to me to do
more than assume the inspiration of the
New Testament scriptures - and on the inspired
text of New, the whole structure of facts in the
old Testament rests. I believe this a great deal of

the Old Testament. It seems to me to be full
of immorality, cruelty, and extravagance.
Much of the Psalm are recited with their
curse and bitterness. I think it would be
impossible to make me patient with the Old
Testament; for ~~that~~ those who plead for Slavery
in the Old Testament ground have the best of the
argument. I have just finished reading
Southey's life of Wesley. You know Southey was a
church man and therefore by no means disposed
to swallow his hero whole - nevertheless he describes
him as a perfect miracle of energy, indefa-
tigable earnestness for the good of others - cheerful,
light hearted, ~~clever~~, honest, and devoted.
He was a marvellous man and a real saint,
notwithstanding a fair share of mental imperfec-
tions. He is certainly credulous, purity of heart
and life, and natural gladness I was sometimes
reminded of Jeremiah. There is however something
extraordinary in the industry of unflinching energy
with which he laboured from 23 to 86 - while
I have heard Jeremiah remarked as possessing
shaltly after the death of his child Charles
Fulling, Jeremiah wrote a long letter (20 pages of
letter paper) to Elizabeth Pease detailing particularly
and entirely very ~~for~~ thoroughly into the change
in his religious opinions which has taken place
so decidedly of late. I was lately so fortunate
as to meet quite accidentally at a tea party with
Eliza Wigham, Sec. to the Edinburgh Ladies A.S.S.

She is staying with a widowed sister in Dublin -
who never cultivated our acquaintance, chiefly
I believe on account of our reputation as
heretics. It seems I was greatly pleased to meet
with Eliza who is a remarkably sweet person -
and all the more her admiration because,
being orthodox - she is still a staunch firm
some one. I think it a sign of great moral
courage to stick to the standards of one whom you
look on as doomed to damnation. It was from
her I heard particulars of the letter to E. Pease
and then I told her I would write for a loan of
it. She thought I was not likely to succeed
- so I wrote - and had a letter from E. P. - yesterday
saying that George Thompson had had it for a
momentarily long time - but that she would write
to James Wigham (Wm. French sister of Eliza
Wigham Stephens) to write to him to send
it to me. Things are changed when Eliza both
Pease and I know where G. Thompson lives.
I imagine George is a good deal swallowed up
by his parliamentary pursuits - and his not
much time for his old friends. John Murray
son wrote to me that George never witnessed the death
of his father who was one of his old strong friends
- and Eliza Wigham remembered that when in
Edinburgh he never came near them. I look on
it as most unlikely he will visit the United States
in the hope of doing next year. Although I have
often met with J. T. I never heard any of his fresh
bursts of eloquence on Slavery - the best speech
I ever heard from him was on Temperance - I never

saw him rapt by opposition which always call
him out. I have heard nothing from W.W.
Barnes for a long time - I heard of him that
he was shortly expected in Darlington on his way
to Newcastle. He was in nearly 200 dollars
for an edition of his book and is I suppose
unwilling to correspond till he sends us part
of the money. The letters from home came first
to Dublin & I proved them to London - from
where they are I suppose sent after him. I
heard nothing from and so little of him, I am
unable to inform you as to his success hitherto.

Will you thank Mrs. Follen from us for her
kind letter which I was glad to get. Her expe-
rience among the upper class of Unitarian mi-
nisters is what I would have expected. Nothing
was disputed in more in this way than a letter
which James Martineau wrote to the "Editor
of Bristol" - it was as shamefully proslavery
and true as any they have heard the
atlantic and from Harriet Martineau's brother
too! How dare I suppose that priests and
professors are ready to write it all kind of
vice & crime provided they be wrapped up under
the covering of slavery? You may also tell her
that Joseph B. has returned from the United
States where he travelled through New York, Ohio
& parts of Illinois & Wisconsin. He is delighted with
the country, its institutions, & recommends all
that can to run away out of their island as
they are by a "rude, tyrant, pharisee, heartless
aristocracy" He adds that the U.S. has made him more
friendly into antislavery than ever.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 24. 11