

G. Thompson, J. Sturge, Dr. Lowe  
in Edin's illness, French politics,  
(Very interesting)

Dec. 1853

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Paris.

1853.

Dear Mr. Estlin.

I shall not  
pretend to describe the pleasure  
that your letter gave to us  
all. Had I ever experienced  
any repugnance to growing  
old, this promise which you  
accord to Simony, of being the  
first woman here, would reconcile  
me at once. But I never felt  
it, while my infant children  
on the contrary have always  
manifested it. Thus, & so many  
other constitutional, or more  
properly speaking Physiological  
phenomena, afford a subject for

\* He has already had a Coffee Party before his  
St. Marks Exam

the Ethnologist. This reminds  
me to say that I have  
spoken to Mr. Isaac Geoffroy  
St. Helene, about a course of  
lectures which Professor Serres is  
about to deliver on Physiology  
at the Jardin des Plantes.

It can be made the vehicle  
of extirpating the heresy of  
Agassiz, who has been ponder-  
ing to the United States by  
asserting that the "unity of  
the human race" is a mere  
chimera. Knox's book too,  
(the old Burke - cleared  
only from the charge by  
an allegation of ignorance)  
will come under Examination

It is said Knox is a good anti-  
onist. I wish I could get  
his book, & Agassiz's lectures  
or papers on the subject.  
If there is in Bristol or  
London an Ethnological  
Society, I wish I knew its  
address, - for on me falls  
the task of supplying <sup>the foreign</sup> Am-  
eritians.

One excellent friend  
Mr. Charles L. Honey, whose  
name you will have so of-  
ten seen in the Liberator as  
one of our board of Officers  
of the Mass. A. S. Society, & so  
liberal a benefactor of the cause  
freemasonry, is to take this letter

to England. If your health &  
convenience should allow  
you to see him, which  
he greatly desires should  
the length of his stay permit,  
a word to him as to the  
probable place where these  
books are to be found will  
be a great obligation to me.  
Mr Honey is a man of the  
rarest integrity & his connections  
& our friend of many years,  
with whom your name is  
a household word. I hope he  
may have the satisfaction of  
a single look at you.

I am sorry to see dear  
George Thompson glowing on

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temptations of the good to grow  
out of the opening of Lec-  
ker meeting houses. No wonder  
it looks so to him. Fifteen  
years ago, when he proposed  
to J. Sturge to form Societies  
in alliance with the "British  
& Foreign," it would have been  
advantageous, had Sturge had  
the grace to accept the propo-  
sition. But being graceless (as  
he still continues), he refused; al-  
leging that George's forthright  
ways of proceeding "would alienate  
from us the very classes of  
persons we wished to gain. Now  
beaten & in disgrace, his  
Cobden-machinery broken un-  
der him like a bladder  
he thinks to use George, while  
George thinks to use him.

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You know, my dear friend,  
how these political measures  
strike me, & that I think  
a new era has come in  
diplomacy: - that the time  
has arrived for calling in-  
famy infamous: - to speak  
to the world & not to a sect.  
George has paid too dear for  
having the Snake do as Spence.  
Nonsense I know his honest  
heart & that he will soon  
become "a man of no weight" again  
with them. Do you remember  
how Oliver Cromwell saying  
in one of his councils "we  
did examine with prayer  
what times the candle of

the Lord did cease to shine  
upon our heads; & it did  
clearly appear to be from the  
time of our cursed Carrel  
conferences with the King's  
party." You see I am  
just as set in my way  
as our Yankee tongue hath  
it on these matters as ever.  
Quite as much as you  
on the biological questions;  
& nothing less than the  
whole truth will appease me.

"A meetin'-house ant Sotter."  
(i.e. More set - more decided. This  
is a favourite N. England Location  
J. R. Lowell pushed it into one  
of his Yankee ballads. The poor  
poet has lost his wife: a charming  
person - a terrible loss to us all.

they crossed three weeks  
here together last year.  
Such pleasant, happy creature  
I hear very often from  
Mrs. Stone. She seems to have  
her face grown - well: -  
asks the address of your  
friend - means to go & see he  
means to buy up all our  
photographs of monuments of  
Paris which went three weeks  
ago - means to give \$100.  
to the fair. This does not  
look like chittanantism, does  
it? Did you see that she  
had carried an extraneous subject  
into the Liberator - a reply to  
C. K. W.'s criticism on Edward  
Becker's defense of the Character  
of God?

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all things go on here  
 in the same despokeish-  
 ion. We have a very dear  
 friend in prison. - arrested three  
 days ago. War Resistance &  
 famine are hovering over  
 the land. For the moment  
 war becomes the only bond of union  
 to the six <sup>uncourteously</sup> parties, this wretch will  
 take or make a pretence for  
 war. All this building in Paris  
 is mere Architectural Amusement,  
 the temporary feeding of a  
 few masons. It appears from  
 the facts examined, that there  
 is not at this moment iron  
 enough in the world, to supply  
 the daily need. Even a despot  
 at the head of a great nation  
 can't get iron for the roof of

the source as fast as he  
wants it. So there shall  
at least be free trade in  
Iron. I wonder how much  
Mr Grant pays his Paris  
Correspondents for their Inven-  
tations. I know men here  
who could give him better  
matter, in the same potential  
sense in which the present  
matter is written. An English-  
man can never get at the  
real roots of things here.

Will you pardon, dear  
Mr Estlin, such an illegible  
letter. The opportunity for  
writing coming suddenly upon  
me, I hastened to improve it

with too much speed.

I long to come to England  
for the pleasure of seeing  
you in conversation. I

long to go to America.

But I do more for the cause  
here as yet. Henry has  
decided to go to China. I

shall not see him for a  
year or two then, — that in-  
crement to go exists no longer.

He will be in the east, if  
I go to the West. I go the  
farther from the news of  
him. All my family  
write in the most cordial  
& grateful respect, & agree  
with me very often with  
in your own hand. Do not

I entreat, fatigue yourself  
for us or for any one.  
I am looking forward  
to the decade meeting  
with much interest.

Ever yours, dearest A. G. H.

With tender respects

W. Chapman