

A

Boston, Massachusetts, March 7.
1848.

J. Douglass
Mr. Estlin

Dear Mr. Estlin,

I do not write to you one half so often as I would like to do, and as I try to do; but time does fly so, and the demands upon it are so numerous, that I am often baulked in my plans. I hope however to make out a letter, of suitable length at least, this time; though between now & the packet-day (next Saturday, 11th) I have to go to Fall River, about 60 miles distant, to attend a County Antislavery Convention, prepare and send forward an Antislavery box to Rich^d D. Webb, and aid the Ladies in a new demonstration, of which more anon, besides meeting, as I best may, ~~the~~ my ordinary office-duties.

I rejoiced to tell you that we have both the Bristol boxes, intended for the Fair, safe and sound at last. The one sent by the first ship came last to hand, viz. a fortnight ago last Monday. We had almost made up our minds we should never see it. The Antislavery Women here determined to have a Special Exhibition and Sale of the contents of these boxes, and of some of the more beautiful & valuable articles remaining unsold from the Christmas Bazaar. This Exⁿ. & Sale commences tomorrow, at the office of the Massachusetts Antislavery

Society, which has been given up pretty ^{to come,}
much to the Ladies for a week or 10 days,
much to the discomfiture of Mr. Wallcut,
whose operations of mailing & sending out the
Liberator are quite thrown into confusion.
Still I must say he bears it with much
patience. The expense of hiring a room
is saved by this movement. This afternoon
we have been taking the various articles from
the boxes (where they were re-placed after the
first unpacking) and arranging them on the
shelves, tables, walls, &c. so that the A.S. Office
is quite metamorphosed into a sort of compound
of Fairy-retreat, Variety Shop, & Magasin des modes.
Mrs. Chapman said, as one after another of
the beautiful articles were opened, that no
box could have been prepared with greater
judgment and taste. They seem to be very
well adapted to the Boston market. Now, if
we only had an easy money-time, instead
of the severe pressure which still continues!
Mrs. Chapman never fixes her mark low,
I think she hopes to take a thousand dollars.
If \$500. can be taken, I think we
shall be most successful. You shall duly
learn how we succeed.

~~In the first receipt by you sent me~~

engraved portrait of yourself to Mr.
William Ware & Andrews & says you
have no right to a copy, and as you have
done me so many favours, I know, how I
may reach disappointed to find one for
myself and when the other box was opened,
and I found none there either, I was almost
grieved. I am sure, no one on this side the
water would make a better copy of you than
those I should. Mrs. Garrison not only
pronounced it a capital likeness, but
and retained a sufficiently distinct recollection
of your countenance to feel quite sure of it,
and your friends think it so good. If so,
will you not, when good occasion offers, send me
one?

Speaking of portraits, I see Abby
Kelley Foster's in the last received number of
Howitt's Journal. It is pretty accurately engraved
from the lithograph, which itself does not do
justice to her, by the way. It is good enough,
^{viz. the one in Howitt}
to be generally recognised here, by her friends.

I send you by this Steamship a "Christian
World", in which you will find an article you
will recognise. I thought your suggestions
1. as to its publication, 2. as to the vehicle thereof, 3.
as to its strictly anonymous character, very proper,
as did also Mr. Clarke (Editor of the World)
and you will find it, I believe, in all these

particulars, conformed to your wishes. I
was very glad to get it. Mr. Garrison
tells me he shall ~~find~~ make room for it in
the Liberator, albeit there is a tremendous
pressure of ^{other} important Antislavery matter. ~~Was~~
Dr. Hutton has written me, by last Steamship,
a long letter on this very subject! He expresses
warm concurrence in the ~~general~~ Antislavery
principles & positions generally — but sharply
censures the bestowment of G. E. E.'s article into
the Refuge of Oppression by E. Quincy! This letter
is evidently intended for publication, and I have
handed it to Mr. Garrison to print, if he sees fit.
I am sorry Dr. Hutton's vision is no clearer —
with all respect & deference would I say it.
He cannot bear to give up Ellis, and the
ministerial fraternity! He defends Ellis from
Quincy's censorious abuse!! Very few men,
with whom I have met here, defend that
letter of Ellis's. Antislavery, and anti-Anti-
Slavery people, have alike expressed either
disgust or regret at the letter, and at Ellis's
terrible indiscretion, to say the least of it. I am
told, — I know not how truly — he is somewhat
ashamed of the article himself. I am, on this
account also, particularly glad to have got your
letter into the "World". A copy of said paper I
have also prepared to send to Dr. Hutton.

2nd

A

Wednesday eveg. March 8th —

A few lines to-night. — Mr. Garrison expressed to me to-day his cordial respect for the ~~kind~~ good spirit in which Dr. Hutton's letter to me is written. He will doubtless publish it, with some comments. He says, "Dr. Hutton labors under one great difficulty, which prevents his forming an accurate judgment in any case of the kind in question — viz. (to use Garrison's own language) Dr. H. doesn't believe in such a being in the world as a sinner; — He believes no man does wrong intentionally & from choice; — his philosophy is that of the Robt. Owen School, &c. &c."

I spoke of ~~sending~~ being about to send an Anti-Slavery box to care of Rich. D. Webb. It is mainly occupied with copies of the Annual Report of the Mass. Anti-Slavery Society, drawn up by E. Quincy. I have sent a number of copies to your address. Also for your care, and, in part, acceptance, some other pamphlets; copies of Wm. W. Brown's Narrative, sent by ~~himself~~^{desire}; and a couple of volumes for your family from myself.

I hope you have received a parcel which I sent to you in the box containing Liberty Bells &c., which went about 1st of February to R. D. Webb's care. That box was packed in a terrible ^{hurry,} owing to the delay of the printer of the Bazaar Gazette, containing Wm. Chapman's Sketch of the Fair.

I have twice received letters from you, since I last wrote to you, viz. one of Jan 2^d, rec^d. Feb. 1st; the other of Jan. 28, & a few days preceding, rec^d. about the middle of February; the latter contained your article, which you will see in the "Worlds." On Saturday last, at the same time with receiving Dr. Hutton's letter, I rec^d. Miss Carpenter's, dated Bridgewater Jan. 26. I have written to her in reply, and the letter goes in the box, which will leave this port ^{in the "Ocean Monarch"} advertised ^{to sail on} the 10th (day after tomorrow); - this is the Ship, one of Train's line of Boston & Liverpool packets, in which Mr. Hincks crossed the Atlantic. He much liked the Ship. These vessels have usually made very quick passages, and I prefer them for freight, in all ordinary cases, to the Steamers; - I do not know but I should also prefer them for passage.

Mr. Martineau's letter to Mr. James (copy) I left in care of Rev. J. F. Clarke, not to be published. I have not seen him to learn his opinion of it. I read it with a ^{wonder} ~~surprise~~ & sorrow I could not control. Should I not also say, in honesty, with ^{Hardly that, either.} indignation? It seems to me his view of Slavery greatly weakens, if it do not quite destroy, all moral responsibility on the part of the American people, for the continuance - to say nothing of the fostering & extension - of Slavery in the country. A copy of this letter

somehow got into one of your Bristol boxes, and is now in Mrs. Chapman's hands, I hear.

You spoke of your intention, or thought, to send me a copy of a work called the "English Gentlewoman", and think that my wife and myself would be very much amused with it. Perhaps so; I should like to see it, not merely, or chiefly, to be amused. Such works, however, entering a good deal into the minutiae of manners, dress, conversation, &c. prescribing laws or rules of ^{social} etiquette, &c. are not unknown amongst us. The ^{second} wife of Prof. Farrar published such a one some years ago, which was said to be a good deal made up from English works on the subject. Mrs. F. was a New Bedford lady, Potch by name. She passed many years in England, where a brother of hers lived, & perhaps lives still, as a merchant or banker in London. Her book made a great talk 15 years ago, but I have not heard it named for a long time. We should be much pleased, & obliged to you, for a sight of the work you name.

The packages of "Chamber's Miscellany" (six volumes), so kindly forwarded to my children, came safely to hand, ~~withstanding~~ ^{after} their hazardous & protracted voyage. They are a very welcome & valuable addition to our library, and the children, as well as ourselves, enjoy the reading of them highly. They are admirably got up,

in all respects. We have also "Blandino",
(Ch.'s edition), very neat & pretty, and a moder-
ately good tale, though wanting many of the
characteristics of Miss Edgeworth's earlier and
invaluable books for children. I was also
very glad to get the volume you sent me of
Barker's Library.

I read to Mr. Deincy the passages in
your last letter of approval of his editorial
course in several instances, and of your regret
at parting with him in that relation, and
he was evidently gratified thereat. He has
had a good deal of obloquy, and scandalous
misrepresentation to bear, on account of his
fearless course as Editor - or, as Dr. Hutton
calls him, Mr. Garrison's "locum tenens."

I showed him Dr. H.'s letter also. He took it
very quietly.

Miss Lepton at Huddersley, Leeds, will, I
trust receive the Lib. duly. It will be
forwarded. In reply to your inquiry, I say
10/ does cover the cost of the Liberator, with
sufficient remaind. It is all that has ever
been charged, I believe, to foreign subscribers. In
regard to your 2 other inquiries, my answer is,
A good way of sending money from your country to
this is by a draft on a good London banker; they
are readily cashed here for their full value.

3 A

A great deal of money, in small sums, goes from this County to Ireland, through Harnden & Co. They draw bills (on Liverpool, I think) in sums from £1. upwards, and great numbers of them are purchased at the rate of \$5. for a £1. Perhaps they do the same for those wishing to send the other way. Your sovereigns are cashed here for \$4.80 to \$4.85. - I can hardly say answer your other question as to the way in which you could send occasionally a little parcel to me, without extravagant charge. I have tried several ways; - to send through Chapin & Munroe is rather expensive, but not very bad. I would suggest your trying the following way, viz. Address me, care Samuel May Esq. 1 Broad St. Boston, and send to A. Taylor & Co, Liverpool, who are correspondents of my brothers, in their business. If the Land-carriage charge is not high, I think the rest ~~will~~ ^{will} not be. The parcel should be marked to come by Train's Line to Boston.

Friday Eveng. Mar. 10.

Yesterday morning, I took an early Train of Cars (1/4 to 8 o'clock) for Fall River, whence I returned this morning. It rained all day yesterday, and so again to-day. This was not very favorable to our meeting there, which, nevertheless, was a ^{pretty} good one. To-day the body of Mr. John Q. Adams reached this city. It was met by ~~a large~~ the City Officers, with a large Military Escort, and taken through the principal streets to Faneuil Hall, where it will remain till tomorrow, when it will

be removed to Quincy, ^{& his father's,} the place of his residence,
(formerly a part of the town of Braintree) and there
at length consigned to rest. The papers teem
with eulogies of him - the pulpits have been vocal
to his honor; though instances are not wanting
of a more discriminating survey of his life and
character. Theo. Parker delivered ~~also~~ a Discourse
of this kind, which is to be published ('tis said) in
his quarterly, and of which a very fair Newspaper
report has already appeared.

I am sorry that Mr. Taggart thinks my
remarks on Mr. Eliot of St. Louis savored of an
illiberal spirit, & did Mr. E. injustice. I am
constrained to differ with him, believing that I did
Mr. E. not the slightest injustice, supposing (as I
had a right to suppose) that the representation of his
purchase of the slave-woman, as given by his personal
friends, in a public meeting, was a correct representation.

It turns out, however, that it was not a correct
representation, and that the facts are, none of them,
so unfavorable as was supposed, and that some of
them are creditable to ^{Mr. E.'s} ~~his~~ generosity. As you see the
"Standard", you will perceive that I ~~have taken~~ took
an early opportunity to correct the impression which
had gone out, when I learned that Mr. Eliot had
written a private letter, to his intimate friend J. F.
Clarke, explanatory of the ~~matter~~ transaction. Abolitionists
have no occasion, had they the desire, to misrepresent
or exaggerate any man's position or opinions. There are
plain, flat, undeniable facts, - and their number
constantly enlarging - of political time-serving, cringing,
and corruption - of clerical servility & cowardice - of

pro-slavery in all departments of society - enough of them to make the coinage of new ones quite unnecessary. And abolitionists certainly know enough, not to coin or exaggerate facts, were there no other consideration to restrain them than the impolicy of so doing. With all due respect, I think Mr. Tugart does not place himself, or his children, in the slave's position.

I expect that a friend of mine, an Abolitionist, & a Unitarian minister, will be in London the latter part of this month or the first of April. I speak of John Parkman, Pastor of the Un. Society, Dover, N. Hampshire. He is a nephew of the Rev. Francis P. - but totally unlike him. I am very desirous he should visit Bristol - have urged him to do so; if he does, he will probably call upon you with a letter of introduction. I should like to have him see Messrs. A. & J. He will also have letters of introdⁿ. to several persons in London from Mr. Garrison. This fact shows "he is not ashamed" of the truth & its most fearless defenders. Mr. P. has been nearly 2 yrs. abroad with his mother, wife & children. Their eagerness to get home may prevent their visiting Bristol. If you do see him, you will not find him, I am sure, prepared to justify his Uncle's course, though very naturally he may not like to say much on that topic.

The story of a "quarrel between Garrison & Douglass" is, as we say here, made out of whole cloth. (is this an English phrase?) There has been no quarrel whatever, nor any symptoms of any. F. D.'s paper is good proof of this. He transfers a good deal of Liberator matter to his columns. He has been to Boston twice or thrice this winter, and is most cordial towards us all, Mr. Garrison included; and has no reason to be otherwise; for I am sure he has no warmer friends in the world than Mr. Garrison, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Jackson, &c. &c. Mrs. Dilwyn is entirely in an error.

I am sorry I cannot give you some satisfactory answer to your inquiries about Andrew Jackson Davis's "Revelations". It is an enormous volume of some 800 pages, 8vo., and I have no time, had I taste, for such books. Another vol. of similar size is announced to follow. The work has not been received here with favour from those whose judgment & good sense I should be most ready to confide in. Garrison has lately commenced the "careful reading" of it. I anticipate a warm commendation of it from him - not that I would undervalue his good sense and judgment, which I think are of rare excellence in all practical matters. But Mr. G. (I think) has a ready credulity on all subjects pertaining to spiritualism, spiritual existences, &c. If a man comes to me with Revelations, I confess I want to know what ground there is for confidence in his pretensions, besides his own assertion. I do not think I could read Davis's book with benefit, for I do not believe in his claims. There is ^{with us} a large class of readers, of honest minds, without hypocrisy, sincere, tired of hollow mummeries, of priestly cant, of barren creeds, who eagerly catch up any thing of this kind. This class is increasing fast amongst us. They are disciples of Phrenology, of Pathetism (don't ask me the meaning of every thing I write) of Clairvoyance, of Homeopathy or Hydropathy in medicine, of Rationalism in Religion [I have a kindly feeling, myself, to Homeopathy]. - I have sent you, in the box, a few copies of a paper published in New-York by these kind of folks - called the Universal, - new ideas demand new words, you are aware!

The Mail arrangements between the 2 countries are to undergo some farther change, it is said. At present, Saturday is the established sailing-day from both sides - once a fortnight now, alternately from Boston & N. York - once every week, after the 1st of April. I have heard that Wednesday was to be the day, from this side.

And you are already at work for our next Bazaar! ^{with affectionate} respect, Yrs. J. May Jr.

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 2, p. 69