

Dublin, April 20. 1853

Dear Mrs Chapman - I am sorry
you are dissatisfied with my letter
in the Standard, in defence of those
whom Jay accused of unmitigated
stubbornness in objecting to had. Haefler
brays Address - my own opinion
being that they were and are sincere
in their opinion that the Address was
unfavourably worded. I do not think
it inevitable that if you have good
reasons for objecting to much that people
can do, you are likely to be right
in invariably ascribing every thing they
do to a bad motive. In that letter
I expressed no sentiment that I have
not always felt and expressed - and
I think some of the words I used were
not likely to be thought of as having
by the Broad View people who might
happen to see them. I admit Mr. En-
say about the evils that Bigotry brings
in his train - but I should deny the con-
demn of my sense if I were to conclude
that bigoted people are altogether evil.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 27. 25

People who do mean or cruel things occa-
sionally are not always devils. It was
always my belief that the great agent of
hierarchy in New Broad St was Scoble, and
that bigotry, inequality, floor of power found
convenient tools in those such as he,
who left it to him to do better much as he
pleased. and whose narrowness and horror
of heresy he took care to foster and affea-
rate by every means he could think of.
I think the present Secretary is generous,
liberal & well disposed - ^{as} confiding and really
desires to do good, as his predecessor was
crafty and unscrupulous. Scoble was
in my opinion actively malicious & his
employers ~~actively~~ ^{actively} ~~believed~~ ^{believed} so.

Nevertheless I do not hope a great deal
from any thing Mr Cham^r can do - the
best prospect is to prevent action unjustly
being done to the cause. Joseph Sturge
& Co. are too old to change greatly for
the better. When I knew that in all
Ireland I don't know another person
besides my wife, his sister and myself
who appreciated the Boston abolitionists
as they deserve - I cannot wonder that
I should be looked on as a serious defaulter
for stating a matter of fact - ~~because~~ ^{because}
have never come up to the measure of

perceptions of yourself and others who
perceive unmeasured & deliberate such-
ness in them whom I am unable to
look on as any thing more than very
narrow in their views, and liable to all
the blunders and vices to which such
people are liable when in the hands of
a crafty self-seeking, able and as bigotted
as themselves.

You will excuse me from any interested
history in writing as I did. I have had
no intercourse with any of those people
for years. I did not know J. W. Alexander
if I saw him. I have not conversed half
an hour together in my life with Joseph Sturge.

I don't think it is because the English
are English but because they are men that
furnish abolitionism makes small way
amongst them. The number of people who
follow a great principle as soon as they perceive
it will always be very small. The fact
that you are one of these handful distinguishes
you from ~~judging~~ making any tolerable
allowance for people who are easily
~~misled~~ misled by their ignorance or their prejudices.
I believe a bad deal of good of all kinds is
constantly done from temperament, from habits,
from example ~~unintentionally~~ done by people

who were troubled them above about principle
in their lives.

Mr. Thayer is talking of another World's Anti
Slavery Convention. I care nothing for these
anti-slavery conventions, except as they give
people who feel a mutual interest in a
great question. But I don't think it is
in the least probable that 27, New Broad St
and 21, Cornhill will ever combine to any
good purpose for Anti Slavery ~~objects~~
jects.

I had a letter from Parker Pillsbury yesterday
- he thinks the Standard is not worth its
keep - that its list of subscribers is very
small & that the money might be better
spent. My own feelings have long been that
the Standard is heavy. It is useful as
repository of facts - the 1st page is well
selected - Sumner's letters are always rare
though sometimes too local - my own
letters are occasionally amusing - but the
paper is not on the whole attractive. It
must be difficult to make it so. Yet I think
it is an employment I could pretty well give
myself - and if I had time as much room
I would like the work I have with the Standard
quite better. But what do you think of the
Standard from Pillsbury's statement? With kind
regards to you all yours truly Rich^d Webb.

I believe Mr. Channing is a thoroughly honest
man and sincerely desirous to promote
the interests of the Ab. cause. I believe
the committee feel they have injured the
cause & themselves by their subscription to
Scott. I believe they would greatly like
to get rid of their false position without
any humiliating confession. I don't want
to claim for them any greatness, or nobleness
or freedom from very great faults. I think
they have more eyes as badly as people with
contracted minds who always manage who
put themselves into bad hands. Knowing
the strength of early impressions, and the tenacity
with which a damning creed retains posses-
sion of both minds I cannot wonder that the
claim of the slave continually gives way to
the claims of the sects. I don't see the neces-
sity of professions - I know it is easy to
say that they are fully inconsistent with
their own professed tenets - but still the
weaker impressions give way to the stronger
and I see no comfort in looking up on the
as hypocrites who, influenced by their pre-
judices, their interests, or their superstitions,
refuse to take the same interest in their
cause that I do.

However I think even in such a case
it is better to be often wrong in the
300 expression of my individual opinions than to

make myself ridiculous by attributing
 any one real view or endeavoring to uni-
 tate such sentiments as come when it
 might be that I could not always correctly
 apprehend them. I have an ever known
 a very high opinion of your sagacity far
 more than of my own. But one of the
 lessons I have learned from ~~any~~ the inter-
 course I have enjoyed to fully with those
 I esteem better than myself, is this, that
 we are liable to mis-conceptions, to pre-
 judice, and that no man should blindly
 hold up his usual independence to any.
 I don't think much harm can be done by
 my stating ^{my} views as to facts - or by joining
 in polemic with any one who finds fault with a
 doctrine ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~as~~ ^{as} a great source.

For instance I know Mr. Sharp & others
 are firmly prejudiced against Quakers gener-
 ally - ready to believe the worst stories of them
 such as I know to be untrue. Shall I agree
 with their mistakes because I love & venerate
 themselves? They are good but not infallible.

~~Write to the~~ ¹⁸⁴⁴ ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~society~~ ^{society}
 I understand from George Park that
 you don't approve of brother's articles
 about the sects - that they convey a false

impression. I think they do, as the de-
scriptions said of the false truth, - and that
it is nearly impossible to convey the
precisely correct views of such a subject

they make out the sects to be better than
they are - but I think this is better.

than it wd be to make them appear
worse and so am perfectly rally when
they are able done to say something by
way of setting the matter straight as far as
it can be done before our readers.

Such from what we see of the sects here
we see that in America they would be
no better than the sects there. The
best of us can only hold up the truth

~~with what is well done by~~

darkness with our little feeble candles

Ms. A. 9. 2. 2725