

Dublin, Sunday, May 29. 1859

Dear Mrs Chapman - Yesterday with my  
return home from London, I was greatly gratified  
by the receipt of your prompt reply to my letter sent  
through Mr Mac Donnell. It was written on the  
12<sup>th</sup> by I did not get it for seven days after.  
I left Dublin on the 7<sup>th</sup> in a steamboat for Plymouth  
in company with my nephews and my son helped  
to visit the Hamp Syke, on his way from London  
to Melbourne. She called in there to take in water  
and such of the passengers as wished to avoid the  
tedium of beating round the down the Channel.  
She left London on the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> but did not  
arrive in Plymouth till the 12<sup>th</sup>, and we were  
three days on the look out for her before she  
appeared. On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> I went on  
board with the boys, and saw them settled in  
bleak comfort - their luggage stowed away, I had  
the comfort of learning that the cabin passengers  
appeared as usual that the captain was as usual  
disposed to make all comfortable. There were in all  
about 10 cabin & 100 intermediate passengers, and  
the provisions seemed plentiful & good. You ask  
about my son's health. He had no serious ail-  
ment that we knew beyond a tendency to debility,  
an absence of robust health, a readiness to catch  
coughs and colds & a want of energy that are  
all a very much. We thought the present business  
was too interfering for him under these circumstances  
and as my nephew about his own age was about  
to join his parents & family in Melbourne, and  
helped was told by our physician that the boy as  
would probably be of great use to him, we consulted  
41 one of the principal physicians in Dublin who said the same



2) their unadvised manner to hasten his departure.  
His mother was strongly in favor of the experiment  
so we had no time from the day the idea was  
sketched till he was on the salt water was not more  
than 6 weeks. I often think how great the differ-  
ence might have been to me in many ways if  
the farmers, Alexander & Sturges, had behaved dif-  
ferently to Garrison in 1840. He and his friends  
would then have been received and escorted by a  
class of people whom we could not have approached.  
In the neglect & disappointment of that time my  
heart's sympathy and respect made way for us to  
the members of the American A. S. Society - we saw  
them in our own houses, and a flood of new light  
and life broke in upon us, for which we can never  
be sufficiently thankful. See too how my apparently  
unfortunate circumstance went to Miss Martineau has  
turned out - as one of the results of 1840. We have  
had the great pleasure shown of her company in  
Dublin in the pleasantest way - and through her  
direct agency, our girls have ~~been~~ had the benefit  
of her Leeds College and her ~~her~~ unmeasurable  
kindness to them - so that if she had been their  
relative they could not have been made the  
better of it. It was Miss Martineau recommended  
the Misses <sup>in private</sup> help as now making his voyage, because  
it had been selected by a gentleman who married  
one of her Assiside friends, and for himself &  
his wife. The lady is a very nice piece of the gentle  
man a very kind, and <sup>both</sup> ~~is~~ wholly to be of use  
to Alfred in the way of sympathy & oversight.  
Alfred is a steady fellow - & I am not uneasy  
about his being so much in his own hands -  
but as he is not strong, it will be an advantage



to have a female fellow passenger who with her (3)  
likely to feel some interest in him. It was  
odd enough that a London friend of mine to  
whom I also applied about a ship recom-  
mended the same vessel which is chartered  
by a son of the late Mrs. Day and appears to  
be bent to sea in a very respectable manner.  
I should take a quantity of goods to sell on our  
voyage - and some to sell for himself - so that  
I hope he will very cheaply cover the cost of his voyage and  
be able soon to pay for his return trip if he did  
little to come home. But this is left to himself.

Having given the long promised reply to your  
questions about him let us turn to the rest of  
your letter. In my opinion it that you say of people  
things may be perfectly correct, without Gay, a lawyer,  
or any body being called upon to say that 2 + 2 are 5  
merely because Joseph Sturge said they make 4. We  
need not put ourselves in a false position merely to  
oppose him. That he understand emancipation as  
you do I do not say, but this is no reason why out  
of opposition to him, we should give him an advan-  
tage ~~over~~ <sup>in his saying</sup> ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~own~~ ~~say~~ ~~ing~~ ~~what~~ ~~we~~ ~~should~~ ~~promptly~~  
censure and rebuke if he had said the like, for  
whatever reason. The members and friends of the  
Am. A. S. Society myself included think it might have  
been better if Sturge had never lived than that he  
should have thrown his influence into the scale  
against them. But others do not think so, and  
with the exception of the few scattered friends of  
the Am. A. S. Society in England, his anti Slavery char-  
acter stands as high as ever in England. We may well  
have a black sheep and think him one too - but this would  
avail us nothing if the public would heed us.



I left Plymouth on the 16<sup>th</sup> for London in order to visit  
 Mr & Mrs Estlin & Sarah Peck there. I was at  
 one for Mr. Child Street and arrived about half past  
 9 in the evening. Besides this I have named I  
 found George Thompson, W. W. Brown, J. M. McKim,  
 and Mr Chamberlain, the latter success in the  
 Secretaryship at New Broad Street. I like him very  
 much. He has an open faced face - and as Mr  
 Estlin has given me the reading of great long confi-  
 dential letters in reference to his position & its diffi-  
 culties, I argue that any man who puts himself  
 so completely into the possession of another, in  
 full reliance on his honor and honesty, must be at  
 least a trusting hearted person. He has hopes of  
 his Committee that in my opinion cannot be fulfilled.  
 They are too old & crusty and cannot make such a  
 change as a cordial alliance & cooperation with the  
 Am. Society or its friends would imply. I had a great  
 deal of talk with G. Thompson about past times, and  
 I heard some things of his which I was in honor of  
 I am confident it is vain to hope anything from  
 his cooperation, though the fact of Leible having left  
 the Secretaryship is satisfactory inasmuch as an honest  
 man is in his place, & the better stability & man-  
 ners of Leible were great loss in this way.

What I thought of the great annual meeting of the New Broad  
 Street Society you will see from the Advocate. Mr Estlin  
 had some talk with Joseph Sturge the day after, & found  
 him quite delighted with Professor Stowe's speech! The  
 more I talk on it the more I think the free labor pro-  
 talk a unchristianly waste of time, zeal & energy. I  
 had a note from Sarah Peck since I came home in  
 which she tells me that at a meeting of the Free Labor  
 Producers Association, held at the Friends meeting house

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Hundredth and of which ~~there~~ <sup>was</sup> Sturge in the school  
and lecture secretary, Prof. Storr repeated his exact  
Hale speech and <sup>Storr</sup> fully endorsed it.

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of 500. <sup>will</sup>  
don't want to look through the books, <sup>the</sup> <sup>papers</sup>  
having left it, with a view to selecting some books & pamphlets  
which he <sup>is</sup> <sup>wishes</sup> to rescue from loss

On Monday ~~between~~ the ~~the~~ after ~~franchise~~ - I had  
with the ~~company~~, Mr. Jones being there I left

What can I say of the value of the Standard as an  
organ of the Society is quite enormous, and your view



Commends itself to me all the more because I am  
 falling into the same way of estimating the ~~value~~  
 importance of the Anti Slavery advocates. I think  
 it has been of use already as an exposure of the views  
 of those who sympathize more with Britain than  
 with her Broad Sheet - and in this respect its  
 value is distant from the mere number of those  
 who read it. I have had many acknowledgments  
 from independent and every interesting  
 persons of the benefit they have derived from it  
 and I would be quite sorry if it fell to their  
 hands. You know Mr Estlin presented it as  
 suspected it. I think the end of the paper for the  
 past year above the receipt on the sale will be  
 nearly £90. Now I think Mr Estlin would willingly  
 suffer to the extent of half this money if the rest  
 could be raised. I wrote today to Andrew Paton  
 asking him of the thought any they could be raised  
 with the view in Glasgow and Edinburgh. I would  
 give £5 myself. In the printing of the paper I  
 feel some delicacy in taking this way but the  
 printing is on the whole no more to me since the  
 editing & printing takes much more valuable time  
 than the printing pays for - and besides I like  
 the advocates off cheaper than I would do a  
 similar quantity of ordinary printing. It pains  
 me to hear Mr Estlin having not so much money.  
 Yet I believe he can well afford it and that it  
 will give him more pleasure to expend it in this way  
 than to keep it. He is extremely generous and  
 every thing he does in the exercise of his  
 generosity is done in the kindest manner with  
 not a shadow of ostentation. You may wonder  
 why I mention the advocates affairs to you - It is  
 partly that it feels natural to say whatever  
 I think that concerns the cause, partly that you may



8) I have some interest with people in England who  
in deference to your judgment would take this  
way of helping the cause. I had say that when  
in London the other day I asked Justice the  
published, good blank, what he thought of the chance  
the advocate had of life. He spoke discouragingly  
saying that the much some fears being partly and  
the disposition to do any thing to help the cause  
would evaporate too. Justice I believe to be a  
heartily friend to the cause and really desirous to do  
what he can without merely looking to himself.  
With all this sense of the importance of the  
public being properly guided in England you  
may judge how disappointed or rather how  
amused I felt by the result of that great Eastern  
Hall meeting where such a fine chance of doing  
real good was sacrificed to talk about the gentle  
Evil and pious flattery of individuals.

Now exceedingly you must enjoy having Cardine  
back again - and your brother Foster too. Now  
I would like to call in upon you some day, and  
have "a good long talk" of your town and conve-  
nient served. My partner Chapman is about  
to set up on his own account - and this with my  
some disparture for America will confine me  
a good deal - and I am turning my attention  
as much as possible to prepare myself for greater  
confinement to home than heretofore.

I found no fault with your remarks on Colonel Schenk  
I like your view so well that it has occurred into  
criticism the language. Our dear old lady of Do rest  
me that that what you said was delightful. - I  
like I. M. in him very much and what ever may be  
his talents for public speaking, I think he is com-  
pletely qualified to do good in private circles.



I enjoyed my visit to London exceedingly. (9)  
Indeed I have a strong relish for London —  
the crowds, the noise, the life, the impurity are  
exceedingly interesting. I like it all the better  
when I happen to be there at a time, there  
is somebody to be found to talk to. I had  
Mr. Miss Eatten, Sarah Pugh & Mrs. M. M. M. M.  
from Mr. Matthews was there too, and  
Mr. & Mrs. Craft and their little brown baby,  
the first infant of the race I ever came  
in contact with, — a fine little fellow. Mr. W. Brown  
and his two girls, as Mr. Eatten delights to call  
them. It seems Mr. Craft talks of setting up a  
lodging house in London without capital, without  
much intention of doing any himself, and relying  
on the thrift of their friends throughout  
the country. He appears to be so proud and  
secretive that it is difficult for Mr. Eatten to  
advise him and I suppose nobody else wd  
take the trouble — and Ellen seems so entirely  
to them that her natural good sense is lost  
in his folly. I am anxious to see some colored  
couple set down in England and support them-  
selves by their own industry in the common  
ways of plain people, without depending on  
the charity of their anti-slavery friends. I  
hope for such an example in W. H. Craft, but  
am afraid I shall be disappointed. To be sure  
there is that worthy man W. P. Bowler this  
family who have migrated from N. York to  
Liverpool and are getting on respectably there.

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10/ I also saw my girls at Mrs Reed's pet  
boarding house in Geneva Street looking as  
healthy and happy as possible. They joined  
a party of about twenty at Mr Eitner's lodgings  
and were by special favour placed in the  
room immediately behind the Duchess of  
Sutherland & Mrs Storr in Exeter Hall. Mrs  
Reed invited me to meal Mrs Storr at her  
home last Tuesday but as I could not do  
she and kindly invited ~~the~~ her daughters to  
represent me there which you may be sure was  
a very great retreat - all this you see was the  
consequence of my intrusion at Lambeth which  
was perpetrated in the presence of our Irish hospita-  
lity, which welcome a friend's friend, as you  
welcome himself - and which gave me so  
many hot ears and so much mortification  
at the time.

I saw a good deal of Mrs Follen and her  
little family, and in a very pleasant way.  
We invited her to come to Dublin year  
ago; this time she received the subject herself;  
and they were all the more agreeable to me  
for it should that she intended to come of  
her own accord and without pressing. Poor  
Miss Labot you know is only just recovered  
from a long illness. Charles is a very pleasing  
young man - so cheery, natural & unassuming  
You may be sure he looks forward with pleasure  
to the prospect of having them with us.



Perhaps you do not know that we had a  
 great National Exhibition going on just now.  
 It was opened on the 12<sup>th</sup> - but I am waiting  
 for the rates to come down to our reach &  
 then I expect we shall see it very often. It  
 is quite near to our house. We can see the  
 building (erected for the purpose) from our  
 bed room window. I am told it is not yet  
 in its full glory, but that it isches a very  
 good show and will be much finer when  
 the Fine Arts and the French departments  
 are quite ready.

If Caroline can find a spare corner of  
 time I would be extremely glad to hear from  
 her. While she was in America I only wrote  
 to her once. I knew her hands & feet  
 were full of her family concerns and I  
 did not want to worry her with my scribble  
 - but however I would be very glad to see  
 the light of her countenance again even  
 in the faint reflections of a letter.

Wishing you with sincere wishes best  
 health and with kindest regards send best  
 wishes to you all in which my neighbours & friends  
 I remain your ever truly

Rich<sup>d</sup> Webb



12) Did you ever hear from Garrison or George Thompson  
of Sarah & Blanche Hedditch? - Blanche is deaf & dumb  
Sarah is bright, cheerful & enthusiastic as possible  
and then at S. Thompsons in London in 1845. Then at  
Liverpool in 1846 when Garrison left England. Afterward  
their little property was embroiled or ~~lost~~ greatly  
reduced by the dishonesty of a relation and they  
referred to freezing, and withdrew from the cause  
came into many of their friends, myself among  
the number. While I was in Plymouth with the  
boys waiting for the Heimsyke, a letter reached me  
from Sarah Hedditch (Mrs. Butler) dated from  
Mansbury where they have lately been. They are  
going to Perth for a time. In consequence of the  
distress induced by their loss of property Sarah  
has had her hearing too and they are thus both  
more excluded than ever from the pleasure of  
social intercourse. I find them seem to have  
home Liberty Bells and Reports of which they  
seem to have duplicates and they are greatly  
pained. They are full of warmth towards the  
anti-slavery cause and its friends and I  
thought you would like to hear of their resurrec-  
tion - poor things! One of the strangest  
pieces of gossip I heard in London was what George Thompson  
told me - that he had heard from Mrs. Peare that she is  
about to be married to Professor Nichol of Glasgow, the  
author of Architecture of the Heavens and other popular  
astronomical treatises. He was an intimate friend  
of Miss Martineau and how she with her other day  
with manage such a husband I can't imagine.  
S. T. told me E. Peare writes to him of this project  
- do you have it as I have it. How is Madam de  
la Courte than you heard lately of poor Zachary Beard?

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