

Park Street, Oct: 3rd - 1851

My dear Emma

Excuse my bewilderment at the peculiarity of my present position, — being in possession of two unanswer'd Letters from you! both written, (as, with all my natural incredulity there is strong evidence for believing) by yourself, and in a hand too which would put most of my correspondents to the blush!

I have a lesson of humility to learn, — not in future to place too much confidence in my own judgment, — not to be so credulous ^{as to} ~~be~~ appearances.

And I must compliment you too, upon your penetration as to the matter of fact letter, in which I delight.

My days of sentimentality, — if ever there were such, — have long passed:

the daily doings, & the present inter-
ests of those I admire, respect, &
love, have far greater charms for
me than the most poetic des-
criptions of the beautiful in Art
or Nature. ~~Whatever~~ ~~Flowers~~ ex-
alted your ideas may have been
of my wisdom & mental dignity,
it is now too late to endeavour to
prop them up: you have been
"behind the scenes", & I may as
well confess the simple truth of
the common-place characteristics
of your Bristol friend, since no
artifice will disguise them. —

I thought of the travellers during
Saturday night, and tho' full of
sympathy for any crossing the Chan-
nel at that hour in a steam boat
^{cramped with}
~~full of passengers~~, I felt considerable

in the belief that the night was a
calm one. It must have been, I fear,
some trial of strength to Mr. Chapman
to undertake a night journey after
such a night's voyage? I should
hardly suppose Lizzy to have been
very bad to have cared whether the
German lady spoke good or bad French,
or passed her time in speech or silence.

We shall be very glad to hear ^{from} the
Parisians, but hope they will not,
with so many correspondents as
they have, take us too much into
account as epistolary creditors, ^{if}
we are not so humble as to think they will forget us.

I think of them with more plea-
sure in R. de Cliey, than in
Place Vendôme. As for you,
though I have too much benevolence
not to bemoan your separation from
your family, I should, but for that
little weakness of mine, intrust

Mr. Bates to keep you as long as possible out of that vile French Capital, & give you the advantage of England, and England the advantage of you.

Our Blind Asylum is for the instruction of pupils so as to enable them to maintain themselves, but the age of admission is limited to 25 years.

There is a want in this country of Institutions to teach persons of more advanced age (many of whom have become blind late in life,) some means of usefully employing & amusing themselves. I am not certain if the London Asylum for the Blind do not possess some facilities of this kind? My acquaintance with the great has always been extremely limited. Of the present Duke of Gloucester, I know nothing.

2^d / The late Princess Sophia who thro'
~~some~~ mutual friends knew something
of me, & used to take an interest in my
Dispensary, & send me ~~eyes~~ to me about
her own sight when it was failing, once
sent for me after entire blindness had
followed an operation, to consult me
as to the propriety of ~~using~~ a second.

Many thanks for your recollection
of the reading plans for our blind res-
pecting which I was interested. I
am inclined to recommend to our
Committee, that instead of printing
books in our present character, (small
Roman Capitals) we should teach
the pupils the American type, &
purchase books from Boston. I
should be very glad immediately
of an Alphabet, & of one or two
elementary books in the Amⁿ. character.
I wrote some time to Dr. Howe for such

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but tho' I am no stranger to him,
he has, I presume, forgotten my re-
quest: and should you be unable to
help me in London, I should be es-
pecially obliged if you would, ~~engage~~,
when you write next to Boston (for
I now believe you can write) ~~to~~
implore some friend there to beseege
D. Howe with my solicitations, until
he complies with them. Were
"my friend" living in Boston, I think
I should venture to bespeak his
good offices in this enterprise.

To day Mary & I have a little
breathing-time. All Monday I was
engaged with a Socie's affair at the
British Philosophical Institutⁿ when
my microscope with the "Circulation
in Plants, - Mr. Ellis," gained
"unbounded applause," and Tuesday
& Wednesday & part of yesterday were

fully occupied in the writing, & having
two copies made, of a carefully con-
sidered reply to Mr. C.'s letter
in last week's Bristol Free Examiner
which I believe G. T. showed you? You
shall have by Monday Morning a
copy of the one of our Bristol papers,
which please to forward to S. May Jr
21 Cornhill Boston, — a place where
you have before heard of? The an-
swer to Mr. C. is so written, as not
to require his assistance to render it
intelligible, so I shall have some
separate slips of it printed for distribution.

Mary was deeply engaged with
her Con. yesterday, & an awful plot
is hatching: you ^{will soon} see the
an "expression of sentiment" to Mr. C. & the Witch, & Woods,
result of one part of their capitulating.
I mean to let Mr. Grant have it in
hope of his putting it into the
M. Advocate.

~~Dear Mother~~ We have our trials. Mr. Williams has been suddenly dismissed from his office of Ed^r of the N. E. ^{the paper in future} & it ~~seems~~ seems likely not to trouble its readers with much A. S. matter. I am not without suspicion that Joseph Sturge may have been tampering with the Ed Proprietor, but I have no ground for the surmise: poor Mr. Williams, with three motherless children & not a farthing, is suddenly cut off from the means of support: he has however, many friends here I believe.

To encourage you in your new vocation I send you some pens of which you approved when here. Yours in the case, I expect must be a difficult one to write with. I know of none equal to those I inclose. The bronze ones are rather broader at the points than the plain steel ones. When first I dipped into ink, they require to be previously moistened: an indigent person like myself, affects this practice with the

M. 07228

3^d months: but the pen and the
tongue are powerful weapons, & need
not be ashamed of being together.

Perhaps it will be better for you
to send the Bristol Mercury to "my
friend" instead of to Mr. May: he I
suppose, would also get the benefit of
it?

It is probable that next week
I may have to go to Brighton to see
Miss Ames whose sight does not
improve: Thursday is the day I
should prefer to go, if I can delay it
so long. Are you likely to be at Brighton
then? How pleasant it would be
to meet you, & how much I should
like to introduce you to my friends
Mr. & Anna Ames.

And now, dear Emma, though I
abuse you about your forgetting your
correspondents, let me ^{beg} ~~express~~ that

never let us be any tax upon
your time & attention. Pleased as we
shall ever be at hearing from you, do
not hesitate to put us aside, for a
time, in behalf of any who may
have a stronger claim upon your
notice: we have too ~~strong~~ ^{firm} a faith in
your regard for us to fear that we
shall quickly pass out of your
recollection. With Mary's love

believe me

Affectionately Yours

J. B. Estlin.

(not "M. D.")

Mr. James has called here this
afternoon: — he still "hankers after
here", (have you heard that before?)
& was much gratified with the report
your letter furnished of the safe arrival
of the travellers at Paris.

We cannot find little Rosamund.
I think Miss Weston & Annie col-
lected your scattered property before
they went. If the young lady ap-
pears, I will take her with me to
London. Your sister's knife-affection
is certainly deserves consid^{er}ation.
I am not convinced yet that she
laboured under any hallucin^{ation}. I am
in main, taining th^{at} she was
beset with by marauders who held
no knives of their own, & urged her
to vigilance; and am unwilling
yet to regard myself as a victim
to any morbid propensity of hers.

Dearest Emma,

My Father tells you we have had
breathing time to-day, but I am uncon-
scious of it, having had my pen at work
incessantly; so I am thankful he has
been able to tell you all that concern
us, & the pleasure it was to learn about

you by yours. He still "haunts" after
the hope of seeing you. My going to Brighton
Miss Weston really will be bound to
come back to Bristol speedily to see
poor Mr James from the mournful
fate of a confirmed hypochondriac. I
came here looking the picture of woe, &
asks pathetically "if we have had any
news from Paris, & then makes a
feint of wishing to "help on the cause
if we could say how. I have been writing
to my "Father's Friend" sending some lines
of L. Sanfords for the Liberty Bell, & J. S. &
G. T.'s letter a spirited resolution of our
Ladies Com^{tee} which Miss Trike shall
forward to you in form.

Past time is come. Let us hear
at any time anything that concerns
you or anyone belonging to you that
it is not troublesome to acquaint us
with, ^{send us} any body's letters that have no
secrets, or any thing else about them.

In haste fondly yours
Mary Estlin