

Politics

1856

A. S. Bazaar (alone) Weymouth Jan 28.

1856

My dearest Mary,

I have been  
longing to be more in commu-  
nication with you, but under the  
circumstances, I was obliged to  
decide to do nothing but work. as  
to writing, it was impossible. You  
may imagine how I must have  
been circumstanced at the fair,  
where I used to be surrounded  
by ten members of my own  
& my husband's family, to find  
myself quite isolated & with the  
work of ten to do. But I am  
glad & happy to tell you I did  
it easily. One does not grow old  
for nothing: I found myself comple-  
tely competent to "read this wine-press  
alone." There was, & is, at this  
time, a lull in the A. S. Cause,  
& owing to that, & to a little mis-  
take in the advertising, we made  
400 dollars less than last year.  
But the "lull" is not in the external  
world, <sup>what is</sup> influenced by the cause: it



is merely that the agitation  
is not in & around our camp,  
so much as in the Congressional  
world we have propelled it  
into. You see the State Congress  
is in: - can't he organized  
for want of a speaker; & the  
Northern interest demands a  
certain Mr Banks for speak-  
er, who said once, that he was  
willing, in a certain contingency  
to "let the Union slide." while the  
South says "rather 'Barabaras."  
& there they are. I think all  
the North seems ready to let  
the Union slide, only she looks  
to us to take the shock of giving  
it the blow that, as ship-wright  
say, shall "knock away the  
Dag-shore." Every body is  
engaged in some business or  
occupation which will go on just  
as well after, as before the Union  
is dissolved, provided he don't incur  
any personal blame, by any  
personal effort. All this is



very encouraging. We, who care  
no more for all the world's  
blame, than for the wind when  
it flies by us, will take with pleas-  
ure the responsibility of making  
the honor slide.

I am writing to you from  
my home at Weymouth, in the  
 midst of one of our New England  
Snow storms of the severest kind.  
It falls level up to a Man's  
elbows, & in drifts of 20 feet  
high. In the cities they plough  
the streets at night, & gangs of  
Men relieve each other to  
remove it till morning. That  
levelling lasts a few days, till  
the way is again worn into  
humps & hollows, or a fresh  
Snow-fall makes it necessary  
to repeat the process. All  
my family are as well  
as the circumstances admit.



With regard to health, it has  
always been my favourite  
Maxim, that nothing a person  
can do in one day, is fatal  
to life. But it is the last effort  
too much, of a long series, that  
submerges life. Under this impression

I was desirous that none of my  
family should be at the fair this  
year, worn down as they  
were by the service of past  
years, & the bereavement of  
Mrs. But they began to recover  
from their state of depression,  
in which further effort would  
have been an extreme risk.

The natural consolation presented  
by the sympathy & admiration  
of friends for our father's life  
& character, begins to prevail  
over the grief that in its first  
burst, forgot every thing but its



loss.

2.

Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1856

We had during some of the evenings addresses from distinguished individuals at the Bazaar, in one of which, from Garrison, our friend Pillsbury was amply sustained, & William H. Channing amply rebuked, in their methods of promoting the cause.

Pray accept, my dear Mary, a copy of the Liberty Bell, which you will receive from M. D. W. when the box arrives.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning has done well, - has she not? The difference between her & Robert seems to be that he tries to tell



you how a thing looks  
to fifty other people, while  
she tells you how it looks  
to herself. Give me the  
credit, in the Bazaar re-  
port, of NOT having spoken  
of "self-suffering poverty." — What  
was "self-sufficing poverty"  
that I spoke of. Did I  
promise you that I  
would try to tell you of  
our sufferings here, for the  
advocate, after my  
return? Well, — I  
can't. We have so  
much satisfaction, in our  
renunciation — we enjoy our day  
so much that



June 5 1856

I meant to have

spoken of the beautiful  
 Bristol box, the beautiful  
 Edinburgh ones. The photograph  
 stated the utmost ingenuity  
 interest & kind as well  
 with calculation I must  
 have done so perhaps the  
 value of the box which  
 stands on the chimney  
 is four as the two others.  
 But it shall not be detrimental  
 to you in your household  
 continually tell them how much  
 is done in the house  
 out of the face as possible.  
 Anne's much I patrolled in

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two ways: it being a  
picture of yourself, & given  
by so many of the friends  
here, we all share her  
Subjection. I am so  
sorry not to have seen  
Mrs & Miss Gresham! I  
have seen Mrs Stone —  
passed a day & night with  
her at her own home. She  
has written to England to the  
Committee on her fund, expres-  
sing distrust of Julia Griffiths,  
and approbation of the principle  
working with infidels even to do  
good. This is not to be mentioned, for  
two reasons: — 1<sup>st</sup> it is her business  
& not ours to tell of it, & 2<sup>nd</sup> it is ma-  
king her of too much importance for us  
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