

21 Cecil St. Strand. London
June 11-1853.

My dearest Miss Weston,

For many days past I have been looking anxiously for an opportunity of writing to you; being in hopes that you would not hear of my dear Father's illness until the tidings were communicated by myself, & as each day has been an improvement on its predecessor I was glad to leave friends at a distance in ignorance of his attack until they could think of him as progressing. Had I been aware that Mr. Follen had written you word of his detention in London & its cause I should have taken care to keep you informed, for, without your writing to assure us of it, we ^{should} have felt sure of your affectionate sympathy. You have ours to the uttermost, & I have a peculiar power of appreciating the trials of the life of unremitting watchfulness & nursing that has fallen to your lot. Most earnestly do we pray that your

present move for the benefit of your
dear invalids may be blessed to the
full realization of your most sanguine
expectations. I will not enlarge on our
deep sympathy for you now however as you
are too conscious of it to need a lengthened
expression; If you are wanting all the
time I can command to be expended on
particulars of my patients. We really
have such abundant cause for gratitude
in the comforts with which we are surrounded,
the wits from which we have been guarded,
the peace & strength with which our hearts
have been filled & sustained that we have
room for no other sentiments. The "lines"
have fallen to us in pleasant places
We feel confident that the love which
has brooded over us hitherto will continue
unto the end. What degree of restoration
may be vouchsafed to my dear Father,
how long he may be exempt from a
recurrence of the alarming symptoms
which have manifested themselves, it is
not for us to divine; but we can wait in faith
that "the wind will be tempered to the shorn
lamb" & needed strength be afforded in any
fresh extremity. Our loving friends, who cluster

around us *growing out upon us from
all quarters their words of sympathy blended
with sadness at the sudden arrest of a
career of usefulness, - wonder at our tranquility
& cheerfulness; but they are strangers to
the long ~~patient~~ apprenticeship we have
served to this discipline, nor, ^{can they grasp} how much
weight is taken off my mind by the fiat
having gone forth which no human power
can set aside, calling my Father to relinquish
active labors & henceforth to welcome
"standing & waiting" as his appointed service.
For months, indeed for years (especially
the two last) he has overtaxed his strength
from an almost morbid dread of neglecting
some means of usefulness, & sacrificing
some relative or social duty to his
personal yearning for repose. In pro-
portion to his willingness to render aid
has been the constant importunities of
all sorts of people to secure it for their
individual concerns or special interests
in proportion ^{to} the wisdom of the
task & to his sense of incapacity to meet
the fresh demands on time & strength,
has been his determination to conquer

his reluctance to undertake the ad-
vise. So that it was inevitable the
day of reckoning must come; & this
have made it my great business to
strive it off by relieving him of a share
of the burden as he could transfer it
by perpetual vigilance & caution
& protecting him from some inflictions
the resistance has been next to none
against the torrent; & while the world
has congratulated me on my Father's
"strength," & "animation," & "activity" I
know it was forced & that the chris-
tian was exposed to such undue tension
as to render a sudden snap inevitable.
All this I have long foreseen, & while
gratefully accepting every day of health
as a reprieve granted for the benefit of
some special object to the accomplishment
of which it was faithfully devoted I have
never dared to "boast of the morrow," & have
striven to make as little as possible depend-
upon his continued power of action. Now
that ^{vigilance, which I described} ~~they~~ found it was not permitted
me to do by way of guarding him from the
impending danger. There was no altering his

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convictions of duty, & to interfere with his
obedience to them ~~only~~ harassed him. So
I have tried to ~~perfect~~ my soul in patience
tho' often a sense of loneliness has stolen
over me, because the ^{very} few friends who could
at all appreciate my anxiety were powerless
to remove its cause, & the many who
might have aided me by abstaining from
heaping one requisition after another
upon him had not the will from igno-
rance of the obligation. A feeling akin
to indignation not infrequently took
possession of me at what seemed un-
justifiable want of consideration in
others, but I saw they could only be
persuaded of the duty of refraining from
adding to the undue pressure by seeing
that he was crushed under the load, &
one could believe my assertions &
reproaches me by implication with
thwarting him as well as themselves, ^{my}
being forcible, foreboding, & meddling.
Such imputations never troubled me
when I could carry my point, & when
I failed I found consolation in the
belief that my Father would be hap-
pier if he fell in the fight with his

armor on, that ^{if} by ~~being~~ ^{having} his life
^{were} prolonged thro' voluntary surrender
of ~~his~~ ^{weapons} ^{power}. We both felt as if he had been kept
in life after threatened death for some
great purpose, & that we could only show
our gratitude for the sparing ~~which~~ ^{which}
had in time past averted the fatal
stroke, by ~~fresh~~ a renewed consecration
of ^{his} talents to the service of the Lord of the
vineyard. The one thing I had dreaded for
him was that he should outlive his
powers of usefulness; & of this there ^{had} seemed
little prospect, as I imagined he would
suddenly break down & be carried off by
severe illness. ^{Such} ^{being} the frame of mind
in which I have ^{for years} gone to rest at night ^{very} ^{often} ^{every}
^{on} the morning, you will conceive that
it was just at first a trying & painful experience
to learn that ^{his} ^{call} ^{was} the form in which the
mandate to cease from his warfare had
been conveyed; that the hand which had
relieved ten of thousands of sufferers, &
restored sight to hundreds of blind eyes
was no longer to minister to the wants of
his afflicted fellow-creatures, or even to
his own personal requirements. It was a
struggle to repress all emotion on lifting
up the lifeless arm & to still all wishes for

a speedy termination to what seemed
destined to be a very severe trial. Still
I was so very grateful that he had not
been deprived of conscious ness or power
of speech, & that every ^{mental} faculty was
unimpaired that I was not, at all
overcome, & during the day in which
the paralysis ~~depression~~ increased &
seemed creeping over his whole frame
we were able to pass in review over
every branch of labor in which he was
engaged & to discover to our mutual
satisfaction that nothing remained
incomplete that had devolved upon
him. We ^{then} found peace in patient waiting
for the issue, & have ^{since} been blessed with
such unexpected amendment as make
me feel the future will not necessarily
be the blank or the oppressive contrast
to the past which our fancy had pictured.
It may be that this stroke will be the
means of prolonging life & giving us the
treasures of my Father's counsel & guidance
for a more lengthened period than we
had ventured to hope. Whether longer
or shorter matters little; he will teach
by example in weakness or in strength,

living or dying, find everything we give
thanks. We are very much concerned that
you & those at a distance should magnify
the dark parts of our present lot & be uniform
of its many bright passages. I wish you could
see the perpetual sunshine which has
cheered our secluded chamber of sickness. You
would then understand what abundance
reason there is for our uniform cheerfulness.
By you would participate in the lively talks
in which we indulge when any patient is
strong enough to see either of our dear American
companions, or the Parkeses who are within
reach (that is Kate & her mother). We have had
of kind friends volunteering aid, but our great
work is to "keep in the quiet" as the Quakers say.
I can't tell you what a delightful companion
Mr McKim has proved, nor how completely he
& Miss Pugh have supplied every possible need
we might have felt without friends in the house
with us. We have declined all other offers of
assistance, as it would only hamper us.
It will be a great treat to my Father to get home,
but it has been far better for us both that his
illness should have occurred here. I do hope we
shall see Emma; she will testify that I have
not exaggerated our state of comfort. You will
I hope see Mr McKim & Miss Pugh, & talk up with
them any further particulars of us that you may
desire, & also hear all about "the Cause" here. There
are a good many intricate & delicate adjustments
being made & in progress, but I must not enter
them. Mr McKim seems made for us, he is so mil-

so candid & forbearing, & yet so firm & judicious
uncompromising that no one can help feeling
the force of his statements. He & Mr Chameroz
get on very well together. She latter seems to
have conceived a strong personal attachment
to our whole circle, & there is not one of the
"elite" who does not reciprocate the sentiment.
We think he lacks a full knowledge of the
Ab. movement, - underestimates the amount
of opposition it has received from B. & I. & C.
But he does not shut his eyes to his difficulties
perhaps it is well he should be overcautious
of his power to surmount them. I do wish you
could have some intercourse with him.
He repays the pains of instructing, & we are
thankful that my Father's strength was
spared to bring his pupil up to the mark
and to fit him to benefit by his present relation-
ships with Mr McKim & those like minded.
We had a very good time here with Mr Fiske,
Mr Mapie, & Mr Waterman, Miss Leonard,
Miss Godwin & Miss Chick members of our
Comm.; Mr Ebenezer Davies, Geo. Thompson,
V. Schaefer, Prof. Allen & his wife, Craft, Brown
& H. Mr Tollev & party, Miss Pugh, Mr McKim, D.
Matthews, Mr Chameroz &c. I must not enter
on the discussion that took place on one eventful
evening when these parties were together in our
lodgings. Miss Pugh will tell particulars. We
think Mr Stone is with you. We ultimately see

hearth & her influence & by and by, I give thanks
at every remembrance of her great work. My Father
met her at a party at Mr Keid's ^{union} & had a most
satisfactory conversation with her about Mr
Garrison. He had written fully to her while
she was in Edinburgh with a view to giving her
some clue to the state of parties here ^{from facts} which
might help her to a right understanding of
the hostility of some & ignorance of others
whom she would meet in her journeyings.
It seems however that her correspondence
was so voluminous she was obliged to
transfer the task of reading & answering
letters to her brother. I feel sorry because
there were some useful points in his letters,
but she has an instinct that will probably
keep her from allowing herself to be made a
"cat's paw" of. He expressed the pleasure it
would give him to afford her a quiet retreat
in Park St. if she had any prospect of visiting
the West of England, tho' he did not presume
to offer her any attractions beyond the anti-
quities & scenery for which our neighbourhood
is distinguished. I only mention this to you
that Mr Chapman may know he did
all that in him lay with reference to Mr
Stowe & the Cause. He was getting knocked up the
day he went to Mr Keid's (which was his only
interview ^{with Mr Stowe}) he had to lie in bed until noon
to speak kindly sufficiently for the effort.
You must not however, dearest Miss Weston,

let his Anti-slavery labors be chargeable
with his Wives. Had they been all that he
devoted on him, his work would have
gone on smoothly & ~~his~~ ^{his} health
fully. Had his energies not been directed
in this channel they would ^{perhaps} have been
consumed as quickly by the pressure of
surrounding claims. The multitude of
arduous conflicting engagements that
weighed him down were not chiefly, if
at all, of this class. They were professional,
social, relative, charitable, reformatory,
in ways involving an amount of duty
that no one else would have endured so
uncomplainingly. He owes now to the
extent of the burden ^{is} grateful that an
irresistible power has relieved him of it,
tho' I do not mean to imply that the pi-
nion is not keenly felt by him. But I
must leave off. This was begun after 12
o'clock last night while he slept & is
being finished during a short visit from
Kate Parker. My constant supervision
cannot yet be dispensed with, so I post-
pone all correspondence. Will you
give loving messages to your circle from
me & thank dear Mrs Chapman for her
last letter with the "Bell." Please to let your
dear sister Anne have the substance of this

letter some day as I dare not hope to find
time to write to her the long response her
welcome communications deserve. My
hands must be ^{at} my Father's disposal in
a tenfold degree henceforth, & correspon-
dence must be proportionately curtailed. My
love for you all grows daily. Doubtless
for the Cause. He ^{is} whose hands are the
issues will not let the holy work suffer
because He has stayed the arm of one
faithful laborer. It seems as if my Father
had been sustained as long as he was
the useful bridge of communication
between English & American Abolition.
He has been instrumental in breaking
down many walls of partition & in bring-
ing together into personal intimacy those
who can effectually strengthen each
others hands in the common work...
can help enlighten each other now,
without making him their medium.
And he finds peace in seeing this con-
summation of his aims. Fondly yours
(for time is exhausted) Mary Estlin.

Excuse all incoherencies.
You know the disadvantages under which I live.