

47 Park Street, Oct. 15 - 1857.

My dearest Miss Weston,

If you knew how continually present you are with me you would be able to form some estimate of the magnanimity it has required to keep me patient under the impossibility of engaging in intercourse with you. The only consolation has been that the pursuits, which by their engrossing every minute have precluded direct communication with you, have united you to me with hourly increasing bonds, so that I have ^{now} as complete an enjoyment of your perpetual presence as when holding your hand or listening to your voice or accompanying your footsteps in the home charms which you have rendered dearer by their being associated with you here & forth. In fact I must confess that I feel closer to you than when social restraints imposed their barriers to free communication. I can only take in, & that but imperfectly, when surrounded by animated groups of friends, ^{any} one of whom may be very near & very dear to me.

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An utter incompetency to contribute anything
to the general stock takes possession of me,
leaves me only the pleasurable consciousness
of their enjoyments, & of gratification at
seeing each enhancing that of all the rest, & of
^{being able to} associate them collectively with
the particular scenes & occasions of their
assembling. But my unsocial turn (which you
see I ^{have} thought it best to confess at once, to account
for an air of apathy attending many parts of
our happy union, of which I stand self convinced)
compels me to wait for any real communion
till I can get hold of each individual apart
from all the rest, or ^{can} meditate on them in
solitude, or sit down to write to them. Now,
being with you in this essential respect, I will
not waste more time in explaining why I
was often absent, as essentially while we were
under the same roof. Your loving assurances
of having been happy during your sojourn here,
your resolute recognition of us as ~~sources~~
sources of much that springs from a com-
munitarian or other independent cause, shew
that you are not taxing me with the failing to
which I plead guilty, but for which I am confi-

And you make ample indulgence by training
it to ~~the~~ limited strength, ^{with} constant demands
on it, its habits of life & temperament, that
cannot be changed at will. I will only
testify that it was often no small act of
self-denial to forego the immediate gratifi-
cation of your companionship (grudging as
I did the loss of any of your words) from in-
the needed exercise of moderation, ⁱⁿ providing
for seasons & duties in which my presence
could not conveniently have been dispensed
with. Accepting in good faith all you ^{affirm}
I can truly say that to be associated in your
mind with scenes of recreation & beauty, with
relief from anxious suspense, & with intercourse
which had a more than transitory interest
to you, its have been in any degree instrumental
to your comfort or enjoyment, will ever afford
us the liveliest gratitude. We cannot measure
each other's experiences, so as to decide on which
side the balance lies, ^{therefore} I will not dwell again
on the fulness with which what ever you
received was reciprocated; nor ^{on} how much
love you have awakened, or how much joy
you imparted by coming amongst us. You

truly describe the relations into which we
have been brought as imperishable; ^{you only} & also our
consciousness; that henceforth our joys &
griefs & interests must be one. In fact, they
have long been so, for the common aspiration
after a purer, truer, freer world, which first
united us, must give a tone ^{of} sympathy
to every feature of our lives, however varied the
mode, or distant the spot in which we may
be called respectively, to carry ~~the~~ on our work.
To be permitted at length to join my efforts to
yours in the struggle for truth & justice in which
I have for seven years been longing to take part,
yields a still deeper joy than the treasures of
your friendship which have fallen so unexpectedly
to my lot: and both united leave very little to
desire. Either would be well worth living for.

Your unfortunate overestimation of the power
I can command, ^{my} I bring to bear on the enterprise,
only keeps me humble, & determined to do my
best without calculating results: When if your
 sanguine expectations are disappointed in
consequence of ^{my} deficiency of mental grasp, or
~~inadequacy~~ ^{by means of which} to turn facts to account, or of
executive power, or intellectual resources,
shall be sorry for you, as I am for all who are
the sufferers from these misfortunes, but I shall

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have no compunctions of conscience at
 having wilfully misled you. At the present
 crisis there is little to be uneasy about; for
 the very stirring up of the elements was the
 one thing needful to elicit truth; they cannot
 slumber again, & a little guidance will I
 think secure events taking a right course.
 I am not however going to begin a business
 letter now, as you ^{wilfully} have seen all that has
 occurred, in the papers forwarded, & as this
 is not likely to reach you so soon as some
 subsequent communications. I only wanted
 just to secure sending you some recognition,
 however imperfect, of the affectionate & deeply
 interesting letters you have generously bestowed
 upon us, at a time too when you had so many
 conflicting demands. I hope your heap of un-
 answered letters is beginning to be reduced. Mine
 unhappily is not, tho' I seem hardly to have
 had the pen out of my hands since you left
 us, so that it ^(the pen) is now ~~rebellious~~ at wilding it,
 from sheer fatigue. There is always a good
 deal of extra writing when my Father is from
 home, patients, messages, business notes &c. &c.
 & Miss Tribes's Secretary's duties (of a peculiarly
 arduous nature just now) devolving on me

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adds to the demands on his pen; & then you know it was impossible entirely to neglect Mr May or my "Father's Friend" in making up the Boston box which is now just started for Liverpool. The fact of ~~the~~ ^{our} collection not falling short this year is very cheering; for I know so many distant supplies ^{that} were cut off - most of them from ^{my} inability to make time for looking them up by writing away - that reminder, & some from your receiving their donations, to expend to better advantage than we could, - that it proves fresh hands must have taken hold of the work in our own locality, & done it advisedly not from per-
suasion. I do hope to be able to carry on to your satisfaction the education of the pupils you & Mrs Chapman so patiently & successfully grounded. It was no small subject of regret to me that so much of the time I would so gladly have secured for your recreation was unavoidably consumed in your dining Antislavery alphabets & grammars into raw beginners, & to have so often to take upon me in true school-mistress style to set you to your allotted task; but I felt certain that the fact of your thus sowing seeds & indoctrinating pupils who without your skilful aid

(C)

could never have been induced to get over
the dullness of their introductory studies,
would console you under the fatigue it
brought upon you. I am afraid to speak
too confidently of any of their ^{pupils} just yet,
but will be sure to report progress. Mean-
while you may rest assured you did ~~do~~
a great deal towards enlightening their
darkness, & rectifying their errors, & that
they are ^{now} so fully persuaded themselves,
as to be bent on convincing everyone else,
of the fact, that L. Tappan "was the man
that took the money." Your notes about
him will be more valuable to me instead
of less, in consequence of your having related
the substance of them to various audiences
for now they ^{people} will take in their propriety,
& those faith in the evidence such as
could never have been inspired by any-
thing but your viva voce communication.
And now I cannot effectively or accu-
rately reproduce the facts just at the
right time & way, nor would they ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{the same} ~~weigh~~
even if correctly stated. The substance as
you know is pretty clearly impressed on

my mind, & I have enjoyed (in spite of
the trouble of it,) entering a little epitome
of this never ending story into the Com-
-mittee book, together with a few other
little facts ^{with} ^{we} will be able to point
^{herafter} to, as having been heard & accepted, touching
the constitution of the Am. Society, Liberty
Party &c. I took this opportunity ^{of} giving a
summary of the various conversations
held with you by the Com^e, drawing out in
most business like style, & winding up
with ^{the} solemnity of the mission with
which we were entrusted ^{by you (one)} which, as I think
I told you, was deliberately accepted, of
carrying on a war of extermination against
New Organization. I consider it a great
triumph of truth over falsehood for this
declaration
to come in the same book that is full of
respectful mentions of Miss M. Ball, L. F. P.
& Capt. Sturk, & which contains his instruc-
tions to one meeting of the Com^e at which he
was present. ^(in Nov. 1841) ^{how} ^{well} he reports that
"The Am. & Foreign A. S. Society was formed
Dec^r 1833. It took its new name in ^{May} 1840
"when the division occurred."

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"The division was produced by the new
 "injurious views intruded by the other
 "branch, which retains the original
 "name, but which has adopted a
 "fundamentally different character."

We greatly miss the Tribes; in fact
 there is no one to help do anything, & no
 one that I can think of likely to be found:
 so that we have to let golden opportunities
 slip by, daily, for want of hands. I have
 it in view to suggest to Emma that as
 she gets a great deal of credit for sacrifice
 in which she had no voluntary share it
 would be a proof of fidelity to the Cause
 to make one of her own by coming to spend
 the winter with us & relinquishing the at-
 tractions of Paris! Do you think she
 will be duly impressed by my views of her
duty? I do really believe that if we had one
 constant companion, with heart & head
 & hands at our disposal, we might have
 advanced a great way towards the

disarming of new organ^s by next Spring
when we are sanguinely looking for your
second coming, & when we hope (if we keep
tolerably well in the interim) to have earned
for you & for ourselves a little more
holiday time than we could afford ^{at least}
during your first visit. We shall ^{have}
tested our ground ere then, & discovered
what is, & what is not susceptible of cul-
tivation. Tho' I said you were more
with me all day long than while staying
in the same house, I have ^{been} wished for
you in the flesh in the course of a soli-
tary ramble over our downs & thro' some
of our lanes which you never explored,
that you might help ^{me} feast on the beautiful
scenery & view, & distant views; & view & know
things, places, & persons turn up that
you ought to have seen; but I still ^{silently} all vain
regrets by reflecting on ^{all} the positives gained,
& hoping to complete next year what is
left unsewn or undone. Poor Mr James has
been to London, & the change has somewhat
restored his equanimity. I was ^{just} about to

summon you back to Bristol with all
speed to save him from the sad fate of a
confirmed hypochondriac, for he came
two or three times asking so piteously
"if we had heard from Paris?" & when the
answer was negative, having "nothing more
to put"; & departing ^{to} "disconsolate", that I
became seriously alarmed for him. Your
special remembrances however greatly
cheered him, & he grew enthusiastic over
a portion of your letters which I read
him by letting him hear, & on which elicit
such remarks about the writer as will
spare your blushes by repeating, & which
terminated with his suddenly exclaiming
"I think I must write to them ^(?) myself!" -
So be prepared for what is in store.

My Father lets him & Mr Armstrong ex-
pate on your manifold charms for a
good while very tranquilly, but beyond a
certain point ^{he} seems to feel as if in some
way his share of you was being interfered
with, & then he interposes in a somewhat
jealous tone & makes mention of some special

specialite^{or other}, which they - poor things - have
not had his advantages for becoming co-
nizant of. If Mr Webb were only here to
add in words what he writes, the quarrel
would make such a clamor about the
Weston's gifts, & excellencies, Dattainments
& capacities, & virtues, &c. &c. as must be heard
in Paris. Then Mr Ed. Chapman has not
yet sufficiently recovered from his in-
-toxication to speak with his ordinary
"precision" of Mrs Chapman, & declares
that his wife speaks of nothing else than
the delights of her visits to her. So you see
what a sensation you have caused, & I can
multiply the tale indefinitely if you would
not think me romancing instead of greatly
understating plain facts. You would have
placed more reliance on my testimony
if you could have been witness to the rap-
-ports which broke forth from the various inspec-
-tions of the Bazaar Contributions at the sight of
the Medallion of Mrs Chapman (which we lent
for the occasion) ^{tho' you heard} how every one thought it
"very beautiful," & how every one who had not seen
Mrs C. told all who had not, that it was "very
like" but did nothing like justice to the original
& then expatiated on her various charms

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-making the disappointed auditor's "hope she would come again"; that then "they might become acquainted ^{with her}" & how we promised they should, after reiterating their hope! I am very glad I did happen to make allusion ^{when writing before} to the fascination she produced on everyone whom I have ⁱⁿ ^{and} ^{visited} of her, & how since the 300 visitors at St. Thomas's they have been numerous & simply wished to give you the satisfaction of knowing that her manifold powers of personal influence had not been wasted or unappreciated in Bristol; & this from the ^{real} ^{feeling} of making you share my pleasure, & relieving your mind of the anxiety you once before told me Miss Martineau had awakened in you, lest the Cause should have been injured, by ^(even her) her introduction into it of a somewhat "irrelevant" theme. At least ^{"irrelevant"} such it always used to appear to me, when descriptions of Mrs Chapman's beauty interrupted the account of facts which seemed utterly unaffected by its presence or absence (as much as by St. C. N.'s views.)

However I believe my confusion only arose
from being myself peculiarly insensible
to the power of personal attractions (merely
external ones I mean), tho' little accustomed
to witness, or hear discussed, the influence
they have on others, as to undervalue their
agency; one which I suppose operates upon
mob as well as on drawing-rooms. ^{At}
any rate I have grown fully alive to ^{the} influence
I can become as delighted as you can be
to see it enlisted in the service of the cause
so potently as it has on the occasion of your
visit to Bristol. It is returning good for evil to
tell you of these various commentaries when
you tantalize me with talking saying you
to have shown the criticisms of Mr. Webb on us, ^{you}
with-holding them. And to add to our excitement
he writes word that you have been expatiating
to him on the same theme; & there the matter
is allowed to rest. Well we must be resigned, ^{tho'}
you have made no reasonable use of your faci-
lities for espionage. It interests me, as a study
to hear how modes of life & traits of character
to which I am habituated impress fresh observations
of the ^{affecting} cause & approbation of those who on I generate

How is ^{peculiarly} ~~properly~~ ^{valued} precious to me,
to the same extent that the estimation
of the world is a source of indifference.
But the partiality of these dear friends
only adds to my humbling sense of responsibility
to become more deserving of it; it has a very
contrary effect from that of "puffing up." I
fancy I am wise enough to discriminate
the ^{what is} adventitious from ^{what are} the actual deserts,
and therefore quite prepared for being seen
by you ⁱⁿ only colours devoid.

There is much more I want to tell you public
& private; but I must not go on, on account of
the needed preparations for our Committee
tomorrow, the result of which you shall have
particulars of. I was determined to secure a
few words being written beforehand, lest too
much might arise out of it & other demands
to leave any time for communion with you.
My father is come home & will I hope be able
to tell his own tale. He seems tired but not ill.
He has rather lowered my notions of the impor-
tance ⁱⁿ which my great designs held by some
of the great authorities in the Anti-Slavery world,

by telling me that he & Mr Thompson were
discussing the aspects of the cause, the position
of the Broad St. Com. Mr Grant, &c. &c. &c. he
alluded to ~~my~~ ^{my} solemn list of accusations
which I am bent on sending ^{over} ^{eight} ^{are} England
& a copy of which I had sent Mr T. more than
a week ago with a beseeching entreaty that he
would just tell me if they could be substantiated
strengthened, or modified; & which I urged my
Father to be sure & bring back with him if he
saw Mr T., as my petition, as usual, was unheeded.
However I grow all the more resolute in
consequence of their neglect, & tho' there is no
one to take counsel with, tho' I long for you &
Mr Chapman to give me a helpful word, as well
as a little sympathy, tho' I seem to lack
of any companion in the strife rising up to
my aid, I mean to persevere, & see if with the as-
sistance of Mr Webb (who has promised to stan-
by me,) I can't carry the point & win the day.
With ~~an~~ ^{my} single helper in the ^{merely} mechanical part of the
work I should not have the slightest misgiving
but ifs are foolish things, & 'tis a waste of time
My Father must describe his interviews with
Mr Grant, & the good ones he draws from the

You will be glad (not jealous,) at his having
 contrived at last to write to "his friend". She
 was kind enough to send me a letter by this mail,
 too short - in consequence of some unexpected inter-
 ruption to give many details of anything going
 on, is the enclosed one for Mr Thompson & promise
 mine next time. She does not seem to have
 regained her elasticity since her anxious watching,
 I am sure such a season of suspense & arduous
 attendance as she has undergone must leave
 her in a state of both mental & bodily exhaustion,
 but she speaks very cheerfully of the contrast
 her present relief & help, always affords to her
 late solicitude. How I wish she could come
 here. Even if it would freshen her, as you
 say it did you. She professes as much as any
 as is becoming any one who, like her self, is
 free from that sin, at our late happy assembly.

Thursday Oct 16th Rain kept away so many people
 from our Committee that the few who assembled
 preferred adjourning, instead of taking the solemn
 responsibility upon themselves of separating from,
 & openly denouncing, "the Parent Society"! Mrs
 Fausstons, was kept at home by a sick child. Which
 is unpleasantly like old times. So we are stationary;

but think will do us no harm in the end for
Every week opens peoples eyes a little more.
Mr Webb has written an answer to the resolution
of Mr Clark in the last Examiner which I hope
we shall be able to get in. If we do you shall be
sure to see it. I enclose his last note to me,
that you may meditate on his suggestions, which
I heartily unite in, about the history of the Anti-
Slavery Soc^y, & see if "way opens" for our work being
supplied. The thing that has taken hold of our
Ladies Com^s: with peculiar force is that "declaration
of sentiment" that Mr Chapman read to them,
"they" with they had it, "it is" "so comprehensive,
& so beautiful, & so Christian!" I wonder if your
sister could squeeze it into the Bazaar Gazette
this year? If so it could be circulated to their
hearts content, & they could refer to it when our
their memories want refreshing. Mr Alfred
Thomas (the Quaker) told us she thought of going
up the Committee owing to her dislike of "contri-
versy," tho' protesting her willing ness to subscribe
to the Society & to extraspenses &c. &c. I rather
applauded her intention since her nerves were
not strong enough to stand ^{such} unavoidable accom-
paniment to effective efforts for

remedying any great wrong. It will be an
instructive fact if all the speakers withdraw.
We will make the most of it. I have not heard
of Miss Duck, or of any of the other members of
the Committee. Miss Waring is in a very confused
state of mind in spite of all Mr Chapman's exertions
to put her straight. She evidently can't take hold
of simple facts in principles strongly enough to
apply & draw from them their legitimate inferences.
She sees very good people in America doing a
very good work, & then as she fancies equally
good people here excusing themselves from
joining in it on account of the way in which
it is being conducted, & she stands bewildered
at the apparent contradictions. And her theology
I think confuses her as much as her false coun-
sellors, & I mean to let her alone at present. She
read me such a new organization letter from an
Uncle who belongs to the Broad St. clique! You
shall see her remarks on Mr Chapman's descrip-
tion of the "Friends" position which I lent her. I
only responded to her that the old Testament
morality was so utterly irrelevant in Anti-
slavery discussions, that I wondered at Mr
Charleton's having the hardihood to introduce
such a thing. It was what no genuine Abolitionist

ever attempted. But those virtuous people
agree with what you tell them. & then go away
& forget it bits bearings. My Father's description
of his journey to London is so ludicrous that
I must enclose it for your edification. You
how fond I am of saving myself trouble. There
is no treason! believe in Mr Webb's. Don't thin
all your writings are public property because
sent him a bit of one of your letters wh told ab
Mr Garrison & Faneuil Hall, finding he did n
hear from you at the time that was written.
I am afraid poor Miss Tribe's state of health is ve
unsatisfactory. She was decidedly attacked &
the thro she has just lost. ^{was just} Hoping he might
get better, & troubled about the state of his soul to an
extent which ^{was} differing the objects present
my meeting with all the grounds of consolati
I should take to myself. Happily however, she
accepts some of the most essential ones I have
ventured to suggest. My Aunt I find has been
writing ^{to you}. I have only had two little notes from her
since you & she left us. You would not have much
in common with her sister whom you wish to
know. She is a dear, affectionate, tender hearted,
conscientious friend to everyone who come within
reach of her powers of serving them. She is a person
who does a great deal ^{of good, & every thing she undertakes she does} very well, & very unostentatious.
I never knew so perfect a manager of a household
^{any one} benefiting such a number of people by well timed

hospitalities, without seeming to do it, I could ^{so on} write a long catalogue of her virtues. But she has the most contracted notions, on every point where some unanimity is essential to the pleasure of intercourse, that I can't think where you would have an inch of common ground. You would have laughed at her argument with me the last time she was here, against Sunday delivery of letters; & the consistency with which she maintained that the Lord would provide against any harm coming in consequence of their detention, since it was keeping His commandment. She being quite incapable of exceeding the strict literal interpretation of scriptures old & new (which she contrives to reconcile somehow) I find it best & kindest, to keep my heresies in the back ground, & let her ^{to} do the talking pretty much alone. I hope I may be led into saving truth. She overflows with love, especially to children, & the short portions of my infantine ^{days} that were passed in her presence gave me the only insight into the joyous & unanxious thing childhood might be to those who were blessed with a mother's watchful tendernefs. I hope my cousin Walter will see you, & that you will not be repelled by a few ungainly ways which prevent his being himself justice with strangers, so as not to penetrate deep enough to discover the warm & manly heart & cultivated mind, which they partially conceal. He is liked best by those who know him best; & you with us I am sure be less disposed to look on him

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with favorable eyes from the circumstances of
his being very near & dear to us. He & I have been
much separated of late & know little of ^{each others} ~~our~~ respec-
tive concerns & interests, but the happiest hours
of our childhood were ^{those} when we could get together
as play mates, & ^{together} ramble unmolested thro' favorite
gardens & fields, & ride on sticks & make houses in
trees. Please to give my love to him if you see him,
& find whether he bears out my testimony, or whether
his memory is more treacherous than mine.
And now I won't give you any more of this.
My Father will say how delighted we are with
Mr Garrison's letter to Mr Crouch, which I have
put into circulation. He does not feel quite
satisfied about A. Ames's recovering his sight, ^{entirely}.
He & Annie correspond a great deal. I want
to know how you ^{are} getting on, & what you think of
our public deeds. But you must never harass
yourself about writing when not quite convenient.
I meant to have enclosed R. Parkers last
effusion in a line to Lizzy but have not time
I find & hope she won't think I love her less for
not writing. My Father was very much pleased
with her letter as we all are to have obtained her
love. Give mine to her & Annie & tell the latter
that the cat has been endeavoring by her caresses
to prevent my feeling deserted. I know Mr

Chapman will fully express sympathy ^{too} & perhaps envy, the success I have been enjoying while my father was away & comparatively few callers molested me. They seemed conscious they should find the house a sad contrast to its recent attractions & so wisely kept aloof.

Good bye, with love that deepens on every remembrance of you
Your fond

Mary Estlin.

(A young man you may remember being here)
Jas Phillips called here just now having returned from Bekham to some more lucrative situation. He gives most satisfactory reports of the Crafts, says W. C. is remarkably industrious & persevering, & gets on rapidly, & that the terms on which he is with the master are all that either party could desire, both speaking in the highest way of each other. Of Ellen he had seen too little to speak with equal confidence but she was always active, busy, & seemed full of interest in what she was about.

Anna Thomas has estimated the contents of the Bazaar box at nearly £150 selling value but I can't help thinking that she overrates it
My Father read your letter with such

considering delight, at the beautiful winter.
We are being enlightened by some lectures from
Henry Vincush, who is to be succeeded by Mr
Balfour, & then by Geo. Dawson; besides we
are to have the great electrician Mr Crookes
work at the Institution. So perhaps you will
find us greatly advanced in mental cultivation
when we next meet.

You said something about the desirableness
of a call for the Liberty party's declaration,
but who is to make it & where is it to appear?
I don't yet hear that being discussed, but it
will open in time.

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