

Weymouth. Mass. Jan 21. 1855

My Dearest Mary,

At last I am
thankful an hour has come when I
can sit down & write to you a very
little of what is in my head & heart.
I wish I could write the whole, but
that would demand volumes. In the
first place, let me thank you for all
the notes & letters that I have received
since I wrote you & all the kind
messages that Mr May has communicated.
You must forgive me, not having written
at once to announce the arrival of
the Bristol & Bridgewater Boxes. I hope
Mr May has done so, but the truth is
I was entirely occupied every moment
after their arrival, I had so much to think
of, so much that was absolutely necessary
to oversee, that I entirely lost you
me every secondly, not to speak
with the immediate duty of the hour.
It is the truth that I can do no other
wise. Did I live in Boston as Maria
used to do, it would be very different
but as it is, I am obliged to leave all
my work undone till the fat night
that precedes the opening of the Bazaar.
In those times every foreign box has
to be unpacked, marked & noted, &
the requests ^{in notes} therein examined &
complied with as far as may be in our
power. Supplies for the refreshment table
obtained, Door keepers & other officials engaged

letters from strangers, friends in the country
to be answered, some proposing to come as
helpers (& many of these are really
kind-hearted) advertisements to be drawn up
1000 miles to the gentility of Boston folded
sealed & directed, & all this besides on my
sister myself & Mr May together with
a multitude of other details to which I don't
refer. I do not mean to say that there
are not several ladies, Mr May (Mr
Sharp's mother), Mr Garrison, ^{Miss Parker} Mrs May &
Anna L. & several others extremely useful
whose help is indeed invaluable, but still it
is we ^{who} are the people on whom the
responsibility rests; in the nature of the case
as affairs stand with us, it must be a few
who do the main part of the work. Under
these circumstances I am very careful not
to go beyond my strength. I know that
there are parts of the machinery that
must come together right at the fixed
point; that, ^{business} I look after, but all else I
leave. When the Bazaar opens, Mr May is
partially at leisure, so I trust he has
written you, but in the multiplicity of my
cares, I forget to assume myself of it by
enquiry, but you must forgive & excuse
all. I was a little discomposed when I
heard of the publication of my letter of
last June to you, for I was told of it
several days before I was able to get the
Advocate, & I could not remember one
word of what I had written. I only
could call to mind that I was in a

state of great excitement & emotion &
I hardly knew how I had expressed myself.
I had another fear which I think was
all. When men are engaged in breaking
or trying to break the laws of the land
as were W. O. Mr Parker & others, the
less that is published in confession of
such facts, by the friends of the parties,
the better, & it was from this point of
view that I spoke. I have great confidence
in your prudence & judgment about
letters, but I have not the same in
R. D. W.'s. He is a dear soul, but he
has made mischief once or twice by
showing letters, & certainly Caroline's letter
about the Moral boxes carried into real
evidence of its unsuitability. What
could be more ludicrous than the
allusion to Caroline Kent's British courage.
It was only one of the cant phrases
common in the Weston family, & which
I laughed at C's repeating to any body
out of it. But I won't take up any more
valuable space with these bygones. You
may always show any of my letters to
any body you please, unless I make a
specific proviso. I never wish any thing
printed unless I write it for that specific
purpose, for if any idea of the possibility
of the thing comes to my mind, it takes
away my ease & freedom. I cannot
write without any thing of that abandon
that I desire above all things. — My
Report of the Boyars will be to you

about as early as this letter. I wish it was
better, but the subject matter is necessary
monotonous. I am not much fitted for
any kind of writing, & not at all for
descriptions of this kind. I have little
of the artistic in my nature. Of course beauty
of that ~~kind~~ ^{sort} does not appeal to me
in the way it does to many. I do not
really much enjoy seeing pretty things &
therefore cannot describe them with ease.
I hope I have said nothing in matters of
doctrine that was wrong. Every thing of
that nature is ^{in the Report} common place I am aware
but I write as I did in reference to the
Church, with the French & Swiss Evangelists
in my mind. I wish they may be all
fully aware of the ground we occupy.
I made a very pleasant visit to Anne
this week, at the very earnest invitation
of Mrs Stone. She is an ^{extremely} ~~very~~ interesting pleasant
person, full of talent & originality, very
amiable & very lovable. Still I think
a sort of accidental co-incident of circum-
stances that has brought her into her
present position ^{rather} than any real adaptation
to it. She is not, I suppose, highly instructed
in Art, but she is passionately devoted to it
& naturally drawn to tastes & employments
therewith connected. We had a good deal
of argument on the question of admitting
slave holders & pro slavery people to
Church communion, she going for it,
but I think all her views on Church
fellowship such as her own denomination
would think very absurd.

2
Her house is a perfect Museum & she has
a very good collection of books, & altogether
it is a very pleasant place. She came
to the Fair the first few days & went
through the forms of selling (which was
all we wished, as her talents certainly
don't lie that way) & she was looked at
& run after, & altogether proved as one
of our attractions. But I must hasten to

another matter which will more than fill
up all the space at my disposal: the
London Conference. All the letters rec'd
from yourself, Mr Steinthal, Mr Bishop, &
Mr Pillsbury, have been read with the
greatest interest & in addition to the pub-
lished accounts, have enabled us to feel
as if we were tolerably au fait to the
state of the case. The fair article in the
Advocate is very good - the story could
not have been told better. As you may
imagine, I am truly sorry for the
position in which circumstances seem
to have brought G. F. I take the following
to be a fair statement as far as he is
concerned. He is in want of money &
employment, has a wife & children & is a
man of somewhat expensive habits. Sturges
& Foster & other drinkers that I don't know
& don't wish to know, some people of the
Manchester school & a sprinkling of Liberals
of all parts, are piling up debts then own
purposes (good ones for aught I know) by
getting this paper "The Empire" into

G. F.'s hands. The arrangement is an agreeable one all round. Neither party is thinking much of the A. Slavery Cause or John Am. Socy, but it is very apparent that if they are to act in harmony in one way, they cannot be at great odds in another. Now Thompson has always acted very weakly, in respect to this abominable British & Foreign Socy. It is something in his nature. A direct front, penman face to face battle based not upon a spasm of indignation, but upon grounds of principle he cannot fight. A very piquant discussion on a platform he can manage extremely well none better, but to retain any standing moral indignation against such a ~~person~~ person as I take Jos. Sturge to be is out of the question with him. He has in reality great generosity & magnanimity of character but these good qualities do occasionally run into weakness. He does not distinguish between the pious & the vile. Therefore I suppose that the moment Sturge for any end of his own wishes to procure his cooperation a little amiable talk ^{on his part} will be sure to succeed. It is as if it were for my interest to go into business with Lewis Tappan. Now I would have no dealings any way, socially or commercially with such a person, on account of his business anti Slavery, wise, but if I had always been speaking charitably of him sitting in public with them whenever opportunity occurred, it would not be very likely that

I would resist the temptation of going
into business with him when it was for
my interest. It was unlucky that Mr
Chambers off you got up his Convention just
now as G. F. not being a helper was of course
a detriment & perplexed the course of Messrs
Bishop & James. We are all agreed here
that the resolution that was passed was
more satisfactory than the one proposed
naming us with the American & Foreign.
We do esteem it in itself as an indignity
to be named in juxtaposition with such
a Society, but we are fully aware of
the right intentions & administer spirit
of the above named gentlemen. I do not
think they are exactly aware of all the
consequences of this affair. The difference
between the two Societies was not merely
one of opinion, we do not so terribly disre-
spect them, ^{the new organization} because of their pe-
ccatorism
a bigotry. We could not trust them with
money & they were devoid of truth.

We all feel under great obligations
to Messrs Bishop & Messrs James, for their
fidelity & earnest help under very disa-
greeable circumstances, but had I been
in their places I should have arranged
my plan more circumstantially. I should
should not have moved the resolution in
behalf of the Am. Socy, or else I should
have pushed it to a vote right over the
heads of Spruce, Foster & Co. I think

Mr Pillsbury had better not have
introduced his motion in the after noon
unless he knew it would have been per-
mited & put. But his speeches must
have done great good & made a favorable
impression. This latter is evident. I dare
say the whole thing will be over ruled
for good, but I believe the true position
is to let the B. & F. go on their way,
the American Society & its friends having
no respect to them any way. You have
a glorious little paper in the Colocate
I wish you had one or two accomplished
Sermons, but at the present time all
the country is absorbed in the Eastern war
it cannot be so good a time just now
for A. S. work as it may be hereafter.
All the people in my circle are feeling
a great deal about the army before
Vicksburg. Such suffering & such waste of
life is to us perfectly dreadful.

I take note of all you say about
our friend P. P. I do not doubt that illu-
minations rendered him somewhat martial, but
he is naturally somewhat unduly sen-
sitive. I think however his tour abroad
will be of great use to him in the
correction of some of his theories. I wish you
could hear him at London, for I am
sure he was very eloquent. I am ex-
actly of Joseph Barker judging him by
his Liberator letters. He is a very
bigoted Infidel & does seem to see the
breadth of the platform.

3 I must turn from "the weightier matters
of the law" & give these half sheets to private
friends & matters. I am so rejoiced
that dear Mr Estlin's health continues to
improve; at least, that he joys well as to
enjoy the daily routine of life. I was
much pleased to hear of you in Iceland
because I was aware it would be a
charming excursion alike for yourself &
the Irish friends. Tomorrow I go to Mrs
Folger for a few days, & then to the Annual
Meeting of the Miss Society. I shall take
your last letter with me that I may
read parts of it to her & Miss Cabot. Mrs
F. came twice to the Fair. She has been
very ill, but the Water Cure people
have helped her & she was in her usual
charming spirits. Susan was not able
to come at all, but she is recovering
as steadily ^{if not} as quickly as could be
hoped, her severe illness being taken into
the account. — We stayed with Mr
J. during the Bazaar & had a very
agreeable visit as far as our labours &
fatigue permitted. I used to have occasion-
ally very amicable theological discussions
with Mr H. He is one of the best men
that ever lived tho' much astray in
point of doctrine. He gave me the
picture you mentioned & I believe it
was his Librarian

Mr Garrison is as usual in fine health
& spirits - Mr Phillips the same. He does
not seem to take a very lively interest
in his quest any way. I do not know
what evidence the Government has
but I can hardly think a conviction
can be procured. The trial will take place
in March & will occasion great excitement.
Wendell was never so popular. He has
given many literary lectures this fall
and winter over the whole country &
has been heard by admiring throngs.

Please give my regards to Mr Stein
that when you next write & tell him
I shall write to himself & Mr J. in a week or
two. My very affectionate regards to Mr
Pittsburg. When I have plenty of time
strength (when will that be?) I shall address
him a letter of rebuke on the 4th page of
the Liberator on a perfectly extraneous topic.
He has abused Walter Scott in the A. S. Bazaar
& that is one of the things I do not tolerate.
Tell him to prepare for a terrible onslaught.
Pray give much love to your father &
Mr Mitchell & please write me as soon
& as much at length as time will allow.
Our news from the Italian West is very
good. - I shall see to your knitting when
the Edinburgh box comes. Only think what a
wisp it was.

ever your affectionate

Anna Weston