

Leicester,

Aug<sup>t</sup>. 5/73.

My dear friend Garrison;

It is too bad that I haven't written to you, or seen you, for so long. I hear from, or rather of, you from time to time, from one or another person; and I occasionally see a communication from you in the "Independent" - longer now than usual, I think, <sup>since I have -</sup> - & lately, I read one from you, in the "Chr. Union" on the multitude of Americans abroad, - with some richly-deserved rebukes of their manners, &c. Was it in the "Independ<sup>t</sup>," that I saw your Com<sup>n</sup>. on the College Boat-racing Contests? ~ But I wished to tell you I had lately been - only last Sunday - to Brooklyn Conn., & gave them a Sunday service. Two months ago I went to the funeral there of Mr. Maria Whitcomb, - whom your wife knew so well as Maria Spalding, and for whom I felt a very strong regard and respect indeed. Finding <sup>my friends, there</sup> them, at that time, much troubled by the ill-health of

Mrs. Purleigh (their minister), and by the prospect of being deprived of her services for an indefinitely long period - for she had found it absolutely necessary to go away from all work, & get some absolute rest of body & mind, & was to leave within a week after the funeral - I began to feel not a little concern for the little Society there, under the double trial of Mrs. Whitcomb's death and Mrs. Purleigh's indefinite departure; and, while I enjoyed very much my visit there, I could not the less feel apprehensive as to their future. They have had a very steady supply since Mrs. P. left them, - but it has been mainly by those, who, out of regard for them or for Mrs. P., have given their services, & receiving their expenses only. I was very glad to find Dr. Whitcomb quite cheerful, though not like the Dr. of the Eden times, He is working most diligently in his profession, & almost incessantly; - for it seems the

Chief relief left to him, to keep as fully occupied as possible. I believe your wife was also well acquainted with Mrs. Stetson there. She is now very ill, with an intermittent fever; but Dr. W. is treating her homœopathically (his principal method of treatment now), & he believes she will come through it, & be fully restored. My wife accompanied me there, and we passed some 40 hours there very pleasantly.

This week we are expecting to pass through Boston, on our way to So. Plymouth, on a visit to some friends, to whom we like & desire to go as often as once a year. (and formerly did.) but now it is 4 years since we were there. I must needs take some hours to go out to South Hill, Milton, to see my Mother, and we shall have time for no other calls, but must push on to Plym<sup>o</sup>. But I hope it will not be a long time before I see you & take you by the hand, and I wish I <sup>might</sup> find you free from lameness, and every form of physical trouble. I hope

Your wife is now having comfortable days & nights; Please give our best love & sympathy to her. — I have not heard whether Wm. is to go to Jefferson or not this summer. I hope they are all well; and that George & Frank are well; and that your accounts from Fanny & Mr. Villard are favorable; also from Wendell & Lucy.

My wife wishes me to say that, at your early convenience, she would like to have again the volume she lent to you, — John Gray of Dilston, — a gift from Richard D. Webb to her. It might be left, when you have quite done with it, at May & Co.'s store 16, Oliver Street, — perhaps by Geo. or Wm., as it is very near the latter's store. Was, (or rather) is Mrs. Josephine Butler, (the English heroine — no Joan of Arc ever possessed a truer courage, or fought a grander & more terrible fight than she,) the daughter of the said John Gray? My wife so understood it. Mary Estlin lately sent me some photographs of Mrs. Butler. Have you seen such? Again with affect. regard, Yrs. Saml. May.