

Darlington Decem^r co. Pa. Jan 16 - 1846

My dear friend -

I have written you many times since I have been in the west, and you have written me but seldom, yet still I write, hoping you will understand fully that I am no formalist even in the matter of scribbling; but I write when I can and beg my friends to write me as frequently as they can afford to - I do not complain that our eastern friends write us so seldom, and least of all that you seldom ~~say~~ say any thing to us in the delightful letter sheet. All the matter is, that you find time to write us at all - When I have thought of the mountain weight of responsibility which the Fair imposes on you and all your other untold self-imposed or rather God-imposed duties I wonder you can bear up - God bless you - May God bless you and every body who asks his blessing by the doing of his will -

But I write mainly at this time to draw your attention to the western field - I fear you (I mean our eastern friends) do not feel the importance of this section - And I fear again that you do not realize what a great work we are doing here - Now I ^{am} not so modest that I can't tell you that we are changing the whole aspect of affairs as touching the cause - As a stroke of policy we have kept pretty quiet, seldom reporting progress for fear Liberty Party would tread us. We go in and catch the demagogues tripping and so carry off the soldiers - We sometimes sweep a whole town in this way - For instance in our town some twenty miles from this there have been ^{for} some two years, between eighty and ninety Liberty votes - This year there

were six only. The Bugle has between eight and nine hundred sub-
scribers and for aught we see may have two thousand before the
year closes if an efficient agency is kept in the field - We
did what we could to obtain an editor who had all the qual-
ifications for the position but failing to do so have prevailed
of B. G. Jones and J. Elizabeth to remain at the post for the
present - When they decided to do so they concluded to con-
summate their marriage - It took place at New Brighton
day before yesterday - It may be you did not know they
had been engaged since Nov. last - It was not proclaimed
when they were in Boston as they did not then expect to
marry for some years as their prospect was to lecture - But if
they edit, lecturing occasionally, it will be more convenient to
be married - You can hardly understand how thankful and
grateful my heart is when I see in this wicked world so
beautiful and ~~and~~ true and self sacrificing a spirit as J. Eliz-
abeth - She was reared in the most delicate and tender manner
- spoiled and was gratified - spoiled and was obeyed - She had
no iron constitution of body and I thought not of mind - But
since she has laid herself on the slave's altar she has become
another being - God grant she may hold out to the end -
I trust she will - Benj. is at head of the strictest integrity
and will greatly strengthen her - It was a beautiful sight
in my chamber the evening before my marriage to see the over-
joyed and world-pleasing Jane Elizabeth Hitchcock with a face
as serene as that of an angel and a sweet voice, expressing the
utmost ~~pleasure~~ ^{satisfaction} sit and tell me of the manner in which
she had decided to go to Lancaster - "I'm come" said she

"will answer - one for our office and parlor which, with a press
bed will also serve for a bed-room at night, and then the
kitchen and dining-room - fifty dollars I have
by estimation found will be sufficient to furnish them as the
cooking-stove will be the most expensive article of furniture
I could get, during that conversation always I suppress my tears of
gratitude to God for so rich a gift to our cause - She
has no home for the west, but stays here for the slave's
sake - You know she is a volunteer agent - She has
assisted in editing, as Mother Burj. or ourselves felt willing
that he should occupy that post alone and yet they have
generally labored two days in the week - Can the American
Society make her a present? I make this suggestion because
I feel that if any one deserves support for devotion and sacrifice
she is worthy - She is not busy in the work she does
but her work is effective - She suffers more in making this
sudden transition from elegance to meanness, as the world will
style it, than many others because she is peculiarly sensitive -
Should the Society see fit to make her a present I pray
you that she may never know or suspect that I have said
any thing about it - She thinks she is of but little service
tho' she wants to do much -

I began to tell you that we had done much for the
West but I find my sheet unexpectedly filled with another
matter - It is late and I will not particularize to night -
You shall be able to judge for yourself in due time -

I wrote you some time since that I was quite unwell - I
have had two weeks rest and am better tho' I expect no
permanent relief till I have a long respite
Yours truly - Abby Kelly Foster

Maria Weston Chapman

Boston

Mass. —

Jan 14 1846

Atty Kelly

No 15-