

Dublin 2nd of 9th month 1846GARRISON
MSS.

My dear Friend,

I don't know which of your circles I write to last - but it is no matter - as I understand you do keep the benefit of whatever I communicate in this way. My present cause of writing is a very sufficient one - and is as follows. N. C. Wright has prepared an awful package of ~~his~~ ^{his} terrible and tremendous caligraphy - 32 mortal paper lay - for the benefit of farmers in the first instance and then of every man of the world uncoerced - and as the weight of the whole inscription don't amount to two ounces and is more than one of ink cost 4 shillings at any rate so it would be a great pity that the Queen should not be obliged to take as near the full weight as possible.

My family returned from the County of Wexford about two weeks since - and the day after their arrival came Henry C. Wright. He looks I think thinner, straighter, yellower, & healthier than when he left us eight months ago. His voice is much stronger and the debility of his chest seems gone. For some days after his arrival he seemed inclined to take the world easy - but he has lately taken to spend the greater part of the day writing in his room - I suppose he thinks he is shaking the world - but I can perceive very little of the motion so far. Every individual's circle is comparatively limited - but we are all naturally disposed to magnify that in which we ourselves move. I suppose if we had a true idea of our own unimportance to the millions amongst whom we form but a unit, our self importance & self love would be so abated that we should hardly have courage to make any effort whatever

with a view to the good of our fellow creatures. H.C.W. does not seem to me to be either vain or proud or self important - and yet I think he has an exaggerated idea of the influence of his efforts for good - and furthermore his efforts seem vastly disproportioned to the greatness of his design. The children are always fond of him and he makes them his friends wherever he goes. Some of mine cling to him more closely than they do to me - he plays with them & sings to them - and they have great enjoyment together. He speaks of spending another month here in retirement copying out his tracts and his sermons, with some obscure views to publication - then he goes to lecture in Scotland and then to the South of England where he talks of spending the winter.

Before Henry's arrival, we had another Henry whose company I enjoyed exceedingly - I mean Henry Colman - I met him before at the Peace Convention in London in 1847, but had little opportunity of intimate acquaintance - London is no place for strangers to become ^{known} ~~acquainted~~ ^{to} each other. However although he did not take up his residence with us during his stay in Dublin he lodged in our street and took many meals with us - coming in and out in the pleasantest way. I enjoyed him particularly and he all thought we had seldom met with a more delightful person in a social way. He is no stiff starched minister - there is nothing clerical about him. He is free unreserved and outspoken and he says what he thinks and does not mince his words or pretend to agree with you when he does not. His free unbounded ideas quite attract us so seldom meet with any thing of the kind here in a natural rational way. He was frequently at James Haughton and my brother James's - and seemed to enjoy the time he spent in Dublin. I think he said he had not felt more at home since he left home, than during his stay here.

He could hardly have paid me a higher compliment in that direction. I am sure he thought me very kind & good natured but I am not prepared to take all the credit to myself. I let it down to its true cause which is selfishness & the keen love of enjoyment. How could any man be more gratified than in the society of such a delightful "specimen of humanity". His conversations too are so glazing that they seem to make us lights of the world better pleased with ourselves. He is a Peace man - abhors war & hates the sight of a soldier - I am sure quite sincerely - yet he holds to the right & duty of defence. He thinks all governments a curse but sticks up stoutly - so stoutly for voting that he thinks a man should be ducked who would refuse to exercise his privileges - he would join a slave insurrection tomorrow if there were any fair chance of success from a conviction of the justice of their cause - yet he would vote for a slaveholder - for Clay for instance on the ground that it is your duty to choose the least of two evils - and that Clay is better than Polk or Tyler. He admits that he is affected with the prejudice against colors - he holds that the race of mankind is not all from one stock - he fast he is a Paradoxer of Dixity, Delights - full of the most charming varieties of doctrine & sentiment. He has promised to send me his Sermons & a Catechism he wrote. He thinks law, physics & divinity full of absurdity & the professors of these arts among the greatest of quacks. He is a thorough gentleman - abhors tobacco & stands up like a man for Uncle Sam when he thinks him unfairly attacked. I thought him a little too much of a partisan in this respect - but he is so heartily honest, I liked him all the better. I am ex-

travelling anxious to see his Seculars - I wonder what they are like! He has much hope - and is apt to look to the despairing side of things - and yet when taken unawares he gives the most tempting descriptions of your great and growing national prosperity. He was hurried with the folks & Scotchmen & rest of some of the poorer parts of Dublin. One day he walked in saying "well! I am converted - I am converted." - We asked him two or three times before he replied "To American Slavery" he was at last satisfied that the conditions of the plan is better than that of some of our paupers. As far as respects the physical point of view he is probably right in many instances, but I am sure that if the terms on which the slaves enjoy his fatherly (wee) explained to the most wretched of our poor they would repeat an exchange of positions with indignant horror. However I don't think that our poor are as badly off by any means as those in Glasgow & Edinburgh - the dirt is much a matter of taste and the rage a frequent exchange for whiskey. But things are certainly improving with us - Temperance is doing great things - some was not built £ in a day. Our poor have no back woods and prairies and far west to fall back upon.

I don't know whether in my last to Quincy I told him I had called upon O'Connell of emen in prison. He was walking in a beautiful garden and looked as merry & rosy as a boy of twelve - but a good deal more wrinkled - his step is as firm this part as ever & majestic as I ever saw them. It is said if the judges disagree in their opinions on the West of Errors that he & his fellow prisoners will be discharged at once - that if they agree & confirm the judgment of the high courts, he will still be let out on giving security required by his sentence to keep the peace - which he certainly never broke. I hope he may get out on the former terms. There is

time talk about the Queen paying us a visit in a month or two.
before she went away. The King was willing to the Queen - and I
show the prospect of the display of degrading serobility that was
probably take place if she came. I wish they had the pluck to
to self respect to take a royal visit at its true value. It
would in fact be a Troy Triumph - if the Queen came here.
I were feted surrounded with Sir Robert Peel pulling the strings.
We also had Henry Vincent one of the practical orators of the
Free Bazaar, or Moral Force Chartist Movement, here for two
weeks. He & his wife stayed with my brother James. He is a
young looking, bright eyed robust man of 31 - his eyes & his
complexion like Garrison - his wife is very like that little
little woman Mrs Henry B. Stanton. She (Mrs V.) is one of
the best talkers and the real intelligent and free minded
~~woman~~ women I have ever known.

I feel after a fashion responsible for the sale of the Boston
Fair box - because for some years I have had to work to do
with gathering it together & forwarding it - I fear it will be
for all this year. That poor little will I think be owing
owing to the energy & zeal of the Jennings's - Mr. Coleman
saw that family & must have liked them. Tell me about
Bredburn - let him be Liberty Party if he pleases - he can't keep
out of politics - but don't let him join James C. Jackson &
Colver & Leavitt & Blackford his old friends. This would be
deplorable. Is Thomas Davis alive? I got no Herald of
Freedom last mail - why? I think some of the Clergymen
own me two or three letters - I can't keep from writing
to you. We have a glorious harvest - Yours truly Richd Webb

GARRISON
MSS.

Maria W. Chapman

39. Garrison MSS. Serial

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