

Dublin, Sunday, February 23 - 1857.

My dear Friend - I am sure you must conclude  
that I am neither kind nor courteous in leaving  
your long and most welcome letter to long unanswered.  
When it was handed to me I was greatly gratified  
and read it with deep interest - and intended to  
answer it immediately. But my time was so  
much engaged then that I could not make any  
opportunity for writing as I wished - and in a very  
few days after I had to go to London as one of a  
deputation appointed to ride across to promote the  
reform of the excise duty on paper. I left home  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> and returned on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I was just a  
week in London - and spent the rest of the time on  
my way home. In the day time I was taken  
up with the bustle of my mission - calling on members  
of parliament, attending committees & holding council, &c.  
But the evenings I had time to myself - and I spent  
two of them with Mrs. Follen & Miss Cabot at their  
lodgings, 5, Colburn Street, Park Park. The street is a  
rather narrow - but quite new - and made up of small  
houses in a very stately and aristocratic neighbour-  
hood. The apartments are of course small but I  
found comfortable. When I first called I met  
Miss Montgomery, an Irish lady, very intimate with  
Lady Byron, who has been extremely kind and atten-  
tive to Mrs. F. taking her out in his carriage and  
paying her all kinds of dutiful attention. When I  
proposed to Liverpool to see Mrs. F. soon after his arrival  
I only met her in a large company of his friends Mrs.  
Annesley - but in London I had several times talks with  
her each time - and was most kindly received and  
pressed to come again. We talked a deal about you  
all, about Paris & every thing, particularly the Cause  
which she takes really to heart - and from her frank  
ability as a talker I am sure she will do good if any



body can in the world to which she has access. It is  
very difficult to excite a real interest in the English  
mind towards anything outside their own boundaries,  
and they can very little feel that other people think  
of them. Besides they are so habitually cool, decorous,  
and frigid that they are easily repelled & rendered  
suspicious by the language which the atrocities of  
Slavery and the meanness of the Proslavery spirit  
have compelled the Abolitionists to use. They do not  
look on Slavery from Frederick Douglass's point of  
view - as if the case were their own, pressing on  
themselves, their wives & daughters, and without this  
nobody can be an abolitionist. If people did so,  
the cause would soon be victorious, for nobody would  
think of pausing to ask questions about the religion  
of the comrade who rushed forward with him to the  
breathless of the practice of Slavery. Mrs Follen's  
health is very delicate - she seems to labour under  
a complication of ailments - nervous and organic -  
which she seems disposed to attribute to her residence  
in Paris. She does Paris & the French people as far as  
I could gather - and thinks that it is a wonder how  
any one can be healthy there where every body is  
obliged to swallow such quantities of gypsum. Miss  
Cabot is a very pleasing person - but cannot be fully  
known in the company of Mrs Follen who leads the  
conversation. I found that some of the Edinburgh  
Wesleys rather preferred her to Mrs Wigham's,  
perhaps for this reason, that she talked less. However  
I have a large capacity for this kind of pleasure & am  
not easily tired to cry out against too much of  
a good thing. I find that the older I grow I enjoy  
good telling more than almost any other kind of  
luxury - and that the absence of it is a great privi-  
lege to me. These ladies should promise that if  
possible they would come and see us in Dublin before they go home.



But this is not likely to be very soon - for Mrs. F. does not  
like to return in such bad health - and she thinks that a  
voyage across the Atlantic would be the death of her  
little Mr. F. & his sister. She greatly appreciates the advan-  
tages of his present situation for the education of his  
son - who attends the London University and is taking  
lessons in Chemistry & I think engineering from men of  
note. Charles looks lively and hearty but not so much  
as when I saw him in 1849. He has a grand oppor-  
tunity for improvement with such a mother in such a  
place - but it must cost a great deal of money. One great  
advantage you have in America is that if you spend  
money you do feel you feel sure that it is to be had  
again. In these countries, if a man loses his little  
capital - the loss in a great proportion of instances is  
irrecoverable - if he be not quite a young man with  
considerable energy of character. - which in London  
I had letters from Mr. Miss E. about an article he  
has written of the contrary of Mrs. W. for inser-  
tion in a London journal showing the extraordinary  
baseless of the Pro-Slavery American clergy in refer-  
ence to the Fugitive Slave Bill and the necessity  
of the British people ~~knowing~~ <sup>being</sup> their being on their guard  
against the lies of these people when they come over  
as they probably will in great numbers to the Great  
Exhibition. After a note from Mrs. W. wishing to  
see her I set off one morning to Upper Clapton  
about 7 miles from my hotel - and had an hour  
talk with her about all anti-slavery people & things.  
Considering that her husband is an anti-slavery  
Congregational minister who has been poisoned  
against the Am. A. S. Society by the American clergy  
who came over to the Evangelical Alliance, she is  
a remarkable instance of great charity & kindness,  
faithfulness to the truth, zeal, and energy. She is a  
fine, brave woman & you must by all means see her



when you come to London. a few more such  
she is would be just thrown in the path of the  
Proslavery Americans. — I called at George Thompson's  
and saw his wife who looks withered & aged  
she told me that her W. I. Garrison was lying in London  
then and not likely to last much longer. The house  
in Hoare Street is a handsome part of the town, and  
must I should think be very indebted to their means  
~~There are the witnesses of the witness that were all very tall~~  
~~the witness of the witness of the witness of the witness~~ Mrs. Magistrate  
me he had no chance of reelection for the Town Chamber  
and from what she said I fancy that a man in his  
position without money excites little respect in London  
is apt to be looked on as a foolish and scrupulous ass  
tires. She is a warm friend of his and speaks of him  
with great respect. They belong to the same sect, I  
say it was at his husband's instance his name was  
brought before the committee he refused. You have  
probably heard that some of his friends are trying to raise  
a sum of money by way of testimonial to him on his  
return from the U. States. Now how they have succeed  
I do not know — for I had not time to call on the  
trustees — though I want to see Thompson in order to see  
their address. But even if they get the thousand  
pounds they talked of and he should get very home a  
much more which is most unlikely — ~~the witness of the witness~~  
~~the witness of the witness of the witness of the witness~~ unless he has some ~~the witness of the witness~~  
~~the witness of the witness of the witness of the witness~~ the  
condition of a man with a large family, delicately brought  
up, and without trade or profession to maintain them  
is put them in the way of helping themselves is most  
deplorable in this country. — I have accompanied  
in America with deep interest — his speeches have  
run up the old glow in my heart — I long to see  
him in some easy position — I delight in him when  
he has farmers, Phillips & Jackson at his back — ~~the witness of the witness~~  
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~~the witness of the witness of the witness of the witness~~ the witness of the witness of the witness of the witness  
You are his warm friend. What can be done for

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25. 65A



You heard that my sister called was in  
Boston and spent a night at Weymouth.  
She was greatly charmed with your sister  
Anne and thought her very delightful - &  
Lucia & Deborah. (y vice versa) two of the most  
beautiful girls she had ever seen. "I'd like  
to see you all - but like refined English  
ladies." I am sure I don't in the least  
understand your re-arrangement or disclaimers  
of patriotic feeling. Your family has had no  
reason for feeling any such emotion in a  
country for which you have really done so  
much & that has treated you so injuriously.  
Your letter remarks in two accounts of the Bazaar  
is perfectly true that the United States exhibited  
at this house events that would in the Septent  
they indicate the massacre of St. Bartholomew  
and the other atrocious acts that in our  
account seem to evidence too bad to have  
ever taken place. As I am and grow old  
I am supplied with an extra attention from  
frankness at the wonderfully small  
number of the comments in the three King  
doms who are capable of appreciating in  
its true light the grandeur and real  
nobility of the Anti-Slavery struggle in  
the United States in the teeth of the fearful  
odds that the Abolitionists have to contend  
with. I am fully appreciative the practices of  
Webster, which I learned fully to judge



the difference of his morality. - There is a  
man living in Manchester that I suspect  
I am in the habit of calling on as in pass  
through. I think they must be like many  
of the early abolitionists. They are a  
mother & daughter and keep a little shoe  
shop. They read the Standard and are  
in full sympathy with the A.S. cause.  
Very plain & simple - thoroughly true  
hearted & sincere. When Joseph Barber  
was maliciously arrested by the late  
Attorney General on a false charge of  
sedition Miss Wotton faced the decision  
of being his friend and called the ministers  
to him. I hope you will see them  
when you go to Manchester - such people  
are of the right metal.

But I was near forgetting to tell you  
that my sister & family have come back.  
Her husband did not like going and  
when he got to the U.S. did not act as  
one who meant to remain. They are  
now on the verge of poverty - and my  
brother-in-law affords an illustration of  
the proverb that there are none so  
difficult to help as those who cannot or  
will not help themselves. One of their children &  
a fine boy of 12, or with us now from what he  
tells me I am quite sure they might have done



well if his father had shown a little pluck  
instead of waiting till good fortunes fell into  
his lap. Two of the boys - this and an elder  
one are more than commonly clever and intelli-  
gent, and I believe if either of them were landed  
at New York without a cent in his pocket, he  
could make his way in the world.

I did not hear a word of poor Madame  
Bardoune till I got your letter - and was really  
glad to hear of it. Poor M. Bardoune! I could  
not communicate much with him - he knows  
French - but I saw how attached & devoted he was  
and that he read his friends his own. One  
does not know what to say to one so stricken  
or how to take comfort in thinking of him.

Dec. I had a letter yesterday from S. May, for  
announcing the approach of the Annual Bazaar  
which always makes me a little ashamed to  
think you ~~do~~ think it necessary to send  
any thing to this side of the Atlantic. Still  
I think that though many would not receive  
any such stimulus to their zeal, there are  
others in whom it is not thrown away. In  
these letters you just now pleading themselves with  
the notion that they are not about to under-  
mine British & Foreign influence in Bristol  
and that they will have a pretty good field  
of cooperation with the American Society.  
The Patrons too of Glasgow never go to sleep but are  
always alive to the interests of the cause.



Miss Estlin says that Hannah & I went so to Bristol  
to help them to entertain you. But they will need  
no help - and you won't want to be entertained. It is  
better than entertainment to such people together. -

Now this blessed Sunday I have done no good  
but write to you - if it be good to do that same. A  
cold east wind is out - and Hannah is confined with

The Dear Miss Chapman  
Miss Wendome  
Paris

Madame

Miss C. Weston.

on our youngest child - Anne - who is in bed with  
influenza - and so between a little reading & some  
friends calling in I have made a day of it. With  
kind remembrances to all our circle I hope to  
hear from you whenever you are disposed to write -  
to see you before very long -

I remain yours very truly  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Webb

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25. 65 A