

Dublin 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 1846

My dear Friend

I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter respecting Douglass's tirade yesterday - and as this is the first time that you have had occasion to express dissatisfaction with my course, I feel a little sore and am desirous to lose no time in vindicating myself. The friendly confidential character of your letters has been a source of great gratification to ~~me~~ one who esteems you as I do, and I feel vexed that you should be even slightly disposed to withdraw this confidence, from such a cause as this ridiculous outbreak of Douglass. In all my experience of men I have never known one not sincere so able and willing as he is, to magnify the smallest cause of discomfort or wounded self esteem into insurmountable hills of offence and dissatisfaction. He is in my opinion by much the least lovable and the least easy of all the abolitionists with whom I have come into intimate association. I think his selfishness intense, his affections weak, and his unreasonableness quite extraordinary when he is in the slightest degree hurt or when he thinks himself hurt. I could convince you that I have no doubt ~~that~~ there is no occasion for all this absurd & most ungracious fuss he has made. If he had any good feelings you are ~~not~~ ~~sure~~ one of the very best people living that he would care to reach to his all temples upon - even if you had, what you have not, done any thing in writing to me which it was not perfectly proper, and right, and necessary that you should write. I have looked over your letters and am pretty sure I have found the passage I read to him. It was this. "I earnestly hope he may not yield to temptations. When one word of exception, comparison or even a look marking a line of distinction drawn in favor of one self between oneself and the American Society, will seem to permit to much of personal help and success, how hard not to say it." Now I may not have been quite judicious in reading this to him - but if I was not, it was because he is a very much less sensible & magnanimous man, much less devoted to the cause and

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much more to himself than I took him to be. And this should be  
~~thought~~ considered a very peculiar mistake, for I am predisposed  
to think every American abolitionist who comes here with your  
recommendations, devoted, magnanimous and sensible. And such I have  
~~to~~ <sup>generally</sup> found them to be - but not I think Frederick Douglass.  
As to his talents I admit them - but personally I can little for  
great talents, unless they are backed by those qualities which are  
inseparable from affection and esteem towards the professor.

It is my custom when I receive ~~a~~ letters from any of my American  
friends, to take them to a little committee, where our very small  
"faction" consisting of James Haughton, my two brothers, and sometimes  
Richard Allen, assemble every Wednesday morning, to talk over  
Ant. Harry, Totalitarianism, Pean, &c. There ~~it~~ <sup>we</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>used</sup> to read  
and ~~the~~ <sup>such</sup> letters or portions of such letters as we have rec<sup>d</sup> during the  
past week, ~~that~~ <sup>as</sup> bear upon the subject of our deliberations. When  
we have guests or visitors who are interested in these matters we  
invite them to our sittings, and of course they hear whatever is to be  
heard. It was on an occasion very shortly after the arrival of  
Douglass & Buffum, that they were present at our Committee, and all  
this terrible mischief was done by my suffering that Douglass was  
a sensible man and that this advice or suggestion from one of  
his ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> best friends would be taken in good part. All who know  
me intimately know that caution is ~~my~~ <sup>predominant</sup> in my  
character - I am much more apt to withhold than to condemn  
criticisms - and I am looked upon as rather secretive than otherwise.  
At the same time where I feel fully at my ease, and <sup>can place</sup> ~~center~~ <sup>com-</sup> ~~com-~~  
dence, I say whatever comes present, as in the case of those unwise  
letters I inflict on you from time to time. If I were to  
visit America, and James Haughton were to write to you, that  
he hoped I would be firm, and withstand temptations such as I  
always heard were likely to beset the way of any one, who, full of  
Ant. Harry professions, sets his foot on your soil, I should certainly  
not consider it a mortal offence, or a good reason for writing  
him an illtempered letter, or for making so many of my best ~~and~~  
~~and~~ ~~and~~ friends uncomfortable, as I could readily manage to disturb.

J. Daiglan was a very short time in my house, before I found him to be absurdly haughty, self possessed, and prone to take offence. Even my wife who is one of the sweetest tempered of women and full of allowances, making (which I am not) was obliged to admit, that they was the case. My cousin Lizzy Toke and my sister in law Maria Waring were here at the time - ~~they were not to be seen~~. They are both young women - sensible and amiable. They walked with him & talked with him and treated him with respect and kindness and no undescension - Yet for some entirely groundless huff he took, he treated ~~both of us~~ L. T. in such a contemptuous, unchristian manner that I was and have ever since been perfectly independent of it. It was inexorable, because unprovoked. I printed the two editions of his book which have appeared since he crossed the Atlantic - and at the usual price I charge all my customers, ~~which~~ ~~was~~. But <sup>through</sup> extraordinary trouble in correspondence to promote the sale and to further his views - I acted for him as I would have acted for my brother in a similar case. He wished for a portrait to prefix to his Narrative. Mr. Skwite happened to be in Dublin at the time - he directed me to one of the engravers, who gave me the name of an Engraver in London - with whom, with J. J.'s full consent, I agreed for a plate and for the price. The portrait was to be a copy of a miniature, esteemed a very good likeness, taken by a sister in law of James Haughton's brother William, which she very kindly offered to ~~take~~ present him with. Well, when I had, after a great deal of entirely gratuitous trouble, obtained the portrait, which is certainly well engraved, and at least a much more pleasing likeness than that in the American edition, I sent him a copy: he was greatly displeas'd, and called the unbecoming likeness all the hard names he could think of. When I suggested to him in reply, the folly of throwing away what had cost so much, he was plain'd of my "haughty dictation" - which I am as far from guilty of towards him as ever I have been towards you. I told him that his friends in Dublin thought the portrait a good one - he replied that if their friendship was of too pictorial a nature to be worth preserving. I don't think I said one word to him to justify this entire absence of courtesy and good feeling.

James Haughton is a gentleman and one of the most genial & kind hearted of men, as well as an eminently upright & just. I showed him Douglass's letter and he was greatly displeas'd. He has no wish to see him again - and he thinks him quite ~~to~~ be ridicul'd by the Society he has been in, and the flattery he has rec'd since he arriv'd in this country. I mentioned the tenor of your last letter to him yesterday; his reply was that he has long thought him a wicked man, and that no man of right feeling would have written to me as he has done.

Within the last 2 weeks by his desire I have forwarded all his books to him, and closed all accounts. He has written to me that my statement is satisfactory, and has assigned no reason (I asked for no explanation) for this course. I imagine the reason to be, that he has been offered by some Scotch printer or binder to have his work done for lower price than I have charged him. It is very probable he may have seen something in this way - though I doubt whether on the whole he will be much gain'd by the change.

Haughton has a very kind letter from J. N. Buffum a day or two since, in which he renews his expressions of good feeling towards us - speaks of coming to see us before he leaves for America in the latter of July, and darkly hints that he will not allow the breath of "Slaves" to lessen his regard for his friends. What this "breath of Slaves" means I do not know, but I suspect that Douglass may have taken into his head or it may have been put in (for he is extremely jealous & suspicious) that he could have saved some pounds, if he had got his work done in Scotland instead of in Ireland. This, although I do not know it to be the case, is likely enough - but even if in the first cost he had saved something I do not believe it would have been an economical saving, for I don't think that he could have readily found another person to do what I did for him. ~~for no charge at all. necessary alterations, but~~ ~~for no charge at all.~~ Prices are, I know, lower here than in London, and if they happen to be lower still in Scotland (which I do not know) I don't feel at all liable to censure for charging him as I should have charged my best and select customers.

Marian's letter to the Liberator's Hall committee was letter

To quit this unpleasant subject. For the last three weeks he  
has had much anxiety in consequence of the illness of our second  
son and went to intelligent and helpful child who is still lying ill  
of fever. After about 2 weeks, the fever left him and he was up for  
part of 2 days in his room - but he has had something of a relapse  
without any sufficient apparent cause. The fever is not high and he  
is generally quite bright and clear - but we are still far from being at  
our ease about him. He is constantly attended by his aunt Maria  
who came up to ~~the~~ from Waterford to assist in nurse tending him.  
At the same time came the Friends Yearly Meeting - a great number  
of business in the office, which absorbed I would judge me - as owing to  
the continued illness of my partner, Robert Chapman, who has been just  
5 months disabled, I had the whole burden on my own shoulders.

The letter I intended to go by the 18<sup>th</sup> April did not I suppose, fail  
take the 6<sup>th</sup> way - It was written to P. M. & to Mr. Knowles it was very  
long and contained nearly all the news I had to communicate. You  
will perceive that the idea of a meeting in August of the Friends of the  
cause was started by George Thompson at a public meeting of the Glasgow  
Emancipation Society held in Glasgow of which you have doubtless rec<sup>d</sup> a  
report in the Glasgow Argus. Garrison is there invited to come over and  
spend a while here. I need say no more in addition to the expression  
I have already given of the delight we should feel to see him amongst  
us once more.

Mr. Estlin and I have had an active correspond-  
ence about his forthcoming Pamphlet descriptive of the Abolitionists of  
American Slavery. I have done my best to induce him to make  
it as thorough as possible & I ~~cannot say~~ thank him, for an elderly  
person of conservative tendencies, remarkably well disposed to be fair  
and liberal. I have greatly enjoyed his letters. I write to Abdy  
at Carl and had a very friendly answer inviting further correspondence  
"I will give you a portion of  
his letter - the best you should see, though I have seen  
it - Here I wish to put the  
of the friends of the cause"

A good deal of what I have written has no reference to my indiscretion  
in communicating to Douglass the advice you thought he needed. The  
mistake on my part if it were a mistake, arose entirely from my having  
had then a much better opinion of his good sense than I have now  
and this was a very natural error for me to fall into, considering what  
I heard of him before he came. Another matter which has greatly  
lessened my esteem for him has been his offensive and ungrateful  
behaviour to James W. Buffum - towards whom he has been  
absolutely insolent - not only in my house but elsewhere. Now  
Buffum has put up with this conduct from one for whom he has done  
so much, in part by comprehension - for I am not a model of meekness  
and forbearance myself, particularly in cases where my kind intentions  
have been ungraciously repulsed. As to the general confidence  
which your letters have, until the last, exhibited towards me, I do not  
think I have done any thing to justify it. My immediate circle of  
friends who are interested in the object of your devoted labours is ex-  
tremely small, as I have already said - and not one of them, except  
James Naughton, is much of a writer - and his writings are all public  
and not of a nature to tempt him if he were disposed, to touch upon  
the matter of a more private nature which you communicate to  
me.

I read what I wrote this morning to my wife, but sister & my  
cousin at breakfast - they agree to the truth of what I have said, but they  
do not think I make sufficient allowance. H. says "He is a child-  
a savage" - Mr. Waring says "he is a wild animal." Both think that  
James W. B. has an enormous degree of love of approbation - that there  
is a feminine degree of weakness in his character in this respect - that  
Douglass does not respect him - and that F. D. is not very sensible of  
kindness, and that any restraint, even the restraint of having to look  
to the most well intentioned hints, is intolerable to him. They  
also think that whilst what I have said is true, that it has too  
concentrated an effect in this letter, to convey a perfectly fair  
impression.

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~~W. H. W.~~

As to the Meeting in August I hope it may be held in good faith and with a single eye to the promotion of the cause. Mr Estlin writes to me that if he can at all come, he will be in London on that occasion - hoping as he says to meet with "Mr Garrison & - Mr Webb" - Achilles and Thersites!

In what I have said of Douglas you will understand that I do not mean to say or to insinuate anything of his to his prejudice as a public man. He has worked with <sup>and with</sup> ~~with~~ ~~straight~~ and has not shown any <sup>but straight</sup> ~~straight~~ forward & upright. In his money transactions he has been most honorable - and I have of late years been disposed to detest any profession which is not accompanied by a strict sense of the claims of meum & tuum. But if his balance of mind, his good temper and his probation are not much lessened by his visit to Europe, I am greatly mistaken.

I have been within the past week or ten days ~~under~~ employing my leisure moments in the perusal of one of the most interesting books I ever read. It is the Life of Joseph Blanco White - a Spaniard who belonged to the Methodist became disaffected with Churchmen, as he saw it exhibited in Spain, left his native country in his 35<sup>th</sup> year - settled in England - joined the Church of England after some years, became intimate with some of the most eminent ~~refused~~ ~~Dwines~~ - saw the civil efforts of these orthodox, & died in Liverpool in 1837 or 1838. The book has no interest from the incidents, but as a history of the mind of a deep bold and most conscientious thinker. It is a perfect feast of good things and I have been long that all my friends who dare, could enjoy it as I have done and am doing. I was delighted with Dr Arnold's life - but Blanco White's was a much farther reaching mind than Arnold's - As to say I hope he may dry his tears. I am no good at public letters - nor perhaps in my private ones except as a chronicle - but my time & attention are so swallowed up at present that I could not manage to give the readers of the Standard any thing they would care to read. Can you let me know any thing of the probability of Garrison coming or of any other of my friends. Especially yourself. May we should like to see you.

~~I hope with some success~~ <sup>to see nothing for the Liberator</sup>  
 which accompanied your letter calling for particular remarks  
 I rejoice to hear that in your opinion the cause is onward  
 You perhaps know that Estlin is sister to John Bright, the great  
 leaflet. April 10<sup>th</sup> the Liberator's cause to some of us here  
 The forwarding of that paper is extremely irregular.

Amos Lemons' Box  
 \$49.95  
 Do Tyler Ji  
 \$195.92



M. W. Chapman

Federal Street

Boston

M.S.A.



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I was obliged to cut off the top of this page to make this letter come within  
 the shell. I said that Estlin Bright has been spending a few days with us  
 she is a fine young woman, sensible and of a most English & dignified pre-  
 sence. We endeavored to inoculate her with an interest in our behalf -  
 hope with some success. Here are some names proposed as free receivers of the  
 Standard - Rev. J. N. Porter, Carrickfergus - Rev. C. J. McAllister, Holly wood,  
 Co. of Down - Wm Mac Donnell, Angles Street, <sup>Dublin</sup> - Alfred Haughton, ~~the~~ Athy -  
 Wm Finn, Wp. D rat Street, Dublin -  
 as the Irish ballads generally wind up, "I must conclude &  
 come to an end" - Yours truly and all the charges  
 Remembers me to Pillsbury. What of the Board <sup>Kenly</sup> Herb D Webb