

R.D. Webb to

Mrs. Chapman.

Dublin 31st of Third Month 1846

GARRISON
MSS.

My dear Friend

This is a delicious Spring day - sunny and cloudless - such as we have no abundance of in this "cold & cloudy clime". It is also Sunday, and my wife and self with our two daughters (one of the other 5 remain at home) mean to run away from meeting and to take a jaunt in my father's James's car to a beautiful strand called the "flow strand" of Portmarnock - about 5 miles from town and being on the northern and unpolluted side of Dublin, almost as little known to the good people of our metropolis, as is the Broadway of Boston Common. It is perhaps two miles long - It is broad, smooth, backed by sandhills, with Ireland's Eye and the Isle of Kharth in view. It is silent and lonely - altogether very fit for a quiet excursion with some children and a book or two.

The box ~~with~~ from Esther's store arrived duly with whatever portion of its original contents that were not abstracted by her - & a few good little books she sent me which it is to be feared I shall never read. I am remarkably indolent about reading books I don't care for. How are very attentive. I wonder how she knows what sort of folks you be. It is not fair to wonder at or blame the time now shrinking of those who are drawn in the faith from such an ecc. inst. Consider how hard it is to touch pitch and not be defiled. Think of the terrible risk they run. Papal bigotry, episcopal bigotry, evangelic bigotry & all other kinds too are much more tolerable when looked on in the light of the natural effort for self preservation. Though I have remarked that in a general way the heterodox regard it with unreasonable perseverance. I have often told James's daughter that the intolerance of the Unitarians was directed chiefly against the bigotry of the orthodox.

Every thing goes on in a quiet style in the political world now - the chief speculations are about the probable fate of the conspirators & the question is whether government will think it prudent to call them up for judgment or not. I am satisfied that no outbreak of violence would result from it on the part of the people - who have a hole for a row strong enough upon them but they have no way. Their leaders know that there could be no more policy than to countermand any thing of the kind. But although

I had a letter from J.S. Johnson three days ago - in reply to one written some years ago - He thinks the anti-slavery agitation rather in the way of the liberation of slaves in the U.S. - He asks you Bostonians too surprised - thinks L.M. Child is not huffed - tho' I saw him the other when she left the Standard. The Standard was very irregularly. How do you get on with D.L.C. just now?

4) Physically speaking it would be perfectly safe to imprison O'Connell & his confederates, I am sure it would be a most important move for the Tories (or rather, for Peel) to take. It would imbricate the minds of the Irish people against him & them. It would be in manifest opposition to the universally expressed opinion of the English people in London, Manchester, Liverpool & other great towns - and also of the Whig leaders who have endeavored in the most pointed manner for many years in which the trial was conducted & the conviction obtained. It would damage their character and point them out as deficient in magnanimity & deficient in that love of fair play which is the pride of Englishmen whether they are entitled to boast of it or not. I hope they won't imprison O'Connell - I am not one of his worshippers by any means - If he be a man in your eyes - I am nearer to him than you are & can see the spots - No man is a great man in the eyes of his valet - Nevertheless I can't help being sorry when I read of his freedom departed - I hate great reverses - I can't help feeling for the ruined gamblers. I hope they won't be so bold & so cruel as to cage Dan. Richard Allen when he was a philanthropic contributor to benevolence was awfully addicted to melancholy metaphors of the most ludicrous kind - he called George Thompson on one occasion as the great Scottish Anti Slavery Lion - Why not call O'Connell as great Irish Anti Slavery Lion. Well, here I was called off to set out for Portmarnock and now the sport is over and we have returned. The children were in an ecstasy of fidgety impatience from the time we left Dublin till we got to the strand, wanting to know how many miles we had gone - had we far to go - were we near Portmarnock - and so forth. First - I am & myself had our first dip for three years in the salt water in North of E. Linnings flying at my tendency to hydrophathemia. It was cold but refreshing and mightily sharpened our appetites which felt for several days upon the store that had been prepared - which consisted of cold (!) hard boiled eggs, gooseberry preserve, a shank of ham - bread, butter, biscuit and (if correct) a large supply of water. Then we lunched and read - I had Follen's life (for which thanks Edmund and tell him he may laugh as long as he pleases) - Kannah had Whittier's new volumes, and I am sure some politics - for though he is a sort of Conservative & Non-Resistant in principle, he is a great enemy to the Corn laws and a staunch believer in the League. But we had other employment to the full in exciting us the stores in our baskets & our bosoms. The children stuffed off shoes and stockings and employed themselves sliding down the steep sand hills and watching the wretched anchors of sand that followed their descent. They are extremely like those which fill the alpine solitudes with their thunders.

occurred through the care and wanton folly of a young man who took the boy
up by his waistband and held him over the banisters of a third case. The waist-
band gave way - the child fell, and his limb was badly fractured. After telling
us what to do with the parcel for Miss Bremer, W. H. writes: - It is very kind to
remember and inquire after our dear boy. He is departed to a better world. Just three
weeks ago he breathed his last in great peace. From his already manifested great capacity
for the acquisition of knowledge, his decided display of talent of no ordinary kind, his
sweet and affectionate disposition, we had begun to build bright hopes on him, though still
a mere child not twelve years old. This was strengthened by the fact that till the moment
of meeting with his accident he had hardly known a day's illness from his birth. It has
pleased infinite wisdom to remove him early to another life and we here only to strengthen
our faith in the conviction that it is all for the best."

We had also a note from Harriet Martineau yesterday. A book has just
appeared called "The New Spirit of the Age" - a series of critical sketches of the most
recent celebrities of English literature - Dickens, Talford, Mrs. Jameson, Harriet
Martineau, Tenby, Carlyle, &c. with portraits of some of them. H. M.
among the rest - the first I ever saw of her - as marvellous as an American - but
beautifully executed. I alluded to the beauty of the engraving in my note to her,
having some idea that it would be well if Garrison's new portrait could be done
in the same style. She thinks the editor would take all about the cost but
remembers that not having seen the book she can't judge of his own but is
told that it is not a good likeness which I was heartily glad to hear. For
she is one of those few whom I have a more than common respect, tho' she
abuses poor O'Connell like a peck-pole. Two very able women are the
intensest haters O'Connell has (as far as I know) & Harriet is one of
them. The other is a Dublin woman of amazing intellect and memory - and
she is never done calling him liar, devil, serpent, and the like - she thinks
the meanest and basest of mankind. H. M. thinks the published portrait
of Garrison such as she has seen his marvellous piece a very good one and
tho' somewhat too staring it expresses his character very well. I think too -
it is to be sure rather weighty & solemn for his habitual expression - but I
saw him with that very face on in the gallery of Freemasons Hall during
"the World's Convention." I wonder how vain is Garrison - for he certainly
likes his own likeness to be multiplied in the earth. His self-esteem tends
to do with the kind of vanity - or love of approbation. Harriet he is duly
grateful for the care you take to save his expense in the transportation of
parcels which she says are worst to be a heavy tax on her in the course
of the year. Next then seen his Letter from a Sick Room. The tone is
too high for my liking she don't keep news enough tho' framed for a heavy
bird like me who partake rather of the dove than the eagle. I have
after her in vain. She is not clear enough for my dim eyes. I require

I declare that the enclosed bills reach the dollar. I thought it was only life starting. I have unintentionally added 2.2. of half a dollar - and I only observe it now that I am closing the letter. I am J. A. Dickens.

4) About Collins box of stereotype plates - I can't tell myself. The plates lay so long with me that I had almost forgotten them - when I thought of them it was either an old lead or as the days of other years. On the whole of them I examined my lumber room and there I found not only the box but 4 or 5 of the Pamphlets - just as John A. - as Henry always called him - left them. This must get hardly my circulation in England. Very few indeed beside myself, my wife and two or three more - knew enough of the matter to care for the exposition of the controversy - which James Haughton & H. Allen were of opinion that people would be discouraged by hearing that there were squabbles going on - and would if they understood the matter clearly be more likely to take part with Phelps & his reverend brethren than with Garrison. This deadly danger of some man from among the best right to take care of their own souls and so forth. However - early last week walked into the printing office one John James Armstrong, a raw north country boy, first cousin to the Liberty Party President in prospect of the U.S.A. I showed some civility to a brother of his who two years since emigrated to Michigan to join Birney. He wanted a letter from me to Lewis Tappan - He took tea & breakfasted here morning and then and then the bright idea struck me that as I was about to commend him to the custody of Isaac T. Hopper, it would be a good plan to saddle him with the care of John A.'s heavy box - but as it was likely he would have some trouble & expense with it I proposed to give him some shillings to spend or keep in the case might be - for his guard conduct - and a note to J. T. H. to pay any ~~necessary~~ ^{outlay} duty which might be demanded in New York. I think I could hardly have contrived a better way - as few ordinary travellers could be asked to undertake such a charge of such an inconvenient parcel whereas as he was poor he would be glad of what he could save out of the doances I gave him. I told him to take at the Customs House in New York that the were stereotype plates - if asked about them - without concealment - without compromise. The pamphlets are at your service too - 4 or 5 of them - but I doubt whether the duty & freight would not be too great for their value. They make a bulky parcel. I think John A. was eminently judicious in England - nevertheless it is probable if he had been more smooth & jesuitical, he would have been unable to make way against the underhand and overhand opposition of the British & Foreign Committee who had "fricced generally" by the nose. And Friends generally bear the bell and as a necessary consequence pay the pipes on all Anti Slavery operations in England.

I hope we are mending, but in the good old times before Father Mathew was thought of out of Cork, it was generally the fashion for a true hearted Irishman to look on it as particularly mean for any body who had lent him money to ask for it again - & it is for himself to hesitate to trick his friend out of his last shilling even if Kiddy & the bobbies were starving at home. Now this episode is merely preparatory to a speech I am about to make which is that I can help feeling a little creeping

of the ancient blood through my cheeks while I lay here preparing to pre-
senter my account which certainly looks very shabby on my part. First I
show you all I owe you for self and partners and then come the drawbacks of
half a dozen different kinds. Here it is:-

Liberators for 1844 - R. Allen, J. H. Webb, J. Cook, M. Waring, R. D. Webb - 5 at 12/6	3.2.6
" " - James Haughton subscription & donation	2.0.0
" George Pim Bullock, 1844 & 1845	1.5.0
" 3 names from Cork - on your list I suppose - if not to St. Jennings	1.17.6
" J. & R. Fisher	12.6
" Standard 2 from Cork - R. D. Webb at 10/6 = 1.11.6 - James Haughton 2/-	2.11.6
" Herald - J. & R. Fisher - Joseph Cook - R. D. Webb	10.9
" Balance of Fair Donation from M. G. Parsons, London Treace	5.0
" Am. etc. books - due by R. D. Webb	2.0.0
" Edmund Quincy - "	1.5.0
	<hr/> £ 15.17.10

By freight paid of General Box last year	£ 1.14.7
" " 2 Boxes from Dublin & Cork, 1843	5.13.2
" " and duty on box of Liberty Bells	1.11.7
Paid forwarding presents of books 1843 (February)	5.6
" " " " " " " " 1844 (March)	7.0
Paid J. J. Armstrong for conveying Stereotype Box to N. York	11.0
	<hr/> 10.2.10
Balance due M. W. C. -	£ 5.15.0

For which I enclose a bill in New York - that I hope will be duly honored with the
 amount in dollars.
 I could have all this freight myself and say nothing about it - except that just it
 would be more than I could afford - and second I had rather be helping to fill the
 head year's box - if we have a box to fill. It is not well to presume long before hand
 more especially as I can't take what I don't know - but the Learning, certainly
 mean to do something and I hope that others will too.
 As to Father Mathew - you have not much to hope for from him. He is a
 proud and rich after all led by priestly influences. He is a fine fellow with
 many uncommon qualities - a fine spirit & full of the milk of human kindness
 but he is not always above board - he likes a bit of manoeuvring - he is not
 always outspoken - in short he is not likely to stick by any cause so
 unpopular as abolition in New England. As to any harmony - or common
 union between the Catholics and Unitarians or heterodox of any sort be assured
 that as far as the Catholic Priests and such of the Catholics (the majority of
 them) are led by the Priests, the traces would prove a hollow one. They
 make treaties with heretics only to help them labor and keep them no longer than
 while they can attain their object better than by backing them. And most
 reasonable it is that they should be so, for a church which claims exclusive
 salvation need make little difference in the degree of profaneism with which
 it views heresies of various degrees of enormity - but all differently desirous to induce
 the damnation of its adherent. As far as the real world is concerned there is not
 much to choose between Romish bigotry and that of the orthodox protestant sects. But in

The information about the bad thing was must be all and as into make use of the hunters
 articles that are much trouble in preparing the bill. There has been a paper
 they letters were worth a ream of it. A most important speech by the way.

9) then present world which is all I have much personal knowledge of. I would certainly much rather live in any Protestant country than amongst Catholics where the priests had political power and uncontradicted influence.

Some time last week we walked my cousin Joseph from Jerserberg - where he left H.C. Wright to high alone. He looks robust, ruddy, hairy throaty - with a fine open broad bright face - no beauty - but a fine fellow - no dandy - but much better - He has I am sure a good deal of self-esteem and not much love of approbation - so that he is rather admirable than winning. He is a great friend of Henry's - also is on the other hand his steadfast ally. He would shame Edmund Quincy - for he sneers at the water cure and ascribes the marvellous wrought of G. to air, exercise & temperate diet than to Prescription of his wet sheets & other batches. He says many who go remain for months and get no better - that some become worse instead of mending. He admits that wonderful cures are wrought and that Prescott is a man of great simplicity of manners, silent & reserved - without pretension or gaudy cry in his manner. What he was tho. a man was attacked by apoplexy and was apparently dead. Prescott put him in a cold water bath and kept pouring water on his head for nine hours till he recovered. He was apparently before most of the time. The doctor stood by and told him he would kill the man. But he did not. I am a firm believer in cold water, &c. to the contrary notwithstanding - I think it better than the dreadful and dirty drug system. But very likely I am in the wrong but I hold to that excellent sentiment of Amos in the first line of his first ode. I think there is great enjoyment in it - and no little wisdom betimes. All Henry's letters lately have been much more hopeful and cheerful - he gives a better account of himself - he walks a good deal in very severe weather - he performs exploits in that way that which I say Peru would look on as something like pulling fresh water in his coffin if perpetrated in England. Besides he is kept in life by the application of a quantity of strength which he wrangles by the hand about Spain and his redoubts, and all that sort of thing. And I think Scutcheon, for till now, has been half converted by him, and has shilly and shally invited him to pay him a visit in Warsaw - only there is four days journey from Jerserberg. They have plenty of Russians at G. and some of them great specimens of humanity.

We had a note from Wm. Hoar in reply to an enquiry as to whether he could forward Frederika Bremer parcel to us. We also wished to know how his son was who met with a serious accident in Germany last year at the time of the London A.S. Convention, where we saw his father. The accident

not to be outdone by two little dainties, James & Hannah of myself
putting among us deserts, or faithful abolitionists & meddling quakers, fell
to, and scrambled up and slid down the sand hills with almost as much
gusto as "the beloved youth". Altogether the excursion was extremely
pleasant and gusty as whilom to mind and body as if we had
spent a good part of the time in meeting company our fellow prisoners
faces with the Roger's description of the human aspect on such occasions
when so many Guinean grimaces are ~~usually~~ assumed for mutual
deception. On our way out we had our eyes about for primroses in
the hedges and ditches, - where we saw abundance some last year - but we
could see none till we got near Portmarnock and then we got down
to pluck them. They are a beautiful flower - their odour is most
delicate and delicious - and I have a peculiar affection for them as
they are the very first flowers of which I have any recollection. Said I,
here I will send them to Mrs Chapman - so here they are. They were beau-
tiful and fragrant when I viewed - but they are withered already and I sup-
pose when they reach the city a little dust will remain of the little
Irish beauties. We plucked them near an old Danish or Danish
Mound or Mound as we call them in Ireland - built probably for purposes
whilom as defended by the aboriginal inhabitants of the island. Almost all
relics of antiquity were ascribed by the peasantry to the Danes.

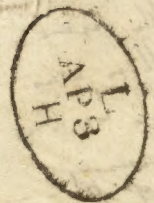
I have only got about me through Follen's life. What a noble man
he must have been! I never knew till I met with this book that Follen was
a preacher or partook at all of an ecclesiastical character. I thought he was
no less, but plain Charles Follen. I wonder how he would have ranked among
the abolitionists if he had lived till the present time. Did not Whittier's
claim him as one of his party? Hannah remembered this evening that
Joseph Sturge seems one of Whittier's great men. He is indeed a magnificent
man and as a politician I believe actuated by kind and honest motives -
but I don't think he is unforgetful and magnanimous. In these particulars
I think him far ~~inferior~~ not to be mentioned on the same day with
some of Whittier's former fellow laborers and friends. I wonder what he
who so fiercely denounces the clerical champions of the galleys, the only of
his friends Phelps, Leante, & Colver. Maria Waring is highly gratified
that their gales have come out "so fine" - she means so honestly and above
board in behalf of the galley and the rope. It is delightful that such a
vigorous effort is being made amongst you for the abolition of capital punish-
ments - and to see that the true friends of our just reform are staunch & true
in the promotion of every other.

8) On turning to look for page 8 I find (to my shame, being a printer) that the pages are all transposed.

It is almost time the paper is drawing to a close to day, how gratified we were by thy delightful long letter, and Lucretia's delightful short one - and by Rosen's outpouring of his New Hampshire Mountains Torrent. How I wish that I could look upon your face - If the Atlantic were only narrower, or money plentier, or the Concord cheaper or in short if I could manage it I would rather visit Act. Mary America than any other part of the world. I sent your letters all but Rosen's - to Elizabeth Pease - I know she will be gratified by them - N.P.R.'s was too heretical for me only thank her.



M. W. Chapman
39. Sepines Street
Boston,
U.S.A.



Received

Friend - Thomas Tracy
Rich. Black

9. (Seam had been with M. W. Chapman for the first of 1840 in Ford Road.

He is the most - most truly tolerant & charitable of all I know among the orthodox - but wherefore given his readiness? Rosen and myself have come to pretty nearly the same conclusion - It is being the case to wonder, the priests allow him. Is Abby Kelley really going to marry Stephen Foster? - It seems to me as if she is the very woman who should marry nothing but the Anti Slavery Platform. C. L. says a complete convertant can't be had. I have 1839 & 1840 - would the rest be attainable? Hancock wishes particularly to know how far Helen Garrison has recanted the use of her arm. Do please send word to Rosen that his letters & Pillsbury's, & M. A. Francis's, & all the children's letters were sent to go. in proper persons to Gladden H. C. W. I heart shake the poor fellow home-sigh. Thanks to N.P.R. & to thee for Pierpont. I saw thy present to my mother I am so gratified by being remembered by thee. My mother Thomas whom you doubt heed much of, is as like Francis Jackson from thy description as one man can be to another - except perhaps not so shining a character.