

To Elizabeth Pease Nichol,
Huntly Lodge, Edinburgh.

Philadelphia, 6th month 28 - 1868

My dear Friend

If I had a good pen I could write a good letter just now - good for thy reading, I mean, I have of late seen and experienced so much that would be peculiarly interesting to thee to see & sympathize with. It is now 6 weeks since I landed at New York. I spent about a week there - a week in Boston - then a bow day one of the Proprietor Friends in Chester County 20 miles from this city - a week in Philadelphia - a week in Washington - 24 hours in Baltimore - a day at Wilmington with that noble old man Thomas Garratt - and now I have been three days or so here & shall find it difficult to get away unless another week, for I have intention to spend several weeks if there was time to devote to them. I have seen very many of the veterans of the cause, nearly all of them that were known to me both personally or by reputation. In Boston the Garrison family, W. Phillips, Stephen & A. V. Fiske, T. Pillsbury, H. C. Wright, Julia H. Oliver, C. H. Whipple, C. C. Burleigh, Mrs Chapman & the Writings, Ed. Young & Young, W. P. Griffith, James M. Buffum, C. L. Nevins, W. W. Murray in Philadelphia L. North & family, E. M. Davis, E. H. Howe, May, Jew, Sarah Pugh, Abby Kimball; in New York S. J. May, L. H. Fay, Lizzie Fay, J. M. McKim, also J. May, Mrs Oliver Johnson. Theodore Tilton & a wilderness of others less known but equally laborious & devoted in the darkest days of the cause.

In Washington I met on terms of social persons that
enriched Christian souls. General Howard one of the best
men I have ever seen or heard of, George Johnson of ~~the~~ Indiana,
a member of the H. of Reps. a truly honest abolitionist, Pills
& Catherine Robbins, Ad + true abolitionists, Mrs. Maria
Kemp, a fine woman & a staunch, working friend of the colored
people & Clara Barton one of the chief heroines of humanity
during the war. I have seen ~~and~~ come into actual
contact with more truly, great & good people within the
past 6 weeks than in the rest of my life - to the best of my judgment.
The courtesy & hospitality I have met with has been very great
& the pleasure inseparable that I have had in witnessing the
& extraordinary purity, social equality, & general kindness
& courtesy of the people in their ordinary intercourse I have
seen wonderful, little apparent intemperance or profanity. The
few taverns I have seen were nearly all built & they need not
be if they chose to work. It is very pleasant to witness the changed
position of the colored people & how naturally, & as a matter of course
they enter the railroad cars & omnibuses, & attend the lectures of
Mrs. Follen just like any body else. I have watched narrowly,
& have hitherto not seen a single more turned up at them.
I have attended examinations of colored schools & addressed the
schools, have attended a ^{Methodist} church in Washington
(in Murdering Bay, one of the poorest parts) & have addressed them
from the Reading desk! Only think. Have been called Brother,
Have attended the colored Methodist Episcopal Conference in

Wilmington, Delaware; & which have & will be abundantly
have received the blessing by having on it have & I
have addressed the noble brethren. When thus I venture
for they are much of the same time, feeling, fully
assured of their sympathy & that I refer to them in no silly,
spirit of vain glory, which would be ridiculous in my case. We
have also received ^{from} from the Anti-Slavery cause there we have
given to it. How often I have thought of them & of their & their
Wishes & wished ~~that~~ you could participate in the pleasure I
have enjoyed in the society of so many of the best of the earth,
than whom I really think the world contains no better people.
I have seen many of the noble women who nursed the
soldiers in the hospitals & who have sustained
to teach the colored people thinking for knowledge. More modest,
kindly like, unostentatious women I have never seen. You would
all then delight in their society — and so I am sure would
Margaret Arrows & Mary Brown whom I have also very often
thought of with respect & love.

Enclosed are two copies of a notice of a very eminent
member of the Society of Orthodox Friends, who died lately, in
this city, & which ~~the~~ my brother (Edward H. H. H., only surviving
son of the philanthropist Isaac T. H. H.) would like to have
published in the British Friend & the Friend. I told him I
thought I could manage it for him & I trust they will be able to
get it accomplished. It was written by himself & gave great pleasure
to the Linn family, & is the more valuable as a true testimony

measurements as T. Evans was at one time a vehement
opponent of S. F. Holmes & therefore the notice may be regarded
as the evidence of one in the ~~best~~ position of an opponent. The
friend of Jack Edward Holmes, who is one of the pleasantest &
most sensible of men, entirely respectable & unaffected, had a
high intellectual admiration for T. Evans & liked to hear him
speak from the Gallery. If there should succeed by any means
in procuring the meeting of the notice I should be additionally
gratified by thy getting a copy mailed (with 2 stamps on each) to
Edward Holmes, 734, Sanson Street, or simply Philadelphia.

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I need say little of Mrs. Estlin as she doubtless writes to
Eliza Wigham. We ~~was~~ first parted in New York when she went
with S. Pugh to Philadelphia. We then met & went to Longwood, Wilmington
& Philadelphia in company - We were at LeMotte by some days
before I left for Washington & shortly after she & S. Pugh went
northward & we had probably with Rev. S. J. May in Syracuse.
I fear she will find the heat of the weather & the mental
closeness of the houses very disagreeable to her remarkably
sensitive temperaments.

Now I must conclude & come to an end

Thine ever truly
R. D. Webb

Nothing but " " is returned to Philadelphia so
be sure to give an Old Friend