

S. F. May junr 5 Gray Street Edinburgh
28. 9. 1855

My dear Friend, I have offered a little space in my dear friend Mary Estlin's envelope, of which I have great pleasure in availing myself, that I may again communicate with thee - were it only to thank thee for thy last very acceptable letter & for all the trouble thou hast taken respecting the rumors & we read with much interest the discussion on it at the anniversary meeting - I smiled at the shrewdness of Stephen Foster's penetration, & his natural ^{substance} of the short duration of Presbyterian anti-slavery. - The memorial was a sincere & vigorous assentiment but then it referred to an abstract or distant matter one of which they could clearly judge. Yet such our ministers had no objection to sign & sanction it which they did with their whole hearts, - but now the case has a little altered with some of them. Slavery has shown its face within their own borders it has put its spells on one of their own pet institutions & rather than do battle with it there - for fear of injuring

MS. B. 1. 6. v. 5. p. 87

their favorite scheme. they with short sighted policy try to find out that it is not quite so evil an associate as they had before thought; - This is only the case with a small number of our remonstrants, however, - so the document may still stand as a fair expression of the sentiments of the signers. - This Calabar case has tried many, & many have come out stronger & better from the trial - the latter ^{class} would be encouraged by an expression of sentiment on the matter from American abolitionists, to confirm the view they have taken that the admission of slaveholders into the mission church at Calabar tends to hinder the work of abolition in America.

We have with us now our dear Mary Estlin, her society is very refreshing - it is quite instructive to witness the cheerful resignation & perfect faith which characterize her very expression, & line of life in the ^{present} ^{prospects} ^{of} the future. - The loss of her dear father is very great to us all - how much to her we may just conceivably, we cannot see any falling up of the blank he has left. - but we know his work was

done & others must be brought in for
the work still to do if instruments are
called for. - Parker Pillsbury is also
in Ecumene he is to give a lecture on
Am. Slavery on Tuesday next the 2^d Prov.

We are particularly glad of his presence
now as Dr. Watson of New York is at
present here, lecturing on behalf of
the Scottish Missions, & Dr. P. may be
able to confute his false representations,
& expose the fallacy of the Anti-Slavery
assumptions of the American Board
in association with whom these
missions are conducted. - These are:

instruments so long kept back in
R.D. Webb's desk will be very useful
on this occasion - I am very glad they
are emancipated in time for our use.
their detention shows how difficult it
is to have complete machinery in this
Country & how some little irregularity
so often occurs to prevent our unitedly
assisting as we might in your great
struggle. - We are anxious to do some
thing in the great work - all we can.
but we are compelled to confess that this
is very very little - & that we receive credit

for more than we deserve - that our
aid is not so extensive as you might
suppose from the position in which
we stand. - But such as it is earnestly
I hope we shall be always ready to give
it. It is profit by experience & your
example in steadfastness so as to make
it more valuable. In our sense of
having lost the great, efficient, guiding
friend of the cause we feel ourselves
very weak - but only the more important
is it that what we can, we should still
give freely. - in our case sympathy &
earnest love to the cause are almost
all - but these you have. - we should
very much thank you for commu-
nications occasionally with information

& suggestions which we may turn
account. - The next meeting of the Am
Board is looked for with interest. With
kindest regards to thyself & all our
A. S. Friends with whom thou art in
contact - Thine very sincerely,

E. Wigham

With those thanks W. S. Garrison for his letter
introducing Mr. Thos. Robbins - with whose
society we were much gratified to have

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 5, p. 81