

33 Duke St. Glasgow, May 2<sup>d</sup> 1841

My Dear Garrison,

I improve a few minutes before the mail starts for Liverpool to explain the reasons why I am not on my way to America. I am greatly distressed in consequence of my long absence from home, yet I am confident that if you all could see the precise position in which I am placed, and all the circumstances connected with our cause in this country, you would un-  
 imously say "stay another month." I have not, however, time to give you all the reasons which have been strongly <sup>made</sup> ~~put~~ upon <sup>me</sup> ~~me~~ by <sup>our Scottish friends</sup> ~~the~~ Messrs. Murray, Rev. Dr. Hetherington and others, to persuade me to remain a short time longer. ~~They say that I am detained, & it is a great error, for they are sure~~ to get home is so great, that sometimes I feel to let the cause in this country suffer a little, if to gratify my own personal considerations would  
 tend to let it suffer, though I hope such considerations are not permanent. Glasgow was never in a greater fever. The clergy who rule by the general consent of infidel and christian, and hence hold the press, pulpit and popular opinion in their own possession, are in great consternation. Rev. Drs. Wardlaw, Hays & King & many others exercise all the cunning of politicians, all the bitterness of slaveholders & all the craft on the question of slavery as our black-hearted newspaper abolitionists. They are frightened. They are mad. They have none to defend New York evangelists & they dare not openly make any direct attack upon us or our society. They are suffering for an A. A. Phelps or a C. F. Jones or an A. A. Clair would perhaps <sup>suit</sup> their Revenue purposes. (Probably you have seen an account of our public meeting - the course pursued by the Glasgow <sup>Emancipation</sup> Committee, &c. The ~~large~~ meeting in the Rev. Mr. Nesbitt's chapel was the largest Anti-Slavery meeting ever before held in this city - 2500 present. The report of that meeting was most shameful. King's speech, which is represented as being received with tremendous cheering was on the contrary received with overwhelming disapprobation, so much so that King was about setting down and ~~the~~ <sup>deferring</sup> his papers for several times, & would have <sup>not</sup> been for the chairman, who begged them to hear him. I spoke for two & a half hours, amid the most deafening applause. I speak of this to let you see the spirit of some of the journals. Our meeting in the Bazaar was a splendid affair - not far from 5000 present. Some say more, some less - Papers say 4000. The papers have made it <sup>appear</sup> ~~as~~ ~~if~~ ~~it~~ ~~was~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~door~~. It was got up by the most respectable citizens of Glasgow - leading members of the Free Ch. congregations. Anderson who spoke <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ ~~an~~ ~~elder~~. To-morrow <sup>evening</sup> ~~night~~, I <sup>address</sup> ~~make~~ the Ladies. Tuesday <sup>evening</sup> ~~night~~ I go to Paisley. Wednesday <sup>evening</sup> ~~night~~ a dinner is to be held in honor to the <sup>American</sup> ~~Am.~~ cause. Probably 5 or 6 hundred will be present. Thursday, I lecture in the Trades Hall to the ladies again. Friday, or early in the following week, they will get up another large meeting in the Bazaar, to show up New York evangelists.

I have not time to give you all the reasons which have been strongly made upon me by our Scottish friends, to persuade me to remain a short time longer. They say that I am detained, & it is a great error, for they are sure to get home is so great, that sometimes I feel to let the cause in this country suffer a little, if to gratify my own personal considerations would tend to let it suffer, though I hope such considerations are not permanent. Glasgow was never in a greater fever. The clergy who rule by the general consent of infidel and christian, and hence hold the press, pulpit and popular opinion in their own possession, are in great consternation. Rev. Drs. Wardlaw, Hays & King & many others exercise all the cunning of politicians, all the bitterness of slaveholders & all the craft on the question of slavery as our black-hearted newspaper abolitionists. They are frightened. They are mad. They have none to defend New York evangelists & they dare not openly make any direct attack upon us or our society. They are suffering for an A. A. Phelps or a C. F. Jones or an A. A. Clair would perhaps suit their Revenue purposes. (Probably you have seen an account of our public meeting - the course pursued by the Glasgow Emancipation Committee, &c. The large meeting in the Rev. Mr. Nesbitt's chapel was the largest Anti-Slavery meeting ever before held in this city - 2500 present. The report of that meeting was most shameful. King's speech, which is represented as being received with tremendous cheering was on the contrary received with overwhelming disapprobation, so much so that King was about setting down and the deferring his papers for several times, & would have not been for the chairman, who begged them to hear him. I spoke for two & a half hours, amid the most deafening applause. I speak of this to let you see the spirit of some of the journals. Our meeting in the Bazaar was a splendid affair - not far from 5000 present. Some say more, some less - Papers say 4000. The papers have made it appear as if it was at the door. It was got up by the most respectable citizens of Glasgow - leading members of the Free Ch. congregations. Anderson who spoke was an elder. To-morrow evening, I address the Ladies. Tuesday evening I go to Paisley. Wednesday evening a dinner is to be held in honor to the American cause. Probably 5 or 6 hundred will be present. Thursday, I lecture in the Trades Hall to the ladies again. Friday, or early in the following week, they will get up another large meeting in the Bazaar, to show up New York evangelists.



is coming into existence in this country. It is a most favorable time to be great moral principles. People are willing to hear, provided that they come by a pure and good...

BIRMINGHAM, 25th of 1st Month, 1841.

DEAR FRIEND,—I received a copy of the Sixth Annual Report of the Glasgow Emancipation Society a few days ago, observe my name entered as an honorary corresponding member. I have no recollection of having been informed that I stood in that relation to this body, and as I entirely dissent from some of the sentiments contained in the Appendix to that Report, I must beg to have my name withdrawn. I am unwilling to believe that the unjust imputations cast by that Appendix to this Report, upon some of the best and most devoted of the Abolitionists in America, could have received the sanction of the great body of the Abolitionists of Glasgow, and I should be obliged by thus informing me who were present at the Committee where it was resolved to attach the Appendix to the Report in its present shape.—Very humbly and respectfully,

JOSEPH STURGE.

GLASGOW, 4th of 2d Month, 1841.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—My time has been so closely occupied with a variety of engagements, that I have not been able until now, to acknowledge and reply to thine of the 25th ultimo.

I may inform thee, that thy name has been among the Honorary and Corresponding Members of the Glasgow Emancipation Society, ever since its establishment in 1833; and have no doubt that, along with the others, thou wouldst be informed of its being placed there at the time. I know that thou hast been constantly apprized of our proceedings, through the medium of newspapers, regularly transmitted to thee and all our Correspondents; and although the circumstance appears to have escaped thy recollection, thou must have seen thy name in our Reports, as I have sent thee large numbers of them, the receipt of which thou hast acknowledged. The entering of thy name on our list of Corresponding Members, was intended as an honour, as it was with our other Correspondents; and no objection having ever been stated, it was continued this year as a matter of course. But as thou art now desirous it should be "withdrawn," the omission, in our future Reports, of the name of Joseph Sturge, will be attended to.

The reason thou assigns, for begging to have thy name withdrawn from the list of the "Honorary Members" of the Glasgow Emancipation Society, is because thou "entirely dissents from some of the sentiments contained in the Appendix" to our Sixth Annual Report, in which, thou says, there are "unjust imputations cast upon some of the best and most devoted of the Abolitionists in America." Thou art unwilling to believe that these "could have received the sanction of the great body of the Abolitionists of Glasgow," and would be obliged by my informing thee, "who were present at the Committee when it was resolved to attach the Appendix in its present shape."

Now, with all frankness, I honestly and candidly avow, that for the character and contents of the Appendix to our Report, my esteemed friend and co-Secretary, John Murray and myself, are wholly and exclusively responsible; and that in the present as in every former interest, we have been left to select and arrange the matter for that portion of the publication, according to our own discretion. We are perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment about it; and have not the smallest reason to apprehend, that "the great body of the Abolitionists of Glasgow," will now, any more than heretofore, in thus exercising our discretion, for the promotion of the Great Cause of Universal Freedom, be disposed either to censure or condemn our course. We wish nothing unfair or underhand—but all above-board work; desiring to do justice to all, without partiality to any; and, if unable to approve their doings, are ready to assign our reasons. It is our desire to see all who have the same object in view, acting harmoniously together—if not in one body, at least in a friendly and Christian spirit, one towards another. If we cannot walk together, in unity of purpose, let us beware of the disposition that would "bite and devour one another"—a spirit, there is reason to fear, unhappily too prevalent. Has any one body a complaint against another? Let them, as men, boldly make known what it is—that the accused, the sometimes hidden accused party, may have opportunity to exculpate themselves, or be justly obnoxious to the charge.

It is my firm conviction, that the statements in our Appendix are substantially and generally true; and that they exhibit a just view of the question, in connexion with which they are made public; at the same time, my esteemed colleague and myself are ready and willing to reconsider, when they are pointed out, the particular portions objected to, as containing "unjust imputations;" and, on evidence being furnished, that unmerited severity has been exercised towards any "devoted Abolitionists in America," will make all the reparation in our power. The statements in our Report, be it remembered, are given from Resolutions and Documents published to the world. The authors of these, I believe, are incapable of propagating any thing like falsehood; nor would they knowingly cast "unjust imputations" upon any one, and what they have made public, there is no doubt they will be abundantly able to defend, confirm, and justify.

I cannot, my dear friend, conclude this letter, without apprising thee, that I am by no means ignorant of the fact, that "imputations," and these of the most unjust and injurious kind, have been industriously circulated in this country, affecting the character as well as prudence of "SOME OF THE BEST AND MOST DEVOTED" of the Abolitionists in America," with this difference, however, that our course has been open and manly—bespeaking our motives to be at once honest and independent, (for we are independent, as a Society,) whereas, the policy of others has been secret; may I not say, mean and dastardly?—allowing the injured, if my information be correct, neither the opportunity of knowing directly the charges or insinuations brought against them, nor any effectual means of meeting them, in order to their own exculpation. Now, these things, I know thou wilt unite with me in saying, "ought not so to be." Thy character for consistency and open-handed dealing, is too well known, to favour the supposition that any such doings can

meet thy approval; or that thou wouldst, for one moment, risk its maintenance, by even seeming to acquiesce in them. I am strongly of the mind, however, that the parties deeming themselves aggrieved by the proceedings alluded to, are beginning to think that matters have arrived at such a crisis, as will render it necessary they should come out with a very plain account of what they esteem their unseemly treatment, when that which may have been "spoken in the ear" as "in closets," shall come to be proclaimed on the house-tops. When the fruit is deemed ripe, the work, I believe, will be done. The Abolition cause is a good work—it has been signally favoured of Heaven. Let us all, while "zealously affected" always in a good thing, avoid every thing like an arrogant temper, or the domineering spirit of mere partizanship, remembering the exhortation, "love as brethren; be pitiful, be courteous."—I am, thy sincere friend,

WILLIAM SMEAL.

II.

"At a Meeting of Committee, held 11th February, 1841.

"Present:—Dr. King in the Chair, Rev. J. M'Tear, and Messrs. Gunn, Murray, Reid, Stewart, T. Watson, and Smeal.

"William Smeal intimated that he had received letters, apologizing for absence, from Dr. Heugh and George Thorburn, Esq.

"He further stated, that as indicated by the circular, the object of the Meeting was to receive John A. Collins, as the Representative of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

"On the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Collins then went into a detail of the present state and prospects of the American Abolitionists, their trials, sacrifices, persecutions, pecuniary difficulties, &c., particularly those of the Original American Anti-Slavery Society; giving, at the same time, an exhibition of their successful struggles against the Slave system, and showing the state of public feeling now, as compared with the commencement of the Abolition enterprise, of an exceedingly gratifying description.

"In reply to questions by the Chairman, principally, Mr C. went at some length into the differences between the Abolitionists in the United States, but as he had a pamphlet on the whole case about going to press, the Meeting deemed it highly desirable that it should be brought out forthwith, and distributed to each member of the Committee, before another Meeting was held, or any decision come to respecting the holding of a Public Meeting, to decide upon the claims of the American Anti-Slavery Society, to our sympathy and pecuniary support."

III.

GLASGOW, February 11, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR,—I regret that I cannot attend the Committee Meeting this evening. And I regret farther, that our Report for this year, is said to contain something equivalent to a support of that section of the American Abolitionists, who support what is called the "Woman Question." You know our Society accords with the decision of the Convention on that head. You will excuse me for withholding my subscription till I see farther into these matters. In haste, yours truly,

H. HEUGH.

In reply to the preceding extract of Dr. H.'s note, it was stated that it was quite a pity (or words to that import,) that the Dr. had not been present at the Meeting to receive Mr Collins, that the statements he had laid before the Meeting were highly interesting, and that as he was about to bring out a pamphlet regarding the state of matters in America, it had been concluded to defer further proceedings on the part of the Committee, until that had been in the hands of the Committee. In reference to the Report, a contrary opinion to that of Dr. H. was expressed, and a reference made to the Appendix as containing important information, &c.

Immediately after the above Meeting of Committee, it was discovered that Captain Stuart had sent to Dr. W. a printed letter, containing charges against the Original American Anti-Slavery Society, and Messrs COLLINS and REMOND, its Representatives in this country. This letter found its way to Dr. H., and also to Dr. King, but no copy was sent by the Captain to the official organs of the Society, the Secretaries. The reason for this will be seen hereafter. The Captain knew that that was not the quarter for his purpose. This discovery induced the Secretaries to propose, while Mr Collins's pamphlet was going through the press, that Captain Stuart should be invited to Glasgow, for the purpose of Meeting Mr. C., and in presence of the Committee defending his charges. They therefore addressed the following letter to four of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, viz:—

IV.

To Drs. WARDLAW, HEUGH, and KIDSTON, and WILLIAM PATON, Esq., Vice-Presidents of the Glasgow Emancipation Society.

GENTLEMEN,—You are aware, that to bring about the Emancipation of the Three Millions of Slaves in the United States of America, constitutes now the main object of the Friends of Freedom;—and that for this the Abolitionists of Britain are still called upon to struggle with their Brethren every where, but especially with those in America.

You are also, we doubt not, aware that an unfortunate division exists there, amongst the Abolitionists, which is in some measure paralyzing the efforts of both parties, and will doubtless continue to do so, as well as tend to damp the energies of Abolitionists in this country, and perhaps be laid hold of, as an excuse for refusing co-operation in the great work of advancing Human liberty.

This unhappy position of affairs among our American brethren, has claimed our serious consideration, and we feel deeply anxious for the prosperity of the cause, which is alike dear to you as to ourselves; and there appears to be no remedy now, but a full and free examination into the differences which separate our American friends.

Vertical handwritten notes on the left margin, including phrases like "I have no recollection of having been informed..." and "I am unwilling to believe that the unjust imputations..."

Vertical handwritten notes on the right margin, including phrases like "I am strongly of the mind, however, that the parties deeming themselves aggrieved..." and "I cannot, my dear friend, conclude this letter, without apprising thee..."

