

England 4/8. 40

My dear Mr Chapman

How much have we felt the absence during our convention, 'a new & grand principle launched in our little island & shipwrecked as it were in its birth for want of that pre-proud vanity of respectability & talent which would have gained for it a hearing whereas sad thing it is that the youth of some & the adulterated theology of others should have thrown a stumbling-block in the way of our weak brethren who have actually stumbled & fell at the insignificance as they called it & the heresy with which it was invested they have thrown down the gauntlet into the arena & our knight-errantry would not cope with it & Garrison the noble minded clear-headed would not come into their cauldron work & he standing aloof not so much as going to fulminate his objections he left the dark benighted as he found them had he gone & made his protest like a manager the principle explained & instructed them in what was right they would have known what he meant & lay it to their own reason who knows the good which might have resulted? they would have been prepared to meet the discussions which have resulted & if opposition not silenced it would not have been so loud; indeed I am surprisized at the readiness of the bigotted to yield at the honest unflinching assertions of truth it being they allow a question of mens rather than of woman's rights the placing at his side in portants scenes of

his life his better his wiser half, the being whose clearer  
diviner inspirations would enlighten enoble sanctify his  
counsels & hasten with the help of Divine Providence the  
renovation of our world! had thou been here my friend they  
say they are quite sure thou wouldst not have been refused  
an audience & it needs but to be well heard to be soon victor-  
ious! ah that thou hadst not married! that thy "proper sphere"  
at this juncture should have been nature's recess instead of  
reason's exercise! ah me! it has postponed the question, we had  
wished all the senses of the emphatic author of right & wrong  
in Boston at the Free Mason's Tavern the clamour grew louder  
again it, the advocacy louder there were many I believe ashamed  
at the part they took I believe & they cannot deny the equality  
of talent as well as worth of their wives sisters daughters these  
ideas discussed often among us are helping the cause we tell  
them in beginning that they must take off their grand other's  
night caps & throw them to the "things that loiter right" they  
good naturedly comply & enter on the subject with a smile  
we tell them we are not the same beings as fifty years ago  
no longer "sit by the fire & spin" or distill rosemary &  
lavender for poor neighbours - appoint committees  
for them to visit in sickness, old age, maternity, missions,  
Bibles reporting to the men sitting in their public meetings,  
uniting with them in association committees, then  
comes our great & mortal conflict; the dreadful monster  
slavery must be grappled with & who is sent out to do it? not  
man nor the stronger vessel with his nervous & brawny arm  
& the great calibre of his Kentonian voice the fierce threaten-  
ing of his black beard & mustachios this eye like Mars to  
threaten or command - nor nor the sons of Mars the sons of  
Thunder Boanerges nor them? who then? some fierce

Dragon more horrible still? no! guess again! Corbenis? no  
weak slender untrained-for-the-work modest tender woman?  
& when she appeals to the mean against such unheard-of folly &  
atrocities to the weaker vessel James Cropper has said it is noise  
talking & time the men are gone to sleep & it is impossible to rouse  
them you must go forth" at another time & place to the same ap-  
-peal Thomas Clarkson our veteran hero made the same reply  
he did indeed my dear friend & thus having been driven into the  
forefront of the battle having in the labour of collecting & going from  
house to house for signatures to petitions had to fight with beasts of  
Ephesus who can any longer in this blaze of our superior experi-  
-ence dazzling the twilight ken of their sheltering cave dare to smir-  
-our names in the muster-roll for the counsel-board? we have a  
far superior claim to the men the claim of our ensanguined  
battle-field the claim of our trophies our captives & can they  
much longer dare to hold up the pany cry of custom & dread of ridi-  
-cule in their confused jargon & stife of tongues their darkening of  
-counsel by words without knowledge while the veterans sit  
-without in silent contempt of their rhodomontade surely the  
-folly is hastening to an end it cannot withstand the light of truth  
Tacitus relates the Germans always called the women to their  
-war-councils because they had something divine in them & do  
-not your Indians have their conferences unitedly the scien-  
-tific congresses of France are men & women numbered  
-myself being a member & having addressed them at Leige  
& at Blois on the subject of slavery our own society  
-unites its men & women in mission conference & if we  
-may handle the holy things is it for our own sect to raise  
-its voice opposing our secular or moral engagement?  
-forbid it common sense & thou my dear Maria Chapman  
-cease not to cry aloud, to lift up thy voice like a trumpet  
-for surely if Indian women if German women if the  
-woman of France may colloquize with <sup>men</sup> the women  
-of England not less christian so not less qualified than  
-they must ere long, what is dark blindness

our anti-slavery may send the emphatic question  
across the Atlantic from thy strong pen to our exclusives  
at Broad Street - a most inappropriate name it ought to be the  
Street which is called straight send it to be read in their committee  
request their consideration & reply. You will be pleased  
with their article in No 16 "My Lavery Cotton & Corn" I wish it  
were practicable for thee to come to England very soon &  
continuing the subject now begun spread the cause of  
humanity more fully through our land by the time of a  
second convention it would be more deserving the name of  
world's convention you ought to communicate more  
widely & sautly with our great men & women on this subject  
let me know thy views & intentions be assured that we  
been desirous of helping thy bazaar & thy dear friend Mrs. Foy  
of Paris would have done all thy wishes but Wendell  
Phillips did not call on her so that she could do nothing  
we hope that his second visit to Paris will enable the  
parties to meet & confer on something useful

Hoping to hear from thee at an early period directing  
to Cheshamford

Thine as ever  
Anne Knight

Anne Knight  
Cheshamford  
Convention  
1840