

I find my Father is adding a few lines, so there need be no copy from him

Bristol. Feb. 14 - 1850

My dear Miss Weston,

My Father is not yet sufficiently recovered from an illness, which has incapacitated him for any exertion during the last 4 weeks, to do more than complete a letter to Mr May (which he is writing in detached portions at intervals) by the next post to America. He is therefore compelled to leave me to thank you for forwarding your correspondence with Miss Wigham through us to Mr Chapman, & thus affording us the opportunity we have been much anxious by seeking of seeing your mode of treating the vexed question of the march of the Anti Slavery cause by the <sup>method</sup> ~~means~~ of associating is adopted by some of the prominent members of the A. S. Society. The same tone of complaint assails us on all sides, & there is so much difficulty in making people understand the constitution of your Society, & the impracticability & actual inutility of any less comprehensive basis, while nothing analogous has ever been experienced in this country in their own observation, - that I never ventured to hope to convince more than one unobscured liberal mind here & there of the possibility of aiding such a Society without compromising any individual sentiment, or countenancing any objectionable tenet promulgated by any of its members. Religious differences prejudice most of the objectors too strongly to allow our explanations to have

any weight with them, for they consider our  
seeing no obstacle to co-operation with others  
entertaining such opposite views from our own  
or from theirs, a natural consequence of our  
defective creed & no guide <sup>to</sup> their conduct or judg-  
-ment. Ever since, therefore, we have been  
troubled by the leul of our own weakness to  
disarm these narrow scruples about extending  
sympathy <sup>as the A. S. S.</sup> to such a work & such workers,  
I have longed for you to be here to prove the  
truth of our assertions, & to explain how & why,  
while according in theological opinions  
with the holders of these scruples, you can  
so act with every faithful Abolitionist  
who unites his efforts to yours to help lift the  
weights none had strength to move alone.

Next to having you in person to carry conviction  
by this powerful hold over the disaffected in  
this most sensitive point, is the possession  
of your expression of <sup>the</sup> sentiment in writing;  
by you will not I am sure be displeas'd, after  
hearing how valuable your testimony will  
prove, though having taken the liberty of detaining  
your correspondence with the Edinburgh Com<sup>o</sup>  
till we could make a copy <sup>of it</sup>; We be unwilling to  
touch to our discretion in the use we will make  
of it. I wish the correspondence could have been  
free enough from private characteristics to leave  
no call for this limitation, but from its being  
personal enough to reach the boards of our  
case it could not well have been otherwise;

We can only congratulate ourselves on the Boston  
Committee being so much dispersed as to induce  
you to reply in an individual capacity to the  
Resolutions from Edinburgh. Miss Wyham had  
told me of the decisions of their Com<sup>tee</sup>, & I had solicited  
a sight of the anticipated response from Boston  
in the hope of its yielding some fresh force with  
which to meet the hostile charges, & you will judge  
from that how gratifying it was to be so unex-  
pectedly furnished with the reply from head quarters.  
We are much concerned at the falling off of  
British contributions to the Bazaar with which  
you are threatened this year; I am obliged to  
console ourselves with knowing that we have  
tried our utmost to prevent this result of the  
Glasgow Circular, & also with the fact that our  
Bristol collection kept up its credit, in spite  
of the Bazaar for F. Douglass <sup>upon</sup> which some parties  
prefer spending their energies. This week is such  
a very busy one with the preparation & distribution  
of the contents of our box for Boston that I am  
compelled to write in a much more hurried  
way than inclination would prompt, &  
to keep steadily aloof from anything not of  
an official character. There is a half written  
letter to you lying by me in reference to these  
articles for the Bazaar which have come under  
my management which must wait till  
next post or be enclosed in the box, as both  
time & materials are wanting for finishing

up the business details to-day, there is no  
else in a twice told tale, I will also enclose  
various letters I have received since we returned  
to Bristol in answer to enquiries about the  
effect of the Glasgow Circular which we cannot  
trace out in any direction where we have had  
the means of investigating & where we expect  
it would have found its way. The spontaneous  
outbreak of the <sup>inspired</sup> sentiment which elicited the  
manifesto in various independent quarters  
is striking & unquestionable. You will I think  
be interested in one letter from Mr. Massey, who  
is a recently formed anti-slavery friend & cor-  
respondent of ours, & who would not be brought to  
sympathy with us by any other agency. We see  
a copy of one of his letters to Mr. May some more  
ago which perhaps you saw; she speaks of Mr. John  
Scoble to whom she expresses her opinions of his  
short coming without any reservation.

Mr. St. Thomas who is <sup>now</sup> working very hard at pac-  
the baggage things, (as she did previously in collecting  
them) will write particulars by next week's  
post, & we will together make out a list of the  
money that has been entrusted to us & the way  
we have disposed of it. The falling off of your  
supplies from other towns has made us <sup>probably</sup> par-  
ticularly anxious to turn all money donated  
into saleable articles that would show the  
sympathy felt <sup>here</sup> & should have greeted very well  
at the short time & limited capacity I have had  
since my return for effecting much good in the  
way, did I not hope that our long absence has

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25. 29

stored up materials for more efficiently serving  
 the same cause in future years by spreading  
 some portions of the added light & warmth with  
 which we have been inspired thro' the delightful  
 companionship it was our privilege to enjoy  
 to an unbroken & extent during the period.  
 I must not however forget my resolve of keeping  
<sup>myself yielding to the</sup>  
~~free~~ from temptation of writing indefinitely  
 which opening this theme presents, just on the  
 eve of post time, & in a week when every minute  
 is wanted to finish up our work for the Bazaar.  
 My Aunt & I are as busy as we can be still up on  
 some fancy leather work which you will find  
 the details of in my next communication.  
 If we had been able to devote more time to it we  
 should have produced greater varieties, but a  
<sup>few</sup> specimens (which I had set my heart on  
<sup>presenting to</sup> the Bazaar ever since seeing one piece  
 of it done by a lady <sup>early</sup> in the spring) will serve to guide  
 us in the direction of our energies next year. If  
 it is attractive & saleable I shall try to let people  
 in different places at work so as to be well stocked.  
 In this hope I have been frustrated on the present  
 occasion from the shortness of <sup>the</sup> time & manifold  
 interruptions. There had been but five weeks in  
 which to learn the art & execute all the performances,  
 & no hands to engage in the service but those of  
 my Aunt, Mrs. Mitchell, to whose skill every thing  
 tasteful both in design & execution must be attributed.

She generously came to my aid after finishing her  
own labors, (consisting of a set of portfolios, orna-  
mented with ferns gathered from the grounds  
of J. Powell Buxton;) & she has supplied my deficiencies  
I worked on during the hours I have been forced  
to devote to nursing, or, <sup>to</sup> corresponding, of which  
a large amount has fallen upon me in con-  
sequence of my Father's illness. There are 24 names  
on my list who are Anti Slavery correspondents of  
the present time. The number has been swelled  
by our attempts to get a <sup>(I mean well known or active)</sup> good list of persons in  
different towns to receive contributions for  
the Bazaar, whose names I have inserted in  
W. W. Brown's Description of his Panorama of  
American Slavery, which <sup>this</sup> closes with a little  
Appeal which my Father <sup>had been</sup> engaged in preparing  
for W. W. B. when he was taken ill <sup>four weeks ago</sup>  
since which time I have had to get <sup>the list to</sup> ~~up~~ a great  
a state of completion as was practicable without  
much aid from him. But he had done all exertions  
& has now been able to take it up again & perfect it.  
To-day W. B. sent us a proof, for some additional  
names to be inserted, which I will enclose, tho'  
my Father thinks you could wish very contentedly  
without perusing the document till Brown's  
book finds its way to America. Still there is  
a gratification in having your early sympathy  
in our tiny efforts to forward your journals  
which makes me take the first specimen for  
the sake of shewing it to you. My Father has

probably dwell in his letter to Mr May on the  
useful agency W. B.'s panoramas is likely to prove,  
& on the sincere anxiety the latter evinces to render  
it such, & I will not waste your time or my  
own by descanting on it; particularly as I have  
been writing about it to different people in  
all parts of the Kingdom till it is a refreshment  
to change the theme. We are going to send letters  
to you or Mr May by this post in Welsh newspaper  
called "The Cambrian," which contains a short  
notice & an Advertisement of a book called  
"Iola Morganwg"; the life of a Welsh Bard, of which  
we are sending some copies to the Bazaar, & which  
we thought might be more likely to be noticed  
if you had a previous announcement of it  
which you may see fit to insert in a local paper.  
Had my Father been well he would have prepared  
a little sketch of its contents himself for this  
purpose, & had I been able in the short time to  
get it done by some one else, as I have tried,  
you should have had a more attractive des-  
cription of the work; but having failed hitherto  
in this purpose we can only forward the notice that  
has appeared in the Welsh paper. Books are I  
presume a less desirable & profitable dispo-  
sition of money for the Bazaar than ~~articles~~  
fancy or manufactures; I was here not before  
laid out any portion of what has been entrusted  
to us in this way, but having several reasons  
for wishing to send a few copies of this book

we have ventured for once on the experiment  
I hope they will all grow <sup>the work</sup> being just out, &  
the sketches of the Man's original character &  
striking attainments, together with the collection  
of curious <sup>well</sup> customs, & literary fragments, & antiquities  
<sup>as well as</sup> together with the allusions to interesting people in  
the political & literary world, <sup>which</sup> making altogether  
something quite out of the common. It contains  
a very strong Anti slavery lesson in the refusal of  
the Bard to receive any profit from a West Indian  
estate left him, & many of his sentiments would  
awaken sympathy among you. Besides these  
recommendations, our application for 5 cop  
brought a present of an extra one from the auth  
Expended a channel for infusing interest in  
the object into himself & his family which we  
shall hope to carry out to some material result  
We find the annual display of our collection  
a means of doing on a small scale what the  
Bazaar itself does on an extensive one - gives  
opportunity of letting people think, telling to  
what it is, & what it is for, & how it acts to  
This year of course I felt quite primed by infor-  
mation drawn from the fountain head, & was  
able to engage deeply interested audiences who  
expatiating on the scene in Faneuil Hall, & imp  
the peculiar value of different <sup>parts of</sup> contributions  
quoting the ladies who presided over those  
very departments as my recent authorities  
In one case an admirer was excited to add  
a ~~col~~ <sup>great</sup> packet of stationery from  
her husband's store, & many are bent upon doing  
wonders against next time, & many brought in



an understanding about not increasing your  
 manifold labors by involving you in any  
 extra correspondence; I shall hope you will  
 not think of troubling yourself further than  
 by sending a message whenever you answer  
 Mrs. H. Thomas's <sup>coming</sup> communication which I  
 shall take as a proof that you forgive the  
 familiarity with which I have been treating  
 you <sup>boys</sup> presuming on the intimacy which has  
 sprung up by proxy. You would be able to  
 account for it if you knew how constantly  
 your name has been our companion of late.  
 If I could give you an idea of the peculiar interest  
 which every thing written by you has for a long  
 time excited in me, & the vast addition of love  
 & reverence, together with a heightened longing  
 to see & know you with which all your  
 sister's allusions to you have impacted.  
 But if I had time to enlarge upon this I should  
 forbear lest you should tax me with flattery  
 which I specially abhor. I would fain tell  
 you the varied impressions & influences  
 made upon me by the respective members  
 of your family, & the causes of my prizing the  
 intercourse we have enjoyed with them  
 beyond that which has often fallen to my  
 lot. But all this I must now mesh  
 await a more leisure season. Meanwhile  
 accept my affectionate respects & believe me  
 ever, truly yours  
 Mary Estlin.

some additions to the stock, & others carried away  
 the Report of last year's Bazaar & other pamphlets  
 promising to read & think about the subjects.  
 We can calculate pretty well the degree of imp  
 that will be made upon <sup>these</sup> different practices, by  
 learning in what religious & social circle the  
 move. I know that the majority <sup>we</sup> will not retain  
 an abiding interest, but there are exceptions &  
 we sometimes light upon unexpectedly, rende  
 it worth while to try all. On glancing at this  
 hasty interrupted letter I fear it will prove in  
 coherent, but I must beg you to excuse my  
 addressing you for the first time (a fact it is  
 very difficult to believe) under the unfavorab  
 circumstances of cutting & boiling & gluing  
 leather leaves in a violent hurry, that one  
 more article may be prepared in time for  
 box; I am now leaving my Aunt struggling  
 to complete an ornamented flower pot  
 which will not be ready if I delay aiding  
 her. Next time I may not be able to be so  
 fully denying dear Miss Weston, as to keep on  
 the surface (like parties deeply interested  
 in meeting, on their first interview) for there  
 is too much in my mind I have long been  
 wishing to say to you to render selection  
 compression easy. Only I must come to