

Oct. 30 - 1850

I have been thinking of you for
 robbing yourself of so many hours enjoyment of the
 lovely scenery of the Alps for the sake of giving us such
 fine pictures of them. We had certainly been longing
 dreadfully (perhaps unreasonably considering the
 impossibility of writing many letters during journeys)
 for some tidings of your party; but a few lines of
 response to our enquiries respecting your welfare
 were all we had ventured to anticipate, & we certainly
 had no claim to so large a share of your precious time
 among the mountains. It was very characteristic
 of you to make ^{others} gainers by your own sacrifice, & we
 all agreed, & we fully appreciated the kind thought that
 prompted it. We shall be longing to hear again of
 your arrival in Paris & settling in to winter quarters,
 how you all are & what you are doing, especially what
 is connected with your own home & the friends you have
 left there. But you must not overdo yourself in our
 behalf, & at any rate don't think it needful to address
 us separately, my Father & I shall not be jealous of
 each other on account of the name which may reach
 your welcome communication. Perhaps Emma
 may find time to help you when you are little impeded
 this I know she as well as you & Mr Chapman have
 more demands on ^{her} pen than ~~they~~ can well endure.
 Being always in those circumstances myself make
 me very sympathizing towards others in like straits.
 Did Emma ever get a letter from me which was directed to
 Heidelberg, the first written after our arrival in Bristol?
 My enquiry does not indicate any astonishment, at
 not hearing from her, I sh^d have been quite sorry for her not
 to have turned her limited time in duty towards us better
 account, but only if you do not refer to it, it may never have

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reached her, by you have thought us very negligent in taking
no notice of you till it was decided by your first appeal.
I am far more anxious about Mrs Chapman and have
received a correspondence between Miss Wigham &
Miss A. Weston which I forwarded, to the care of Messrs Green
& Co Paris on the 5th of this month. I have made no
small use of the copy of that correspondence, & go armed
with it as a sort of talisman whose power I do not think
I have miscalculated. People are so astonished & impressed
with Miss A. W.'s liberality, & so incapable of finding any
fault with it that I do hope they will be enlightened by her
clear explanations! I intend it to do a great deal more work
before it has any rest. In fact it is only commencing its duties.
Our Anti Slavery Studies are very brisk at present of course
that Fugitive Slave bill keeping us anxiously on the watch
for symptoms of its workings, we want to see what the Boston
clergy will do in response to the Colored citizens appeal for
their voices to be heard. My Father thinks they will recede
in a petition for the repeal of the bill, as being the most
"constitutional mode of action. We have had a good deal
of talk with Mr H. Carpenter; I had our convictions confirmed
by his quotations from his ministerial brethren, that
their ^{own} consciences ^{which} compels the Abolitionists to direct their
efforts ^{where} there is any chance of ^{being} successful. My Father
will I hope be able to write to you I treat the topic opened by
you of Mr H. C.'s state of mind in reference to the Slavery question.
Your inferences from his course are most natural, but
acquaintance with his character would modify them.
You would find that policy does not sway him, but that
a peculiar temperament gives a tone to his views, & a coloring
to his manner. Had this not been the case he would be now
a more popular person, & possess more intimate acquaintances.
We are not excusing what we, by you, deem his shortcomings
in America by accounting differently for their source.
He aggravates my Father in conversation more than
any one I know. The former always calls him "each
black" from his slowness in participating, & still
more in manifesting, the warmth felt by those he

is with in any subject. Mr May in a letter to my father
of which ^{he} was the bearer has written & accurately defined
his feelings towards the Abol^{tion}. He says he does not fear his
being anything but a kind friend to the cause, but that he
leaves America with a very inadequate appreciation of
the aims, motives, & modes of action of the Abol^{tion}. "He
comparing Slavery with intemperance, war, & the evil
proves that its true character has not penetrated his
heart. He was much pleased with Mr May, Mr Quincy &
Mr Phillips as individuals, but cannot stand their
opacities on his ministerial brethren in their official
capacity. It was amusing to hear Mr Wendell's employment
of N. C.'s personal coldness, while he was describing Mr
to us as ~~the~~ ^a person who especially took his fancy
attracted his admiration. I wish indeed ^{you} were
close together that we might read ^{to each other} those letters from
mutual friends. How I should enjoy such intimacy
with some of your correspondents. And it wd be a
satisfaction to introduce you to some of mine. We have
sent your last letter to cheer the heart of poor Mr W^{right}
it is well we did, for in a little note ^{to me} which crossed
it, he laments not having heard from you for
several months, & affirms that if it had not been for
a press of occupation he could say what might have
been the consequence. So I have promised to take
time in acquainting you with his perilous situation.
He is busy getting off his box for Boston. I wanted to direct
the stationery with other parties to save duty. I referred
him to Mr Lepton of Leeds who had applied to us
since our boxes were despatched about means of
forwarding their collection, which they considered
too small to go alone, but wh^{ich} they were anxious not
to withhold as it contains some work of Miss H.
Martineau. We have done our best to help all parties
& have enlisted the sympathies of a most useful
Society at Liverpool, by means of a Bazaar Gazette
a special letter of thanks for past assistance. We

cannot get up his interest in the cause in that town; Mr
F. Bishop, (a minister ^{formerly} to the poor) is our only resource
we vainly attempted ^{to get help from} Mrs. Wadsworth as receiver ^{of contributions}
My Father is enlightening a Mr. Howarth, Unitⁿ minister
at Burg in Lancashire, to some purpose I hope. A
little have been various openings for interesting new
parties, chiefly in connection with W. Brown's paper
we have tried to make the most of. He (W. B.) is just
commencing his exhibition in Newcastle. Mr. & Mrs. G.
Richard & I were in London with him last week
in arrangements. He tells us Mr. G. Thompson sails
for Boston on the 19th. There was a very interesting
meeting for him at the London Tavern. I do feel very sorry
for your disappointment at not being at home at which
is there, but would doubtless whom you left behind deserve
some ^{of} compensation for your absence. Mr. S. May
said that they can't spare you. I have been giving
taken by my letter the full benefit of my correspondence &
they will have had plenty for a long time to come. There were
so many things ^{to be} explained respecting the content
of the boxes &c. &c. too much to expatiate about when once the
door was opened. We were able to enclose enough money to
defray the freight of our two boxes all the way to Boston which
was a comfort. Your kind regards will I fear make our
inquiries, but they are different enough not to interfere
I hope. All this time I have been fancying my Father had
letters on hand for you in which he ^{was} talking about our
Had I known this was a mistake I sh^d not have been so
long without satisfying the curiosity you were kind
to express for specific reports of health &c. We have at last
accomplished the change so long desired but for which my
Father had never until now been equal. We came to
Clevedon a week ago, just a few hours before Mr. Parker &
Phoebe started for London. They seemed very well. I left
with us until they have fixed upon a house. We are beginning
to indulge hope at length of my Father's getting out his time
before winter sets in; but former hopes have been deferred
to such an extent that we cannot yet venture to build
much on his apparent progress. He last night he had
attacks of asthma, the first time he has been exempt
from it for many weeks past. From the time I wrote to you
until now he has been suffering my long days better
others would, dependent to a great extent on the air.

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of sleep secured on the preceding night. He has never been
able to come downstairs till the middle of the day,
or to employ himself many hours consecutively. He has
sometimes contrived to see the patients who come to him
from distant parts & others to send them away disap-
pointed; if they came two or three in the same day
he has always suffered from the unavoidable exertion
of voice, & cannot ^{yet} manage writing for any time. So
he has been forced to relinquish most of what he was
bent on accomplishing, & to be content with what he
feels to be a very idle life, tho' if he could reconcile himself
to it, it would be a very endurable one. At home, however,
there is no mental rest for him. People come to the
door all day long, & negotiations have to be effected
with those who can be driven away; while notes &
messages are perpetually demanding attention & keep
alive the consciousness of his incapacity for satisfying
their demands. Of course I keep as much of the business
actions as possible in my own hands, but in a worst
number he must be referred to. So you may fancy how
I had been longing to get him off the spot, & could not
urge it till he himself felt equal to it, & tho' the experi-
ment was safe. Now we are quite quiet from morning
till night, able to manage our own time & to calculate
late ~~in the morning~~ ^{when we get up} what can be got, thro' the course
of the day instead of finding our appointed list of letters
multiplied six, eight, & tenfold ~~with~~ ^{added} over papers
bringing with them unexpected demands & numerous
impediments, till night finds a large accumulation
(as is the general order of events at home.) We are in the
vicinity of very beautiful scenery, & providing Father is
regaining walking powers enough to benefit by being
it. The place was a very favourite resort of his children
& tho' strongly metamorphosed by the march of
civilization it retains many of its peculiar attractions

for him. Kate & I scramble about the hills like
rabbits along for all your party to share our wild
rambles in this elastic air. We never think of being
tired of walking as long as day light lasts, & are out several
hours when weather permits. Do you see I at least
am flourishing under my present mode of life; indeed
I have stood ^{firmly} ^{in the} being up all night, working hard all day for
two months continuously better than I could have
done for some years past. For one fortnight I could not
speak in consequence of an ulcerated mouth which
was very awkward because of the patients; but my Aunt
who has kindly continued with us in our needy condition
acted go-between, bread to my Father, & helped us in all
sorts of ways. She is much gratified by your kind men-
tion of her, & begs to reciprocate every affectionate senti-
ment. She longs to know you, yet is half afraid, being
very diffident when impressed with the belief that she
is in the presence of those whose mental powers transcend
her own, a sentiment she ^{had in} connection with you to an
unparalleled extent. I have no fear of your not liking
her, she is so devoted to what is good & beautiful, & says
herely out for serving others with such efficiency &
quick gentleness. She has begun now to tax her genius for
some novelties against six years Bazaar, & has created
some exquisite flowers in leather, picking all the fields &
woods afford to copy from before they have passed away.
My Father is entertaining himself with collecting objects
fitting them up for American Bazaar, so she will be
a gainer in the end for the delay, in ^{their} reaching her.
You must not consider my Father's case as an un-
analogous to your medical friend; for his incon-
-sistencies stop short with speculations & expectations
he is an excellent patient, & very submissive to his
nurses, tho' when a little better than usual, he likes
to relieve himself by scolding at them & demonstrating
against their tyranny. He is almost to uncomplaining
after putting up with inconveniences who a word could
cause to be obviated, & always watchful to love every one.

trouble. His being somewhat more dismal than
the occasion seems to demand is under these circum-
stances very excusable. Your shrinkings from bodily
ailments for yourself by your friends comes I think
chiefly from want of personal experience of them.
I remember the time when my awe at contemplating
various forms of illness & remedies was considerable
but when one after another fell to my own lot I found
them quite endurable & now have ceased to dread
any ill that flesh is heir to; having the most unwar-
ring faith that ^{with} the dispensation, is accorded strength
adequate to its needs. I am sure you would not find it
wanting. We are delighted to hear of Mrs Follen's being
established in London, & to learn from Phoebe, who
has seen her, that both she & Miss Cabot look much
better than when she last saw them. I would
bring Mr Massie & Mr Follen together; tho' it is the
Unitarian ministers on whom I look to her agency
to make a beneficial impression. I forgot to tell you
that my Father took to writing to Miss Weston in as
familiar a strain as if she had been in reality as com-
panion of our travels as her name & image; &
he has sundry misgivings as to having exceeded all
legitimate grounds of intimacy. But as he is always
styled her particular friend (or she his) I have confi-
dence in her leniency; especially as he wrote in bed
with an invalid's privileges. He expressed some gloom
reflecting on ~~the~~ ^{to} Mr May, (induced by the course the
Abolitionists are compelled to pursue) suspecting
the tendency of the struggle on ^{their} individual minds;
while I like an undutiful daughter, I am fit to take
up an opposite side I write to Mrs May my conduct
to which of course you have been the means of
leading me, of its elevating tendency. I must not enter
on the merits of this question now; there is a mixture of

truth doubtless on both sides. We are much amused
the very qualified advocacy of ultra peace principles of the no
resistant abolitionists at this political juncture. Their ar-
guments are certainly most sound & unanswerable, that all
sh^d ^{now} use whatever weapons they would defend themselves in
in behalf of the fugitive, but because the doctrine from the lips of
Mr Garrison, S. L. Wright, H. Foster sounds very strange. How
patiently Mr G. goes on repeating his old story of the independence
of the Liberator & the impossibility of the harsh language &c. in
answer to his Knoxville correspondent & others!

Oct. 31. Our spirits are elevated to a high pitch this morning by
my Father's having had a second good night free from his luxury
& shall try to keep him here for ten days longer, that he may get
exercise without battle, & be able to complete in peace the key
of his Eye Dispensary which ought to have been done before we
to Paris! I did all my part, it is the statistics, last spring. You
see I tell you a great deal of our own concerns, but you bring it
yourself by your liberal sympathy, & I only hope you will on every
possible occasion repay me in kind, for you could tell nothing
we care to watch to hear as what relates to your family party. The
seems less of an objection nature to write about than usual just as
for this I have a list of between 40 & 50 correspondents in hand, &
majority are Anti-slavery ones my office content chiefly in putting
into them which I have gained from you, or communicating about
things you know far more of than myself; we do not receive much
from them that w^d be "intelligence" to you. Mr Lupton has just
informed me that their things are sent off, & that many people
who saw the collection are inclined to help them on the next
occasion. Miss Pease's contributions he says are united with the
from Edinburgh. Mr R. Smith ^{of London} the gentleman who travelled the
England with F. Douglass, tells us that Mr G. Thompson's eulogium
of Mr Garrison in his parting speech at the London Tavern has provoked
an attack on him from Dr Campbell. Dr C. will have Mr Moffie upon
him again if he does not take care. Mr R. Smith was with us then
before we left home, & told us a good deal about F. Douglass & his el-
derly Miss J. Griffiths. His views of both parties correspond exactly
with yours, but he speaks very well of the younger sister who mar-
ried Dick. F. D. has been writing to Mr Webb & to my Father, & seems
to his British friends. A box of things for the St. Star bazaar have just
been forwarded to him from Bristol, & that he might not conclude
proposed against him by Mr Chapman as he has until lately
prejudiced Mr Webb to be my Aunt & I virtuously prepared a cal-
flower stand & knitting-box, & I obtain it from our friend Mr Duff
on his collection. Good-bye. I hope our intercourse will
not be far between. My Father will fill up my manifold omnibus
with some to each of your party. You must mention Mr Chapman one