

Northampton, Sept. 9, 1843.

My dear Mrs. Chapman:

Pray accept from me as many thanks for your letters as there are words contained in them. They possess a two-fold value, as coming from you, and on account of their interesting contents.

For the last three weeks, I have had little time, and less spirit, to indulge in epistolary correspondence, or writing of any kind. The serious accident which befell my dear Helen and her aged mother has thrown so much personal responsibility ^{on me,} and caused so much solicitude of mind, that I have done little else than to act the part of a watcher and nurse, and to "look after" the children. Your sympathetic allusion to this accident is gratefully received by us. I am happy to state that the sufferers are steadily advancing toward restoration. Mrs. Benson did not, fortunately, dislocate her hip, but fractured a bone below it. She has suffered a great deal, though with a fortitude that never complains, but is now much better. The doctor at first feared that she would never again be able to walk, except with crutches, but the prospect of her complete recovery is now very flattering. It will probably be a long time before Helen will be able to use her injured arm. It is still very stiff and painful. She has experienced much difficulty in nursing Charles Follen, (who this day completes his first year, and is an uncommonly hearty child,) as you have correctly surmised in your last letter. We should have weaned the little fellow; but as the job is generally a troublesome one, and we are not under our own roof, we shall defer it until our return to Boston, which we hope will be accomplished in all this month.

I am sorry that you have not had an opportunity to read the exchange papers, not for any lack of talent or interest observable in the columns of the Liberator since I left Boston, but solely on account of your own gratification. They might have all been examined by you before being forwarded to me, as I do not get them oftener in a bundle than once a fortnight. As far as I have looked at them, they have contained little or nothing of special interest. For what you and Edmund have done for me, in an editorial way, I have nothing to proffer but poor barren thanks.

I am sorry to hear of the sickness of our friend Collins, though not surprised at the intelligence; for, so reckless is he of his health, and so enthusiastic in every thing that he undertakes, it is rather matter of astonishment that he is yet in "the land of the living," than that he is no longer able to be in the field of anti-slavery labor. From the deep and absorbing interest which he feels in his "no property" scheme, and the insignificance in which he has held the anti-slavery enterprise for some time past, in comparison with that scheme, and the very general dissatisfaction which prevails, in relation to his course, among the most faithful abolitionists in the country, it is probable that he has resigned his general agency at a seasonable period, and I hope it will be accepted by our Board. He has done immense service to our cause, and been, as it were, the chief spoke in the wheel at various crises; and, for one, I shall ever regard his past labors with admiration and gratitude. Believing that his association scheme is based on a fallacy, and will certainly come to nought, I could heartily wish, for his own sake, and for the cause's sake, that he might feel moved to make the overthrow of slavery the main object of his labors. But it is for him, and not for us, to determine his sphere of action. I despise and abhor the spirit that would persecute or proscribe him, on account of his peculiar notions respecting property, and man being "a creature of circumstances" - for, though I regard those notions as fallacious, I am not afraid of any thing but the cowardly, or despotic suppression of thought and speech. If he be in an error, he cannot succeed; if he be in the right, he will assuredly triumph, in due season.

I had supposed, till I read your statement, that it was at an anti-slavery meeting that Remond and Douglass felt constrained to separate from Collins; though I had seen and heard nothing but a rumor to that effect. You state that the occurrence took place in one of the "no property" meetings. I am therefore the more astonished at this; but I am anxious to ^{know} all the facts in the case, and to hear R. & D.'s side of the story, before I venture to sit in judgment on their proceeding. At best, it is a painful affair.

Has not dear N. P. R.'s mind undergone a wonderful transformation within the last three years? I trust he will avoid extremes, and not allow the adversary to deceive him in any particular, nor to take from him any weapon that may be lawfully and powerfully wielded for the good of mankind. His visit here was most refreshing to all hearts, and none "can know him but to love him," nor "name him but to praise." As Jonathan loved David, so do I feel my attachment drawn out toward N. P. R. Heaven long preserve him on earth, to battle mightily against every form of superstition, oppression and wrong!

I participate in your apprehensions respecting the Standard. It is evident that D. L. G., with all his noble qualities of mind and head, does not clearly apprehend all the bearings of our great enterprise, or what in all cases it is proper for anti-slavery to affirm and do. A considerable portion of his article, "Where we are," is excellent and true, but I think sadly defective in some of its positions. In endeavoring to avoid the appearance of our organization's exclusiveness, & in a measure emasculates abolition truth and fidelity, and strikes down the only true test of anti-slavery consistency. It is surprising that he should allow the Standard to be the voluntary trumpet of Lewis Tappan and his ostentatious mission to England. What is to be done, or what is before us, I know not; we can only hope for the best, until it shall become a palpable duty to make another change at headquarters. I am sure that our excellent friend Child would not intentionally do any thing to gratify pro-slavery, or to injure the cause; but he does not understand, fully the philosophy of our reform, nor the wiles of the enemy which now wears an abolition guise. O, Mrs. Chapman, if you would only consent to be the editor of the Standard, in case a change should be ultimately needed in the editorship of that paper!

I have just received a long and earnest letter from Abby Kelley, respecting the Standard, in which she expressed her intention to visit Northampton, in case I would meet her at the Springfield depot; but it has come too late for me to go down to S. in season, and I presume she is now in Boston. You will

of course see her. I trust, if she should return to western New-York, she will come via Northampton.

For the second time, O'Connell has publicly assailed "one Mr. Lloyd Garrison," before the Irish Repeal Association, for his "irreligious" opinions, and declares he will not co-operate with "such a person" - no, not even for the abolition of slavery! How paltry and despicable is all this! To pretend scarcely to know who I am, and to join with all that is vile and pro-slavery in this country to crush me as a reptile in the dust! It is "a sop to Cerberus." It would grieve me if you would handle this "new organization" attack in the manner it deserves to be met. It is so personal

~~Singlo. - Paris~~

Mrs. Maria W. Chapman

~~Weymouth,~~

R. M. Weston, Mass.

Boston.



W. L. Garrison
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towards myself, that I cannot deal with it faithfully, without appearing to be either sore or egotistical. I must leave it for my friends to do it justice, if they are ready for the task.

Mrs. Benson and Helen fully reciprocate your kind remembrances. Please give my best regards to all the household at Weymouth; and believe me to be, as hitherto,
Your grateful and admiring friend,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.