

August 21st 47

My dear Mr. Chapman

Now that the great
depression caused by poverty and
illness is fast disappearing, we
find our thoughts returning to our
friends in America and their
never ceasing labours for those
in their country who cannot buy
a word for themselves - I feel
more humble that I can to express
in words to those around me at
the shades which often gather

Apprehension of me with regard to
the Anti-Slavery Cause - and
all other causes for the improvement
of our unfortunate brethren - some
part of the feeling arises I believe
from the wretched condition of
Individuals in this Country - all
sorts of benevolent Societies are
every day increasing and yet
misery in the masses seems not
to diminish - Perhaps you will say
and justly, that I should not
have time for such thoughts - that
I should have ^{so} much occupation that
I could not dwell on such ideas
long enough to call them ~~by~~

'Thoughts' - I often think that this is
the case - that having time to
muse makes one discontented -

However all this is foreign to the
matter which will interest you -
of the state of matters in the
West you heard from R. D. Webb
but he was not in Cole or in
Shippen - Oliver Burrill only
told the simple facts about the
latter place - we have seen the
children lying dead in their
mothers' arms - but he could not
- writing us he did with the
desire to gain sympathy - till

^{general}
you of the state of the country, west
and south of this city - every year
numbers die of want - this did not
prevent the people marrying nor
did it cause them to lay by any
thing for the future - all they
could for was - enough of potatoes
- education was unknown - when
they came into Cork, you saw
they were human beings but so
very low in the scale that you
could not feel they were your
brethren - this may be wrong but
if we had known them even the
care for any intellectual enjoy-
ment see W. have been a thousand

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times more unhappy at their fate -
What we felt most sorrow for, was
those who were reduced from being
in comfort by the dearth of all
sorts of provisions - and who had
to look for support from others in-
stead of independently funding
their own - poor workwomen & such like.

Under all these circumstances,
combined with the illness of so
many, our eldest brother among
the rest, of a severe fever - the
death of our two benevolent associates
Mrs and Miss Nash and others
of high note in our A. S. Society
you will not I hope wonder

that there should not have been
hitherto much expectation formed
of our amount of Contributions
this year — But hope begins
again to brighten our lives —
and certainly there will be a
Prof sent — some friends we
find who were removed from
the active exertions which they
had to make for the relief
of home distress have been
at work — Those who knew
Douglass are amongst the most
active — the knowledge that
a man such as he should

have been a slave to our in every
way his inferior, has made an
impression which will never be
effaced. They feel much rejoiced
that he has arrived at home and
that he enjoys being there in all
his intercourse here he evinces the
highest regard for his wife and
children. Had Mrs. D. been a
well educated woman and in
all respects a companion for him
he could not have availed more
entirely any of those confidential
conversations which some persons
like to have with young

lashes when the latter are walking
- we heard of one or two who were
rather absent in their own-atten-
tion - this may seem ridiculous
to tell you and yet when one
knows he has strong feelings, it
raises the respect one feels
for him - I always found he could
bear the same fault found with
him if it were not taken for
granted he must be wrong -
Phrenologically speaking, a
person with very large Self-
Esteem would not be started
to tell him of any thing it would
be

well he should alter - It seems better
 presumption to say this to you but
 you have these matters to attend to
 than the exact study of every one's
 peculiarities - indeed he may be
 quite delighted with the way he is
 treated - for all I have heard from him
 has been of his private feelings on
 his return home - but I know here
 (in these countries, some detected to him
 more than he liked -

We have had the two great
 American vessels with our harbours
 the James town and now the
 Peace town - you will perhaps
 be surprised that we are ignorant

whether Capt. Forbes is an Abolitionist
or not - we only saw him when he
was overwhelmed with business and
then it w^d have been absurd to
question him - He won the esteem
of all by his kind and courteous
demeanour - and he did his active
duties as Captain MacDougal and
Farwell - the latter we spoke a short
time with - he amused us with the
honour he evinced at the idea of
dissolving your Union - he did
not seem to think it ever entered
into the idea of a slave man's or
woman's mind - Yet when men
undertake such a journey as
they did, there must be great

with material in them for Anti-Slavery
and other good purposes - There are
a great many questions I should
like to ask you but I shall not -
your time is too valuable - When
the time comes for you and your
children's visit to these countries,
we shall be delighted to have it
in our power to see you 'face to
face' - I should like to speak to
you of all the topics of the present
day - of 'Communities' and of 'as-
pirations' (not that these are spoken
of in Ireland yet and when the Physical
Force men, alias the Young Irelanders
are about public attention & the
exclusion of better things) and

To ask you whether the failure of the
Total Abstinence Pledge to enforce
Temperance in England has at all
altered your faith in Pledges
it has mine - I think I see that there
is nothing inconsistent with in a
truly religious and conscientious
man partaking occasionally of
wine or porter - or even spirits - per-
haps part of this has been caused
by a very wonderful clairvoy-
ant telling my ^{son} brother that a little
wine is useful for a weak and
delicate person in the cold stage
of fever - it was tried on Henry
in the fall a few weeks since

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by my sister who was with her con-
stantly and found admirable - she
also advised vinegar and water as
being better than water for the patient
to be washed with - and cloths wetted
with vinegar and water to be applied
to the hot parts - she who when awake
is rather a dull young woman, is when
asleep a wonderful Physician - she has
been the means of curing numbers, of
all sorts of ailments - she gives advice
for mental illnesses also and where
followed, the benefit is wonderful -
she advises all persons who exert
their intellects to rub down their heads
twice a day for five minutes each
time - it is to be done lightly with
the tips of the fingers - slightly parted

- it is commoning also that a well
young of lady a friend of ours gives
the same advice when she is ⁱⁿ the
shop - the latter made a few words
the other day which were placed
under a black silk scarf - she
does not mind to hold the hand of
any one in order to describe all
their mental emotions - one day
lately she answered a question ad-
dressed to her in German but said
it was in the mind she read the
question - she is known to us from
childhood as an artless and the just
girl now 22 years of age and strong
to say an entire ⁱⁿ believe when
awakened in slavery and on

even sympathy of taste! but perhaps
this means you - I was in England
last year for some months and
heard much more wonderful things
from Miss Martineau and her friends
and I also heard James Martineau
avowing his utter disbelief of Mesmerism
and full conviction of deception being
used in all cases by Mesmerism on
patient! however we find that few
who examine ever continue to doubt -
every day we find fresh reasons to
believe - at least to me think -

I believe the money for the
last standards has not yet
been paid - however we shall
send about the next time. I hope

-1847

we shall not be printed as re-
 creants! our treasurer Hannah
 White is at present visiting
 Mr. D. Webb - If Jane has time
 she will I think send you some
 of the clairvoyant's remedies
 but she is now with our brother
 in-law who has been rather severe-
 ly attacked with fever - he has
 a hydrophobic disease - but one who
 allows the clairvoyant's remedies to
 in this case however she cannot possibly - if it will
 be used, - and now with every
 good wish for you and all your
 friends I remain at length
 your affectionate friend
 Isabel Jennings

Ms. A. 9. 2. 23. 39A