

Boston, Massachusetts,
Monday Evng. Jan. 8. 1849.

My dear Mr. Estlin,

If it were not that I feel that you ought to have a letter from me by the next Steamship from this country - (which sails by the way day after tomorrow from New York) I should not have chosen this time for one; for I am still feeling the worse for a heavy cold I took at the cleaning up of the Hall, and the re-packing & safe storing of goods after our Bazaar was over, - ^{together} with what I suppose is a sort of nervous re-action from the excitement caused by the scenes, labours, & anxieties of that occasion. I know you all work hard for us in preparing for our yearly Antislavery effort for funds, but I think that (unless you have gone through with the very thing itself, & spared neither soul or body in doing it) you can have but an imperfect idea of the toil & anxiety which attend our Annual Bazaar. I am sure you will not - that is, I hope you will not - think I am magnifying my own labours; for, far from being able to say "magna pars fui" of the scenes I am referring to, I know how much more onerous & weary was the load upon others, & especially upon two or three of the ladies. -

We commenced actual work at Faneuil Hall on the 14th Dec. (the cases had been previously opened & a partial inspection of contents had taken

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You know
Mr. Estlin

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place) - on the 14th a number of ladies assembled at an Anteroom of the Hall, and spent that day and the chief of the next in ~~opening~~ examining and marking prices upon, the contents of 6 or 7 cases first received. The ladies remained at their post from about 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. without leaving. Meantime (on the 15th) the evergreen of various kinds, for trimming - I should rather say for disguising - the Hall, & converting it from a plain, untasteful, barn-looking kind of a place (not to speak irreverently of the place where the young liberties of America were rocked!) into a kind of Forest Cathedral, began to arrive - (I hope you will be able to discern the connexion between the former & latter parts of the last sentence.) This evergreen had ^{to} be transported by main strength from the wagons, &c. ~~also~~ to the floor of the Hall, up some 18 or 20 steps, and ~~at~~ this work 4 or 5 of us had the whole to do; for we seek to avoid all expense by relying upon volunteers, who are very apt to be amateurs, laborers, and not much skilled in the ^{best} method of doing such things. But I will not weary you, also, with this sort of recital. Saturday, Monday, & Tuesday were given to the preparation of the great hall; on the evening of the latter day the Hall looked clean & bright, the tables were all spread, and the beautiful goods beautifully arranged upon them, as well as upon ^{frames,} stands, lines, & all kinds of devices for display of Shawls, Cloaks, Caps, bonnets, children's dresses, &c. &c. The Bazaar opened the 20th

and remained open until Saturday night the
30th - just 10 days, exclusive of the Sunday. During
the whole 10 days there was scarcely one pleasant
one - certainly not one, after the first, when both
weather & walking were favorable for ladies to be
abroad. On the 2^d day of the Fair commenced one of the
most violent N. E. snow storms which ever occur on this
Coast, which continued the whole of the 3^d day, & when
it cleared up on the 4th, left the streets blocked up
badly with snow; - on Monday (the 3rd day of the Bazaar)
a rain-storm set in, which filling the snow with
water made Boston streets almost impassable; after
that we had two several falls of snow; and altogether
the worst weather & walking that ever were condensed
into 10 days since I have had acquaintance with
this ~~part~~ part of the world.

After the Fair
was over, the hall had to be carefully dismantled,
the frame work of arches, columns, &c. packed away,
the goods which remained on hand taken care of, &c.

It was nearly 3 weeks' labour from first to last, and
having just said, pardon me for it, that it was the
severest labour I ever encountered ^{in my life}, - and others, who
participated, held unqualifiedly the same opinion - I
will say no more on that subject. I have dwelt upon
the matter for 2 reasons - the one that any unusual
heaviness in my letter may be put to the account of
our hard-fought field, and the other, that the causes might
be duly set forth of the decrease in our receipts from
the last year. The whole sum realized, during the two

Stormy or otherwise unpropitious days was \$3300, something over \$1000. less than last year. This is, I think, mainly to be accounted for by the weather, but other causes may be mentioned. It is a very pinching time for money in Boston - has been so for an unprecedented length of time, & is likely to be so much longer; then again the Whigs of Boston, ~~which~~ who include in their number nearly all the wealth, have been much enraged against Abolitionists on account of the Free Soil movement, & for the hostility to the Slaveholder and Man of Blood Zachary Taylor, whom the Slave Power, with the servile compliance & help of Northern doughfaces, has made our next-President. Against all these elements of opposition we have a right to feel, and we do feel, that the taking of \$3300. at our Fair this year was a great thing. My father, who is an experienced man & knows Boston pretty well, thinks it the best, the most successful & encouraging work, under the circumstances we have done at any Bazaar.

For all this success we are mainly indebted to the comparatively few British & Irish Abolitionists. Fervently & sincerely do I pray, God bless them all - for their noble perseverance, for their unstinted liberality, for their so much needed encouragement to us, may He bless them all. And, friends, think not that ye labour in vain; think not that our movement, scandalized, denounced, feared, hated as it is - scarcely less ^{so} than the Gospel of Christ was when he first preached it - has been

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untimely, or ill-advised, or badly-managed, or
is in any danger now of suffering shipwreck. All
these things good, timid souls on one hand, and the
scoundrels & profligates of the nation on the other, would
have you believe. Believe them not! I will not say,
confidently, that our Antislavery Movement could
not have been more wisely or well conducted;
but I am free to say that I go very near thinking
so. To err is human; and no one of us is blind
to the infirmities which have not been wholly
absent from our Enterprise; but the great principle,
on which the cause has been carried ^{forward,} & of speaking
right out the honest truth of God, without reference
to who might be offended, who might be condemned,
who might be stripped of his lofty pretensions, who
showed to be morally & religiously deformed, who
made ^{to start up & show himself a demon -} ~~naughty~~ - the principle, in other words,
which insists upon testing every man, and every
sect, and every institution, in a professedly
Christian land, by the great law of Christianity,
- and nothing more than this, & nothing less, has
been the pervading principle of the A. S. Movement.
This principle I say is right, & is the only right one,
and results have shown that the faithful adherence
to it of the Antislavery leaders, martyrs, & saviours of
the age have been most signally blessed of God.
Eighteen years ago darkness, moral death, reigned
over the land; Slavery was in the ascendant
undisputed - not even a dog dared wag his tongue, or

impugn its rightful authority. When that
silence was broken, and one, and then a few
voices were heard boldly denouncing Slavery as a
wrong, as a sin, of which this present & living
American people was guilty, before Man & God,
then came forth a howl from every quarter as
if Hell had given up her own. For years, to speake
upon Slavery was an inadmissible thing anywhere
and everywhere. Slowly, but without intermission,
the pioneers boiled on, never flinching from mobs, or
excommunication, or loss of reputation, or loss of
the means of winning their bread, or from death even;
and now where are we? The question of Slavery
is the one great, & everywhere prevailing topic of
discussion in every part of the land - Free States,
Slave States, - Legislatures - Congress - Gubernatorial
and Presidential Messages - Ecclesiastical Synods,
Conferences, Associations. No longer is a man threatened
with loss of life who stirs the question on the floors
of Congress. Bowie knives have striven in vain
to banish it thence. Mr. Palfrey of Massachusetts
moves that measures be taken to abolish Slavery in
the District of Columbia - Mr. Giddings of Ohio moves
that question (the continuance of Slavery) be left to
the inhabitants of the District, black as well as white.
Mr. Gott of New York moves to instruct a Committee
to bring in a bill for the suppression of the Slave trade
in the District, and though the South resist, and
manoeuvre, and fawn, & supplicate, & scold,
no Bowie-knives are threatened, no expulsion is
dreamed of; noise & vaporing & slurs have succeeded.

The Slave Power is a great big bully; and I believe the Northern people now understand that pretty thoroughly; so well that they will never be bullied down again. Many men from Slave States, and chief among them Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, have given great countenance to the entire exclusion of Slavery from all new Territory. You have perhaps noticed the fact that a Convention of Citizens of New Mexico (now a Territory of these United States) petitioned our Congress not to allow Slavery to be introduced there. Two Slaveholding Senators from Slaveholding States, Benton & Clayton, introduced this to the Senate, & gave it the weight of their countenance & general concurrence. Calhoun madly & bitterly denounced the Petition as insulting and wished to throw it out altogether. The South are divided - are at issue among themselves on this question. The North is rising, and fast withdrawing its sympathy from the Slaveholder - the new territory stands ready to cast back with loathing the infernal system of human Chattelism; and the wretched, God-forsaken South, must die in cursing & agony, or, ceasing to defy God & to outrage man, must repent, and cease from its iniquity, & do that which is lawful & right, and so live, and not die. - This is the result, as at present seen; the result of faithfully laboring in the direction which Conscience & Christianity alike indicate, the only direction where we have any right to look for God's blessing, and the very direction where we may ^{always} be sure to have that blessing.

I have not exaggerated a single point of this sketch; very many encouraging features have been left altogether unnoticed. True the political potsherd & leaders, by chicanery & sophistry & fraud have put an ignorant, coarse old slaveholder into the Pres. Chair; but his power for mischief is less than James K. Polk's was, because he will not dare to proceed in defiance of a popular sentiment much more intelligent, & much better knowing its strength, than was the case when Polk assumed the reins 4 years ago. A strong effort will be made to seize or buy Cuba; but it will be defeated I believe, or will be made itself the means of the destruction of this Union, which is only another word for the utter downfall of Slavery. Two years ago I should have hoped that England would interfere, by her Government, against the occupying of Cuba by the U. States. Now I hope otherwise; I think the Union will receive a blow, from which it will never recover, if Cuba is annexed; whether annexed free or slave matters little - the Slave Power will be humbled & defeated by the former, ^{intoxicated} ~~maddened~~ & hurried to ~~their~~ ^{its} destruction by the latter. - Such being the state of things, have we any reason for despair, or for distrust? Altogether the reverse. We address ourselves to the use of the same weapons, the same means, with ~~so~~ a new confidence & spirit; to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, whether they come in the guise of a Church or of a Political party, to speak the truth with all compassion for the suffering, the ignorant, & the penitent - & with all due plainness & severity to the wilful & determined wrong doer.

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Tuesday a.m. Jan. 9th

But I must indulge in no more digressions, but tell you about the Fair, &c. I have not yet said a word of the Bristol Box. It did not come into our hands till the Fair had ^{nearly concluded.} commenced. The moment we heard it was at the Customhouse we lost no time, but got it through, paying duties, Customhouse Charges, &c. amounting to about \$23., had it immediately taken to one of the Galleries of Faneuil Hall, where it was opened & its contents brought to light in presence of Miss Anne Weston, Miss Lucia Weston, my Mother & myself. It was admirably well packed, & everything was in perfect order. Unfortunately only 2 days of the Bazaar remained in which to dispose of its contents; but we caused a special notice of its arrival to be inserted in the principal papers of the City, and the sales of those days were evidently very much augmented in consequence. The Ladies told me that the greater part of the contents of the box was disposed of. — And now I will tell you one little fact about the box which you may communicate to others, or keep quite to yourself, just as you prefer. It actually arrived here (so say the Customhouse authorities) Dec. 6., but we heard nothing of it until Dec. 26.th ~~Was it not~~ "Was it not spooking? It looks so much like negligence on our part, that without some explanation ~~on our part~~, I should think you might justly blame me. Now from the time I received Miss Carpenter's letter, informing me of the shipment of the box per "Arctura", I kept daily watch of the shipping lists, requested my Father also to do so (who said he would, & I gave him a mem^o. of vessel's & master's names), but neither saw or heard anything of Arctura. Miss Anne Weston told me she did the same, but had never seen the Arctura's name. One of my brothers at my request went to the Customhouse Dec. 26. to ascertain if there was any box there for Rochester N.Y. (I had been requested by friends there to inquire), and he then

My best regards & affectionate remembrance to Mr. Armstrong & family, & to Mr. Finner. How I shall like to see you all again!

learned that there was a box there for S. May jr, &c.
Why the Customhouse people had, did not make it known to my father, when he was getting through the boxes from Edinburgh, Perth, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Dublin, & Cork, I cannot tell; ~~if~~ Capt. Crowell ~~had~~ ^{had} given us a notice of his arrival, all would have been right. ^{I am sorry not to have seen him, to thank him for his kindness & friendship.} However, 'twas better than not to have received it at all; indeed it came with a decidedly inspiring influence to cheer ^{us} amidst the ill-omened weather which environed us. I don't know that we lost much by the delay; but it was a great disappointment to us. The ~~great~~ elaborate Album, ~~the work of~~ so many hearts & hands, sent by Miss Carpenter, remained unsold. I fear we shall not be able to realise the price put upon it. Very many of the names are not well known here - not so well known as in England; ~~some~~ ^{others} of the names are known here to few others but Abolitionists. The beautiful great Album sent by your daughter was not sold - so little time remained - but there is no doubt but that it will find a purchaser. We must have another Sale in the City before the winter closes, to make amends for the deficiencies of Christmas week, and to dispose of the contents of 3 boxes from Paris, now on their way to us but not yet arrived. They were sent from Paris by Mrs. Chapman, Mr. Eddy, & Mr. Hovey, members of our Society, now there. The boxes were to come by the Steamship Hermann (I think) - some Steamship, at any rate, which was prevented from sailing as appointed by an injury to her machinery which detained her a long time, & compelled our friends to ship by ^a slave & N.York packet - the St. Nicholas. We hope she will soon arrive. Already she has been 50 days at sea, if she sailed at her appointed time. There is ground for anxiety respecting her.

I must now come to matters more personal to ourselves. I am happy to acknowledge the reception of the

I have only one more thing to say, I am very glad to hear that you have exchanged it for better, adding some money from home for the "North Star".

Please say to Miss Carpenter that her note on Monday morning, for Douglap's was sent to it. I have not the space to exchange it for notes, adding some money from here for the "North Star".

engraved portrait, for which accept my best thanks. It came in the best order, is a beautiful engraving, as all say who have seen it; I have had it framed, & it will soon be suspended in my room at my father's house; and will go with us to Leicester, when we return thither in the Spring. - I also received ~~from~~ £1.0.0 from you, which for your contribution to the Drayton & Sayres case, £1.0.0. from Mrs. G. H. Ames which I paid to the managers of the Bazaar, and £1.0.0 (by the Leeds box) from Mrs. General Dighton, which also I paid in the same way. Your suggestion about a Lib. Bell for her shall be remembered. - We have new occasion to thank you for your speech at Exeter, and for your subsequent article in the "Inquirer"; - I rec^d. the latter, wh. you sent me, & you have by this time doubtless seen in the Liberator your article copied there. - Of course you will understand from what I have said, that your letters of Oct. 30 (by Leeds box) and of Nov. 30., Dec. 1, by Mail were duly received - and most acceptable they were. My children received the 20th vol. of Chambers's Miscellany, from your daughter, which completes the set. They now have through her kindness the 20 vols. of the Miscellany - beautiful books, which we all prize highly. - Dr. Hutton lately sent me a copy of the "Nonconformist" containing an article from himself, in which I saw the good man's soul was deeply stirred. That article was transferred also to Liberator. - There was some delay in Douglap's receiving his copy of the Narrative in French. After waiting some weeks, looking to receive directions from him as to its transmission, I sent it to N. York. There it visited him, tho' he passed through that city twice. I recalled it from N. Y., and was glad at length to get it into his possession. - My wife was very much pleased to receive your daughter's note, and will reply to it when we send our Box of Lib. Bells, &c. &c. which I hope will be by the last of this mo. or the first of next.

By Alluding to a custom in your own elections, you speak of a vote known as a plumper. I had the impression that this was where a man, entitled to vote for two members, threw both votes for one of them; but you represent it differently. What led me to think so, I believe, was the fact that George Thompson in the Tower Hamlets had so many votes more than his colleague, which was said to be owing to plumpers, which I interpreted as above.

I have obtained the Life of Sir J. F. Buxton, & shall read it, but have not yet had time to do so. Mrs. Fry's Life I have seen, but not read. The "Standard" has given very full notices of Buxton's life, with copious extracts, which I have read.

It is true that Van Buren had not a single vote, i.e. not a single Electoral vote. Each state chooses Electors of Pres & V. Pres^{ts}, as many as the whole n^o. of Senators & Representatives, ^{it is} they are entitled to have in Congress. Massachusetts accordingly chooses 12 Electors, & Mass. has 12 Electoral votes. The Van Buren party threw 36,000 votes in Mass^{ts}, & prevented any election by the People. The Legislature was called together in Boston the 1st of December, & being ^{in the whole} Whiggish & Taylorish enough to choose the 12 Taylor Electors. The Free Soil vote was an immense one, under the circumstance, - some 300,000 and tho' not resulting in a single State going for Van Buren it has had an important warning effect upon all parties in the Government & Congress, both North & South. The Free Soil men have ^{elected} ~~sent~~ several strong men to Congress as Representatives.

I don't know what Mr. Richardson means by ~~measures~~ being on foot "to restore harmony between the Old & New Organizations". I have heard nothing about it; it is the crotchety of some brain which knows as little of the matter as Mr. R's., I presume. The New Organization is now defunct, swallowed up & lost in Free Soil - with the exception perhaps of Lewis Fay, of N. York, whom Gerrit Smith (a late co-worker) has just accused of being on the fence as to Lib. party & Free Soil. — I had a note from Douglass yesterday in which he says, "Our Fair here was rather thin attended & made but a modest appearance. It is the day of small things with us." — I see gladly that a new Postal Treaty has been agreed upon between your Gov^t & ours, by which postage will be about 10 pence each way. — And now omitting several matters, & with sincere respects to Miss E. I am, Affectionately, Yrs. P. M. J.

The letter enclosed on the subject of Mrs. Fry's life I was pleased to see, & thank you for it. I shall write to Miss E. by the 13th.

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