

35 Eccles St. Dublin 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 1837

Rev Saml May Jr  
Boston

My dear sir

I have been requested by Miss  
Hutton - daughter of the Rev Joseph Hutton of this  
city, a venerable & esteemed Unitarian Minister  
whom you may probably have seen when you were in  
Dublin - to make some inquiry into the character &  
circumstances of Mr Jos<sup>ph</sup> Perry Price of No 80 Federal  
Street Boston, who describes himself as a Coach  
Maker & Actor at the Boston Museum. Mr Price  
was in Ireland lately, & while here he made an  
offer of marriage to a young woman who is school-  
mistress in one of our Unitarian schools, & in whose  
welfare Miss Hutton takes an interest. This young  
woman seems disposed to accept Mr Price's proposal,  
but her friends are anxious, before she commits herself  
finally in so important a matter, to learn something  
of the character of her lover. They wish to know if

be he a sober, industrious, respectable man; in short,  
a man who would be likely to make a good &  
affectionate husband to a worthy woman. If you  
can in any way assist in guiding their judgment  
in this weighty affair, I am sure it will give you  
pleasure. Perhaps you may be able, on enquiring, to  
learn something of the position of Mr Price, with  
you kindly drop me a few lines as soon as you  
conveniently can after receipt of this.

Now that my pen is in hand, I must blot the  
remainder of my sheet with some matter or other,  
yet, notwithstanding it is long since we had any  
intercourse of this kind, I do not seem to have any  
thing of a very interesting nature to communicate  
to you. As I grow older I grow lazier, & in this faculty  
my letter writing propensity participates. I read the  
Liberator constantly, & I therein see your continued  
labour on behalf of the coloured man, around whom  
contumely & oppression seem to entwine their withering  
grasp yet more & more tightly, in your land. May  
we hope that this is indicative of the near approach of

the hour when a too great tension of the chain will  
cause it to snap asunder, & leave the oppressed free,  
& the oppressor powerless to do further wrong? The  
progress of Freedom & Civilization among mankind, is  
slow, but I believe it is sure. The glorious appliances  
of steam & the electric telegraph, & the increasing  
desire to promote education, must produce happy  
results in this world of ours, one day or other. There  
are drawbacks to human improvement arising from  
ignorance as well as selfishness, which will yet give  
way before increasing light & knowledge, & Man  
will yet be a better & a happier being. It is at all  
events pleasant to keep such feelings & hopes alive in  
the mind, & indeed they are needful to keep us at  
work in the cause of humanity, as if no hope of im-  
provement cheered us on, we should have no motive  
to labour for Man's growth in virtue. The World's great  
Exhibition which brought together in London so magni-  
ficent a display of the works of human ingenuity &  
industry, must, I should think, be productive of the  
happiest results. Men from all nations were brought  
together in harmony, & as all had something to exhibit

which, either in usefulness or in beauty excelled all  
others, all might learn the value of a free interchange  
& a more unrestricted commercial interchange of  
commodities than have hitherto prevailed among the  
different nations & the various tribes of men. Ireland  
did not make a large display of manufacturing indus-  
try, but her contributions, so far as they went, were  
creditable to us. There was one, & only one, grand  
mistake made by the Commissioners, & that was in  
distributing any prize medals. They have been found  
injurious at our periodical Irish exhibitions, & there  
no doubt they will be dissatisfactory to a large extent  
in the present case. The judges undertook duties which  
they could not possibly discharge with justice to all.  
I think it will be found better on all future similar  
occasions to dispense with the childish practice of  
giving prizes, & I believe the same rule applies to  
Agricultural societies & schools & colleges, where other &  
worthier motives to exertion would, I think produce better  
& more harmonious results. I have only room to add  
that I am with unabated regard your aff. friend  
James Haughton