

Boston, May 1. 1846.

My dear Sir,

Although pressed for time, I shall not fail to send you at least a few lines in acknowledgement of your kind note of April 2^d. (rec^d. April 21st), and of the generous donation enclosed in it for the "Massachusetts Antislavery Society." The bill, for £5., my father has taken, ~~and~~ allowing me for it the highest rate, which at present amounts to \$24.44, and that sum I have paid to the Treasurer of the Society, according to your directions; he will doubtless make an early public acknowledgement of it. — This is a very liberal and friendly deed, valuable in itself, and especially so as a significant act, in the view of all scoffers & foes & lukewarm friends, of your interest in our cause. For one, I thank you with my whole heart, and I am sure I may venture to thank you in behalf of very many. After all else you have done, and so far away from us, & with your frequent contributions for various home causes, I had not expected this farther pecuniary gift from you. Nevertheless it is welcome — this heart-prompted, free-will offering in behalf of Freedom and Humanity).

I regret to hear of the loss which you, and doubtless many others, have suffered in the death of your nephew, W^m. Prichard. Several not dissimilar cases I have known, where every preparation for a life of usefulness & honor had been made & (according to common understanding) completed; — and death has come in, to crush the bright hopes & scatter the fond expectations; and leave the survivors wondering, and questioning almost, where was the wisdom of the Providence that allowed the full term of preparation to be finished, & then denied the work. We have to thank God that we know a higher field of service exists than any earthly ~~one~~ — at least, one more extended & glorious — and that no faithful labor on earth will fail of producing its harvest. Let God call His laborers, and appoint His servants, to such station as He pleases; and let it be ours to say, His will be done.

I am at present, as my date shows, in the goodly city of Boston - my native place, the residence of my father, brother, & sister, and of my wife's father & family. I came to attend the inauguration of Mr. Edward Everett (late American Minister to England) as the President of Harvard University, Cambridge. This ceremony took place yesterday at C. (which is 3 miles from Boston, and rapidly becoming a kind of rural suburb.) It was of exceeding interest to every friend of the College, and the large Church (where the services were held) was thronged, to its utmost capacity. Mr. Everett appeared to the greatest advantage, and his Inaugural Address was perfectly beautiful and eloquent, and uttered in a lofty, moral & spiritual tone, surpassing the expectation of most, and delighting all. Harvard College, for the past year, has gone through a fiery ordeal. The bitter sectarian animosity, to the Unitarians, & ^{its} other liberal-minded friends, ~~and~~ has displayed itself without disguise or moderation. I rejoice to say it has brought reprobum & defeat on itself. The University never stood so well as now. It never had a Presiding officer, so perfectly fitted for the place. ~~A~~ Governor Briggs (Gov. of Mass., and himself a Baptist, connected with the Calvinistic Baptists) said most emphatically, in a toast which he gave at the Collation, "the College has seen many bright days, but never before one so bright as this." Men of all parties & denominations, save the incorrigibly bigotted & little-souled, most heartily concur in the election of Mr. Everett, & prognosticate good things for Harvard.

I happened to see Mr. G. F. Simmons yesterday at C., and gave him your message ~~to~~ of remembrance. He well remembers you & your daughter, & was pleased to hear from you.

I thank you for the papers you sent. I assure you they are very acceptable. I am particularly well pleased to see the "Daily News": No. 2. on American Slavery is admirable - a very just ~~to~~ view of the circumstances & influences attending the formation & adoption of our National Constitution, as well as being expressed with clearness & force. I shall be very glad to receive the continuation of this series of papers. I thank you for "Punch". The caricature was really laughable, and "young Yankee-noodle" quite to the life, of the Southern (& now northern) section of our land. My brother Frederick always purchases the

monthly numbers of Punch, as they come out by the ~~the~~ Steamships, and in my turn I have the benefit of them. I sent the "Daily News" & the "Anti-Slavery Reporter" to the Editor of the "Nat. A.S. Standard". I observe he copies from the latter. I hope he will publish the articles from the "Daily News."

I wrote you by 1st April Steamship - (as also to Mrs. Armstrong, enclosing a ^{note} letter to Miss Carpenter.). By the 5th April packetship for Liverpool, I forwarded to you the MS. of a Reply to my friend of the "Inquirer" - the "Lover of Justice & Charity". I hope it is, ere this, in your hands. I wish it had been more compressed, & every way better. I might have written much more tartly, and at times was strongly tempted to do so. I see "Amicus" follows up his hand. The Editor of the "Inquirer"; I perceive, acquits him of being pro-slavery. I cannot, I do not mean that he is an open advocate for Slavery; but, practically, he is on the slaveholders' side. He appears to be of a captious & somewhat cynical spirit. I should think him a "hard man".

Will you please say to Miss Carpenter, with my respects, that I made inquiry, & found the 6 copies of the "Meditations" were received. Why not acknowledged, I did not learn. My inquiry was made, through a third person.

The Slaveholders, as you have seen, have a scheme against Hayti. There is little doubt of it. I hope they may be exposed & defeated. Unquestionably they look to Cuba, also. Now, were it not that they want these islands ^{to enact or} ~~to~~ perpetuate Slavery there, and to strengthen & enlarge it at home, I would as lief these islands were in possession of the U.S., as of any other country, to say the least. Best would it be to have them free, and self-governed. But, with the objects this Slaveholding country has in view, touching those islands, I ask & pray ^{only} for her defeat; and I hope it will come from England, France, Spain, or all together. I trust your Anti-Slavery Men will be vigilant. Your voice will affect your Ministry, & so the settling of these questions.

Some of our papers are very severe - & I think with justice - on your late military operations in India; and particularly at the fact that ^{thanksgiving} ~~prayer~~ are to be offered in all the national Churches,

for the success of British arms against the Sikhs, & ~~for~~ for the
victory of the Sutlej. The Archbishop of Canterbury, it is announced,
is to compose & publish the form of prayer. I should think all
England would cry out, with horror & disgust, at this impiety,
and mockery of God. It is a wonderfully bold act of defiance
to the common humanity ^{of feeling prevalent in} your country.

I meant to have said the "Map. Antislavery Society" propose
to send a Mission of Inquiry, &c. to Hayti. It will be done, if funds
for the purpose exist. It is proposed to send David L. Child and
Charles L. Remond.

I rejoice to hear that you say, while sending us your generous
pecuniary offering, you "do not mean to relinquish the more
doubtful & circuitous mode" (as you are pleased to call it)
of aiding us by your word, and pen, and Antislavery labour
at home. You may rely upon it, that it is no doubtful mode
of helping us. We feel and witness the value of the sympathy &
Co-operation of our English, Scotch & Irish friends, continually; and that
value is very great indeed, & not to be reckoned by figures. I
am very desirous to see your "Notice of Anti-Slavery"; &c.

The suggestion, in your note, as to printing some slips of
paper, containing notices of our future annual Fairs, for
distribution among the donors in your country, &c. I much
approve, & shall communicate it ^{at} the proper quarter.

My regards to F. Douglass, if he be with you. I send a
copy of a late "Christian World" to you, and will thank you to
show it to Mr. Armstrong - to whom please give my affectionate
respects, with Mr. James also.

In some haste, I must close, with my respects to
Miss Estlin, and with grateful regards to yourself.

Samuel May

Ms. M. 1. 6. v. 2, p. 22