

Return to Mrs Garrison

London, Sept. 3, 1846.

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My doubly dear Helen:

Lona

Procrastinating as usual, here I am at the desk of ~~dear~~ George Thompson, at the last moment before the closing of the mail for Boston, with pen in hand to send you a few words of greeting, ^{with} ~~with~~ ~~thousand~~ kisses for the dear children, and unforgotten assurances of my health, which never fails to be excellent in this climate. My cheeks are quite ruddy, and I have little doubt that on my return home, you will find me in a much better bodily condition than when I left you. That word home excites a yearning sensation within me; but I must not think too much about it, or I shall be quite unfitted to discharge the duties of my mission. Happily, the 14th of October is fast approaching, when (Deo volente) I shall embark in the Liverpool steamer, direct for No. 13, Pine-street; for though my visit here is delightful in a high degree, nothing can supply your place, or make good the absence of the children.

xxxxx You see I am still in London. But you must not infer that I have been stationary here since my ar-
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arrival in this city. I have been to
Bristol, and held two public meet-
ings, — ^{at} one of them ~~composed of the select-~~
~~est sort,~~ the mayor presiding — the other
of a more popular cast, largely attended,
and enthusiastically supported. Doug-
lass was with me, and, of course,
wherever he goes, the lion of the occasion.
We had a number of private parties,
and no pains were spared to make
our visit an agreeable one. From
Bristol, we went to Exeter, where we
met with a cheering reception, and
had a large and glorious meeting.
I left Frederick there, to give another
lecture, and ~~am~~ to go down to Bir-
mingham to-morrow, with Geo. Thomp-
son, to hold a public meeting in the
evening, where Douglass has promised
to meet us. I shall then return to
London, and spend two or three days
~~in correspondence,~~ and then go to
Sheffield and Leeds, to hold public
meetings, and perhaps continue on to
Darlington, should Elizabeth Pease
have returned from her sojourn in the
country. Her health is still preca-
rious, but somewhat improving.

Thence I shall return to London, to
~~attend~~ attend a great and final anti-sla-
very meeting in Exeter Hall, with spe-
cial reference to the Evangelical Alli-
ance, and its troubled and indefinite
action on the subject of slavery. It
will make a deep sensation here, be-
yond all doubt. Thompson has prom-
ised to make one of his strongest ef-
forts, and Douglass will do his part
on the occasion. Henry C. Wright will
not be able to be with us, as he is now
in Dublin, superintending the publica-
tion of his little work on Non-Resist-
ance.

In addition to addressing a large
meeting at the Crown and Anchor,
I have spoken at a public meeting,
~~gotten up by Thompson~~ in regard to
the atrocious case of the afflicted
Rajah of Sattara, (of which com-
paratively little is known in Ameri-
ca, except by Phillips, Quincy, and
Mrs. Chapman.) I was cheered to
the echo, not so much in conse-
quence of what I said, though that
was warmly responded to, but be-
cause Thompson told them a few
particulars of my labors in the
anti-slavery cause in America.

Last evening, I addressed a large meeting of the moral suasion Chartists, for the space of two hours, in the National Hall, George Thompson in the chair, and, of course, warmly commending me to the affection and co-operation of the workmen of England. I wish you could have been present, to see the enthusiasm that was excited. When I rose to address them, the applause was long protracted and overpowering. Peal after peal, like a thunder-storm, made the building quake; and at the conclusion of my remarks, they gave me nine hearty cheers, and adopted by acclamation a highly flattering resolution. I did not appear before them in my official capacity, or as an abolitionist, technically speaking, but on my own responsibility, uttering such heresies in regard to Church and State as occurred to me, and fully identifying myself with all the unpopular reformatory movements in this country. This will probably alienate some "good society folks" from me, but no matter. I know that the cause

Of my enslaved countrymen cannot possibly be injured by my advocacy of the rights of all men, ~~and~~ ^{or} by ^{my} opposition to all tyranny.

I have done a good deal in private, as well as in public, to advance the great object I have in view; and though with me day is turned into night, and night into day, I continue to keep in good health, which fact will give you as much comfort as any that I could possibly send you.

I have spent a very delightful Sunday at my old friend, William H. Ashurst's, at Muswell Hill, as charming a spot as the earth presents, — almost. Thompson and Douglass were with me, and a large social gathering — among whom was the celebrated and eloquent Unitarian preacher, William J. Fox, who, after preaching his forenoon sermon, (it was Sunday,) came and spent the remainder of the day with us, ~~en-~~gaging in sport after dinner in rolling balls on the green sward, and for healthful exercise. It was a day long to be remembered.

I have twice visited William
and Mary Howitt, at their resi-
dence in Blupton. ~~They are a re-~~
markable couple, and widely known
in the world of literature. I am to
spend to-night with them. Mary
is kindly preparing for the "People's
Journal," an auto-biography of my
life, which will, no doubt, aid me in
no small degree in the prosecution
of my mission. It will be published
in a few days, and you shall have
a copy by the next conveyance.

I shall derive great assist-
ance from the co-operation of Wil-
liam Lovett and Henry Vincent,
the leaders of the moral, suasion
Chartists — the friends of temperance,
peace, universal brotherhood. They
are true men, who will stand by us
to the last — men who have been
cast into prisons in this country,
and confined therein, (the former one
year, the latter twenty months,) for
pleading the cause of the starving
operatives in this country, and con-
tending for universal suffrage. Such
men I honor and revere.

I hardly know what I should do without the assistance of George Thompson. A more generous, disinterested, faithful champion of the Right, cannot be found. He has every thing to do — a world of business upon his hands — and yet, he contrives to lend me a helping hand at any moment, and to any extent. The indebtedness of our cause to him is immense. Whenever he goes over to the United States, he shall have a reception that shall form a striking contrast to the treatment he experienced in 1835. Mrs. Thompson and the children are well, and all desire to be kindly remembered.

I was very much disappointed not to receive a line from any one, especially from you, by the last Liverpool steamer; but, remembering how I allowed a steamer to go off without sending a scrap of intelligence to you, or to any one else, I, of course, have no right to complain. But, dear Helen, do not imitate my bad example. Try to send me a few lines by every steamer, directing your letters to the care of William Smeal, Glasgow.

I shall write, by this conveyance, to our friend Francis Jackson, to see that you are provided with the amount necessary to meet my quarterly bills on the 1st of October, so that you will have no anxiety on that score.

Say to all the friends, that I am getting along swimmingly; and I am now a thousand times satisfied, that I could not have arrived at a more auspicious period. Great results are to be the fruits of this well-timed mission.

Our Anti-Slavery League will soon enrol a multitude of noble men and women on its list of members; and all our anti-slavery coadjutors in the U.S. must become members of it also. The price of a ticket is only 25 cts.

As I have ^{been obliged to delay} ~~delayed~~ too long, (how shamefully characteristic!) to ^{be able to} write any thing specially for the Liberator by this opportunity, you may show this hasty scrawl to Mrs. Chapman, and let her make out of it such an editorial article as she shall think proper, in her own language.