

your letter written in such a season
of intense excitement & grief! I am
indeed grateful to you for remembering
that I lived with you thro' your
successions of hope, joy, grief, resignation,
& faith; and that silence under this
deep national (world's) calamity
proves only that I felt it too great &
sacred for any words of mine.
How much I had been longing for
a private letter from some friend
on your side the Atlantic ^{during} for the whole
fortnight which elapsed between the
printed reports reaching me & your
welcome missive, you can conceive!
Happily for my own comfort I was staying
with Miss Harriet Lupton (a very sympathizing

who claims the right to share the
in the days of
in the days of

in the days of
in the days of

in thirty years to
very about this
I will enclose you
enclosed printed in
the treatment. The
has a notice of a health
in the same way as the
to the same effect

I thank you for
I wish I had
other letter that
I was afraid
I had never
long to you
your very affectionate
Mary Hall

friend on this vital interest,) when
the joyful intelligence of Richmond's
fall & Lee's surrender came telling
us that the Day of deliverance was
at hand. And with her too I shared the
heart sickening sequel, which startled
me ~~first~~ in large placards on news
boards, and was too stunning at first
to be credited. I carefully avoided
Rebel sympathising papers, & confine
myself to the "Morning Star" chiefly for
accounts from America, but on that
day it mattered not that the 1st papers
were exhausted & the D. News came to
me instead. There has been a struggle
to bury past sins & injustice in
common utterances of sympathy with
your people, & reverence for your martyred
President smothered all ^{our} the unkind
hostile journals; & doubtless you will
permit them to slip quietly out of their
false position, however disgraceful this

copy of the original

past course. Perhaps this humbling
evidence of ~~written~~ bitterness & gall
is one of the hidden mercies in your
great bereavement. Another is I believe
the testimony it will afford to the
stability of your Government. These
thoughts rushed over me as soon
as I could think after reading the
dreadful news. There was a momentary
fear of summary vengeance, which
might elevate Jeff. Davis & Lee into
the catalogue of martyrs for a season,
but ^{was firm} ~~was firm~~ that the Country which
had turned all its energies into the
vindication of outraged liberty, ^{which}
had a second time, by overwhelming
majorities elected Abraham Lincoln
to complete his ~~great~~ work, would
not let that work remain unaccom-
plished, tho' he was struck down.
He was their representative, not their

director
~~controller~~, they will feel a double
consecration to their work from
his martyrdom. Oh! I cannot write
what filled my heart, but you have
expressed the very thing of which
I felt assured. The ^{American} papers that you
alluded to did not come, but a Boston
Advertiser with a full account of
general discourses & the ceremonies
of the sad day had been kindly forwarded
by Mrs Chapman by the preceding
mail. And the Liberator & Standard
(with their mourning borders) had
painted vividly the general feeling
that of their own bond. Two Canadian
papers - very ardent sympathisers with
the Union - had also been forwarded
me, & a Syracuse journal from
Rev. S. J. May, & our own were filled
with the sad theme, so I have not taken
anything except the account of the
meeting in Faneuil Hall which was
briefly referred to & think, in the Liberator

Ms. A. 9. 2. 32.

May 17, 1865 2

There was something quite sickening
in reading the Lib^r of April 14th &
knowing what rejoicings were
taking place at Fort Sumter on that
very day, when ~~the~~ mournful close
at Washington had been made known
to us a week before! But the mourning
belongs to time, the rejoicings to eternity!

To me it is a source of unspeakable
gratitude that I have been permitted
to live thro' the last ten years & to witness
the wondrous progress that the cause
of freedom & of truth has made in them.
They have been solitary years as far
as ^{local} sympathy in this joy is concerned,
quite as much as in close home ties
or tenderest bonds of kindred, but the
essential union with those who are
carrying on the work, and with the
loved ones whose earthly share in it
is completed, is a perpetual consolation
& inspiration. This is no time for such

trifles as personal feelings, and yet
fall into them as a relief from the vast
of the ^{all} absorbing theme.

May 19th

There is not time to fill a second sheet, this
is only worth sending as a proof of my
gratitude & of my heart sympathy. I come
from ^{North Wales & Plymouth} home only on Saturday, & have had much to
attend to since. I joined a sewing circle for
the Freedmen's Aid ^{at} on Monday evening,
consisting of between 80 & 90 members of the Seaside
Free Congregation. Mr Armstrong had called
it was held in the house of our minister Mr R. C. Jones.
All worked vigorously on sewing machines
lent by a tradesman, & other meetings are
being held for the same object. Happily hands
are more wanted than intelligence at the
moment, for this temporary work. No one
I spoke to had an idea what the cause was
brought them together. One lady (a sister
Mrs. Haynes by the way) asked me if they were
escaped slaves that were wanting clothes,
another (a first cousin of Harriet Martineau)
thought the negroes w^d only wear gay colors.
Is it not wondrous that people of position & culture
can live thro' such an epoch in such ignorance?
I can hardly bear the questions & comments
met me in every day intercourse. More than
ever I long to go to America, to be with you, tho'

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