

one side, ^{of} Mrs. Richardson & her followers in their
"Free Labor" capacity on another, & the leaders of the
Unitarian denomination, whom we have just
rouled from their heavy slumber on a third.
We are not looking for ^{great} results from these threefold
strifes; but cannot hold back our energies where there
is an opening for attacking & exposing error, spreading
light, or awakening to thought. It may reach some
quarter where greater strength to wield the weapons
needed in this contest ~~will~~ exists, but ^{where} the duty of
girding on the armour for it had not hitherto been
seen to be imperative. But if ^{we} all fail to accomplish
anything in opposition to the fearful ills now desolating
your country, it is ^{our} ~~the~~ only means of bearing the
sad contemplation of those woes, to be devoting all
our strength to testifying against them & to inspiring
others with our own horror of them. I can never feel
as if the accident of birth made the slightest difference
in the responsibility of every individual for the sufferings
of every other with whose lot circumstances make
him acquainted. The knowledge ^{we} have of the fearful
-ness & extent of American Slavery & the modes by
which the system is sustained, joined to the
means placed within our reach for diffusing that
knowledge has made the Slaves of the Southern
States our nearest neighbours; we could no more
feel justified than you could in keeping silence
wherever we can make our voices heard in their
behalf. Of course we experience the difficulty which
remoteness from the scene of action ^{causes} in fixing
attention ^{of others} (so as to lead to practical results) on the
most important features. Still the horror seems
deeper; the iniquity of the fugitive Slave law more

generally recognized & understood in this country
than it was some months ago. Wherever the
Crafts have been a strong Antislavery feeling, as
well as a warm sympathy for them, personally,
is sure to be created. You could not have sent
better missionaries. The sad cause of their being
among us tempers the joy with which they
would in any other circumstances be welcomed
to English homes & hearts, but this very circum-
-stance is I think ^{you} the most important feature
in their case, & that which leads to the most
efficient & earnest reflection. I must not
inter on any details of their visit to us or of the
useful work they have been & are effecting,
nor how closely Ellen has wound herself round our
affections & enlisted our sympathy; if I do there will
be no more space for more public matters, & as my
-friend promised to treat this theme to you I feel it
-is a hurried account of our meetings to us may a fortnight
ago, but as you are in a different region now you
will not probably have benefited by the various very
-communications with which I have troubled him.
There is something unnatural in the thought of Boston
(or at least Weymouth) without your being there, & truly
you are happier with your brother, I shall be content
to hear of your being at home again. It grieved us to learn
that your brother's health had again given way, the
Paris party wrote so hopefully about him that we
flattered ourselves his trip had reestablished him.
That party have I suppose made amends for their
-neglect of you by their despatches on Henry Chapman's
return. It will be a great treat to us to feel their

within a few hours journey & the limits of a
penny postage, tho' it remains to be seen how
far they will avail themselves of these facilities
for intercourse. We have as yet no proof whatever
that either Emma or Peggy knows how to write
My Father is "almost sure they can." So you are
not alone in your trials, tho' you certainly have
more right to "denounce" them than we. What
movements may be I know not. I hope too they
go to London while they are all there, but we also
wait for "way to open," & seldom go anywhere but
some duty calls. The renewal of the old annual
contest with the pro-slavery Unitarians at their
~~annual~~ ^{anniversary} meeting in June will probably draw
us once more to that scene of actions, but it is
one of the blindest & wildest which had was ever
to be loved, too unimpressible to interest me, tho'
it is ^{however} worth teasing them with my Father's pen
wh^o they used to solicit, & how long to be free from
just to prevent their introducing our flatter
word into their report respecting their "highly
esteemed Brethren in the U. States &c." We have
just been ignominiously beaten off the field in a
"Unitarian Christian Union" (it is called, but the
way in wh^o the discussion of the slavery question
was scouted, deemed "irrelevant" &c. &c. makes
union of those two terms of very dubious prop.
I hope a full report of the proceedings of this meeting
at Bridgewater will appear in the next Inquirer
if so we will forward it to Mr. May & you will be
able to see the familiar story re-enacted. On the
whole we are rather glad it was set aside in an
unfair electioneering kind of manner, instead of
being plausibly run down as it might have been with

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of the help of R. Carpenter & a few London & other
ministers who are in full sympathy with the
Bostonian Clergy. Now we shall try to stir
up each congregation to take action on the
ground of the refusal of the Western Union,
My Father declares "he'll leave that body in
London before he has done." We make much
greater way in the matter with the Baptists
& Congregationalists in our present agitation,
so that my heart is chiefly with them, & if
could overcome certain invincible intellectual
obstacles I sh^d. be a ready convert to their ^{societies,}
must not condemn our own ministers in a mass
however, for if you had seen the melancholy
with seized Mr James at having exception taken
to what he deemed the most vital part of his
report, & the fury of Mr Chapman ^(on having the result of the meeting)
& the mild solemn earnestness of Mr Thos
Hinks (whose speech on the question was
interrupted most unjustly) warned the meeting
they were wanting in their duty to the suffering
fugitive, & declared that if such a Christian
claim was "irrelevant" in a "Christian Union"
his interest in that "Union" was ended, you
w^d have said there were a few faithful spirits
worthy their vocation & professions. But it
was refreshing to find the unanimity of the
majority at the pro-slavery D. D. manifested by
the orthodox defenders in Bristol, kindled into

vigorous action by our circulating the "Clerical
Teachings among them, how a ^{painful} sense of duty seemed to
compel them to come forward & denounce the conduct of
many whose names they had long held in reverence. Those
who could not take part in the Antislavery meeting on account of
having to attend their "Union" expressed much regret, & as you will
have seen, set to work there, & entered their protest. How to know
what you think of the report of that Bristol A. S. meeting. We look
upon it as an important one, calculated to cement & concentrate
the warmth of A. S. feeling here which we had been for
some time fostering. The report of my Father's speech in the
B. Examiner will give you the greatest satisfaction; I think
it was a "Mercury" I directed to you at New York. Both have
been widely circulated in all places where Mr. Brown & the
Crafts have been or will be, & the resolutions in many other
quarters. We kept these in our hands, only admitting Mr
James to our counsel to help in the wording of the two first
& Miss Tribe ^{in finding} the right ministers for proposing
them; ^{they} having fixed on several of the best names, she
& I called ~~on~~ ^{them} as if deputed from some important
Committee of arrangers for the meeting to request them
to take part. It is an old trick of ours to be dreadfully like
Dickens's "Anglo-Bengalee Loan & Life Assurance Company"
in our proceedings, but do you not think my Father's
effrontery in crowning our manoeuvres to convert the
reviving "Ladies Society" into a tool for passing a resolution
by means of which Miss Tribe & I, being empowered by these
same unsuspecting old ladies to act as sub-committee for
carrying it into effect, - having been raising a commotion
in every religious assembly Congregational & Baptist
district & General meeting since held in the land, & are
still stirring the dissenting ^{stirring organs and the newspapers} bodies in all parts, & dragging
even the "Reporter" (Obstructor was entitled) in our wake
- was unparalleled, to permit his suggesting a vote of thanks
to us for this very deed! It is just like a surgeon of this
town who was never heard of till a great flourish appeared
in the newspaper about a handsome testimonial of plate, &
with a eulogistic inscription received by him for his great
services to the poor &c. which testimonial was presented by
himself! However having attained our end we don't

mind what is thought or known of the testimony
we cannot but hope that a stronger feeling against
the conduct of the ^{American} clergy, & a greater determination to
testify that feeling, & to lift their feet not to be taken in by
the exalters of their false position, is awakened.
We shall be very glad to hear any commentaries of
yours on the probable influence of any of the above
on your countrymen, for we have only your
judgment to guide us. It seems to us the most
straight way open to us at present of serving the
cause. Dear Miss Weston how often I wish you were
here, that you might see exactly how we are cir-
cumstanced, what is the tone of the various parties
with whom we have to deal, & the nature of our
obstacles. There are some points of which I believe
you would then take a different view. Ellen
Craft says nothing has astonished & pained her so
much as the amount of pro-slavery feeling among
the English, the bigotry of the majority of professed
Anti-slavery people, & the small number of actual
working Abolitionists. She maintains that they
are greatly overestimated by you, & that you are
not aware of the manifold difficulties with which
we have to contend before we can get up any
interest that will produce fruits. She quotes
Mr. W. Phillips's speeches & the general tenor of the
remarks made on British fellow laborers at
your A. S. meetings, in proof of the correctness of her
statement. In discriminating characters, appre-
hending the bearings of questions, discerning peculiarities
of circumstances, conditions &c. &c. Ellen is so wonderfully
accurate & penetrating that it would be hard not to repose
confidence in her judgment, but it is almost as difficult
to conceive of your forming incorrect conclusions or

at the house of some cousins at Bridgewater, & happily able to get my Aunt to act as my substitute for our guests & my Father, but knowing all the time he was getting overdone for want of the help no one but myself can afford being, finding poor Brown's plans had been interfered with because I was not at hand to remind my Father what to write to the applicants from different towns, letters left unwritten, & resolutions waiting to be drawn up &c. &c. owing to this our misfortune. I tried hard to write to you from my seclusion last week, but finding my intellects partaking to a fearful extent of the weakened condition of my body, I relinquished the hope. A good ^{deal} of this has written though however, ^{above mentioned} ~~some of the arrears~~ ^{of the arrears} writings &c. so if it is unusually desultory you must forgive it. I must send you the last Reporter to show with what a humble acknowledgment of conscious guilt they have accepted my Father's reproof of apathy &c. & blazoned forth the good deeds ^{of others} he scolded ~~them~~ for not having earlier performed. I am delighted that Scoble did not venture on a vindication of himself at this moment, for I sh^d. grieve to have any ^{of the} stream of indignation against the American Clergy weakened by any squabbles among the professed Antislavery party. The quakers w^d all have tried to retract, & many other timid ones have taken flight. The door is ^{now} still open for exposing Mr Scoble, my Father has a curious correspondence on hand with a defender of the B. & F. A. S. Society. You shall see the letter wh^{ch} is to be published in the next Bristol Examiner. Our ^{real work} now is with the Unitarians of whom the muffled bell at Waltham and ^{the general talking upon times is as typical in England} ^{America}

There has been no other opening for it. Mr Paton
wrote my Father the particulars he gave Mr Garrison
but his story led my Father (before we had enquired
respecting the source ^{of Edgill} & from W. Brown) to tell Mr
P. in reply that he thought Brown & Craft could not
with propriety have acted differently. The arrange-
ments for the Soiree were made by the Wighams,
whom W. B. & Craft knew to be Mr Garrison's stead-
fast friends, & they felt they had no right to refuse
compliance with the conditions w^{ch} these friends
had made for the sake of doing ^{in their opinion} the most good to
the cause. They said to Miss W. that they w^d prefer
not being on a platform with Pennington; but
when she represented that the visitors that w^d win
who were nearly all his warm admirers would
feel aggrieved by his not being admitted to a place
there, that he would surely make a handle of
his exclusion to increase the disaffection, they
had nothing more to urge, but confiding in her
judgement, merely prepared themselves to silence
Pennington if he ventured to say a hostile word.
As it was I believe he did not speak at all. Mr
Paton had previously given Brown & C. full
instructions what they were to say, w^{ch} differed
from Miss Wigham's which they felt bound to
obey, & when when he found his directions not
followed, he scolded them in no measured terms,
so if Brown did write a little crossly I think he
must be pardoned. This is our version of the affair,
we have talked much with Brown & Craft about it
but tho' they have raised our suspicions of their good

sense & faithfulness to the best interests of the
cause, they have merely confirmed the view we ori-
ginally took of the requirements of their peculiar
position. With more time I think I could make clear
the necessity for conduct which at your distance
from the parties concerned in it may seem "compromis-
ing" or be however at the expense of saddening you
with a revelation of the extent of the ^{existing} horror or
antipathy against Mr Garrison which has been so
sedulously fostered among all the snakes, & other
people all over the country, for which I believe you
are not prepared. We are ever on the watch for means
dispelling these false notions, & find signs of ways
opening for us in many directions; you must try
be patient as well as we, I trust to those who know
& love him & you, whose hearts are in favour
work to fight the battle of freedom in what they judge
the way most likely to secure victory. I lighted
upon a letter of my Father's to Miss Wigham which
was just going to be sent off, on my return from Bra-
intree, I persuaded my Aunt to copy it for your
benefit, just as a sample of our mode of treating
these ticklish themes, & of our daily course of
action; for few posts come in without some so-
lar demand; so you will believe we do not let
the subject rest. I wish we could "cheat you" or
"ration of a little postage" that I might send you
specimens of the letters that come in at the rate
of a day. You would understand more from them
than from the most lengthened explanation.
I can give. But for the present I must stop. My conde-
mning the last I weeks has been what you would
have felt so aggravating that I have been in conse-

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miscalculating any points. But your criticisms on Miss
Wigham's conduct & that of Mr. Brown Craft in connection
with the Edinburgh affairs makes me tend more strongly
to Allen's opinion. It is not unnatural for you, having
only Mr. Paton's version of the matter, & that being exactly
on the side in which your own sympathies & experiences
would carry you, to take the same strong views of
Miss W.'s conduct as he does. Your sister terms
his conduct a wicked compromise "to the great
disgrace of Mr. Webb, who is as zealous a defender
of ^{Miss W.'s} motives & her steadfastness, as Mr. Massey
myself. If you will not accuse either of us of being
compromising I know, it is probably in your remote-
ness from the scene of action we shall fail to
conform you to our sentiments. If you were here I
feel no fear of your appreciating the motives which in-
fluence people circumstanced as Miss Wigham is to act
as she does, from the perception that it is the only way of
holding societies together, or keeping in existence the re-
quisite machinery for carrying on any efficient Anti-
slavery action. I agree with every word you say about
the spirit of New Organization, I have an instinctive
repelling from every manifestation of it. Still I have
no hope of extinguishing it here by starting with
the violent measures you prescribe, the only
hope is to keep pointing to your faithfulness, & as
occasion presents itself convince people of the
hypocrisy of our & all of your opponents. 99 out of
100 will not examine into the merits of the case.
The ^{two} most "mischievous & hateful" characters
of "duplicity & unmanliness" are consequently not susceptible
of proof until people have been themselves taken

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in which sooner or later they are sure to be by its unimpairing
while the religious cant, which is the phase its
"bigotry" assumes in this country unites all sympathy
on its side. Pennington takes in all the good people
in this way; he talks so finely about what he should
do if he were recaptured; how he w^d not resist, but
believe it to be "the Lord's will;" & would devote himself
to preaching the Gospel &c. &c. to his brethren in Slavery
Then he is so much affected at the hearing of the F. Douglass
Bill as to be fit to go crazy about it. This proof of
sensibility is lauded highly by his aduers, one of
whom asked Ellen Craft if it was not "beautiful in
him," at which Ellen professes herself to have laughed
most unfeelingly, assuring the commentator that
she & her husband had some right to "go crazy" about
it, but it did not hurt Pennington a bit. Now if we
had started on a crusade against this man directly
our suspicions were excited, we sh^d simply have
confirmed people in the belief that we were ire-
ligious, ^{we sh^d have} made them doubly disinclined to sym-
-pathize with you by showing our joint hostility to
their idol, but by letting him alone, & keeping steadily
to our own work people are learning from their own
experience, what they would not have accepted
from our testimony, ^{at last} the Quakers & others are finding
out that Pennington has been taking them in, so our
positive position is strengthened as it never could
have been had not the exposure come from himself. It
so it will be with Benson, & Garnett, the facts respec-
ting whom we make no attempt to conceal, tho'
we did not force them into notice till they could be

readily corroborated. Poor Mr Paton has been so
aggravated by the menses, that he has no idea
at present beyond pushing forward the claim
of the American A. S. in season & out of season,
without reference to the tone, temper, or enlighten-
ment, or prejudices of the audience to whom the
appeal is made. With an attachment to that Society
equal to his, & an equal consciousness of the injustice
done to it, we cannot take his view of the best means
of repairing the injury, & securing the cause the largest
amount of permanent aid. If all who are in thought
sympathetic with you in the three kingdoms were
to unite together, it would repel all who are, but partially
informed, all who are but slightly or temporarily
interested for the slave, all whose religious
prejudices or whose misconceptions would
incline them to stand aloof from the movement
on account of the unovers' heresies &c. &c., ^{some} About a
dozen or twenty powerless individuals would
be all ~~the~~ ^{the} help you could look to on this side the
water to help you; & scanty would be the contri-
butions to the Bazaar, & at a stand all hopes
of reviving & guiding usefully any general Antislavery
sentiments. There would be only a few stray
"come outers" among the quakers, & as many
Unitarians left to do the work, all the orthodox
dissenters would keep aloof, & every one in every
condition who has any useful influence would
withhold it from such suspected parties. At

Edinburgh nearly all the Committee are of the
straightest religious sects, idolizers of Pennington
&c. Miss Wigham feels that if she & her mother
withdrew from them these parties would put
forth no efficient efforts, both might become misse-
-vous opponents, while she would be destitute
of the funds & other materials for carrying on
work which the present organization affords.
She is a gentle charitable nature, reluctant to the
ill of people, but very discreet, with the charac-
-teristics of cautiousness. She may have given in
much more to the prejudices of her allies than
or I or Mr Paton could have brought ourselves to
but she is doing it all in the hope that the dis-
-affected towards the Bazaar will come round
with a little patience. She says she thinks many
of the parties feel the step of withdrawing from it
was a wrong one, but she believes if left alone they
will be retrieve it, tho' there w^d be no chance of it if
they were irritated. I know not what her impres-
-sions are now respecting Pennington,
two months ago ^{last} since the Report came out, when
the Glasgow people began to expose him) she ex-
-posed herself to me as much grieved at their agitation
believing P. was more sinned against than sin-
-ning & thinking the mode of attack was the worst pos-
-sible way of attempting what she, I see, they had equal
-at heart, - the establishing the claims & merits of
- American A. S. S. on a firmer footing. We did
- know what had occurred at Glasgow then, so I
- not enter on the theme with her, & subsequently

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when I wrote last. The poor woman asked in her
trepidation what had caused his elaborate disguise
on the merits of Mr Garrison & the faults of the B. F. Loe
when she had neither attacked the one or defended the
other? My Father coolly upbraided her for her un-
natural complaint, with declaring he did not
mind having his concealed thoughts addressed
any more than his expressed words, then alluding
to the times, & saying how no quaker ever had a
good word for Mr Garrison tho' natural it was
for one Anti-slavery friend to dwell on his claim
to justice when writing to another! I must not
go on with details, but some half dozen letters pass
on each side, w^{ch} I am treasuring up for your sister's
edification whenever we meet. We presume they
are ^{now} arrived in London, I ^{have} received a tempting
invitation to meet them & Mr Follen at the house
of our mutual friends the Parkers (who are about to
leave London) as soon as a day can be fixed. I hope
my Father will be able to avail himself of the treat, for
he is getting over some of his winter delicacy, tho' he is
still far from strong. I must bid my time for his
pleasures, & stay quietly trying to clear up some ac-
cumulating work, so as to have the enjoyment of their
company with a free mind whenever it can be obtained.
There are numbers of unmanuscript things in y^r two
last letters w^{ch} are not unnoticed from negligence,
want of space. People's preference for sending things to
Philadelphia instead of Boston did not arise from any
care for the place, but a belief that different parties in-
fluenced the management. However they are getting en-
lightened as to the inefficacy of the Liberty party,
the unsaleableness of their contributions any where
but at Boston. Your description of Mr Gay makes us
sad, I wish I could have you here to kiss your favorite little
piece of ours that to our view w^{ld} suit his case. Some day
I will write out the words for you. Thank you for post-
ing with a list of y^r virtues as well as foibles! My Father's
friendship is as strong as ever, tho' he cannot contrive any
his present avocations to prove it by frequent letters. I hope in

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