

Dublin, Sunday, February 23 - 1857.

My dear Friend - I am sure you must conclude that I am neither kind nor courteous in leaving your long and most welcome letter to long unanswered. When it was handed to me I was greatly gratified and read it with deep interest - and intended to answer it immediately. But my time was so much engaged then that I could not make any opportunity for writing as I wished - and in a very few days after I had to go to London as one of a deputation appointed to endeavor to promote the repeal of the excise duty on paper. I left home on the 8th and returned on the 21st. I was just a week in London - and spent the rest of the time on my way home. In the day time I was taken up with the duties of my mission - calling on members of parliament, attending committees & holding councils, &c. but the evenings I had time to myself - and I spent two of them with Mrs. Follen & Miss Cabot at their lodgings, 5, Colburn Street, Park Place. The street is a rather narrow - but quite new - and made up of small houses in a very stately and aristocratic neighborhood. The apartments are of course small but I believe comfortable. When I first called I met a Miss Montgomery, an Irish lady, very intimate with Lady Byron, who has been extremely kind and attentive to Mrs. F. taking her out in her carriage and paying her all kinds of sisterly attentions. When I proposed to Liverpool to see Mrs. F. soon after his arrival I only met her in a large company at her friend Mrs. Annes's - but in London I had several times talks with her each time - and was most kindly received and pressed to come again. We talked a deal about you all, about Paris & every thing, particularly the Cause which she takes really to heart - and from her great ability as a talker I am sure she will do good if any

body can in the circle to which she has access. It is
very difficult to excite a real interest in the English
mind towards any thing which they are bound
and they are very little that other people think
of them. Besides they are so habitually cool, discreet,
and guarded that they are easily repelled & rendered
suspicious by the language which the atrociousness of
slavery and the meanness of the Proslavery spirit
have compelled the Abolitionists to use. They do not
look on slavery from Frederick Douglass's point of
view - as if their case were their own, pressing on
themselves, their wives & daughters, and without this
nobody can be an abolitionist. If people did so,
the cause would soon be victorious for nobody would
think of pausing to ask questions about the religion
of the comrade who rushed forward with him to the
breast of the battle of slavery. Mrs. Follen's
health is very delicate - she seems to labour under
a complication of ailments - nervous and organic -
which she seems disposed to attribute to her residence
in Paris. She did praise the French people as far as
I could gather - and thought that it a wonder how
any one can be healthy there where every body is
obliged to swallow such quantities of gypsum. Miss
Cabot is a very pleasing person but cannot be fully
known in the company of Mrs. Follen who leads the
conversation. I found that some of the Edinburgh
Womens rather preferred her to Mrs. ~~Wigham~~,
perhaps for this reason, that she talked less. However
I have a large capacity for this kind of pleasure & am
not only freed to cry out against too much of
a good thing. I find that the older I grow I enjoy
good talking more than almost any other kind of
luxury - and that the absence of it is a great privi-
lege to me. These ladies almost promised that if
possible they would come and see us in Dublin before they go home.

But this is not likely to be very soon - for Mrs. J. does not
like to return in such bad health - and she thinks that a
voyage across the Atlantic would be the death of her
little daughter. She greatly appreciates the advan-
tages of his present situation for the education of his
son - who attends the London University and is taking
lessons in Chemistry & I think engineering from men of
note. Charles looks well and healthy but not so much
as when I saw him in 1849. He has a grand oppor-
tunity for improvement with such a mother in such a
place - but it must cost a great deal of money. One great
advantage you have as Americans is that if you spend
money and so forth you feel sure that it is to be had
again. In these countries, if a man loses his little
capital - the loss in a great proportion of instances is
irrecoverable - if he be not quite a young man with
considerable energy of character. - which in London
I had letters from Mr. Philip Estlin about an article he
has written of the cruelty of Mrs. Neaple for inter-
ference in a London journal showing the extraordinary
barbarism of the Pro-Slavery American clergy in refer-
ence to the Fugitive Slave Bill and the necessity
of the British people bearing their burden in their regard
against the sin of these people when they come over
as they probably will in great numbers to the Great
Exhibition. After a note from Mrs. Neaple wishing to
see her in I set off one morning to Upper Clapton
about 7 miles from my hotel - and had an hour
talk with her about all anti-slavery people & things.
Considering that her husband is an anti-slavery
Congregational minister, who has been poisoned
against the Am. A. S. Society by the American clergy,
who came over to the Evangelical Alliance, she is
a remarkable instance of great clear-sightedness,
faithfulness to the truth, zeal, and energy. She is a
fine, brave woman & from much by all means see her

You heard that my last collection was in
Boston and spent a night at Weymouth.
She was greatly charmed with your sister
Anne, and thought her very delightful - &
Lucia & Deborah. (quod verba) two of the most
beautiful girls she had ever seen. "I'd like
Grace, can I take her - but like refined English
ladies." I am sure I don't in the least
wonder at your re-arrangement or disclaim
of patriotic feeling. Your family has had no
reason for feeling any such emotion in a
country for which you have really done so
much & that has treated you so ungraciously.
Your letter & remarks in her account of the Bazaar
is perfectly true that the United States exhibited
at this house, events that would in the Septent
they indicate the massacre of St. Bartholomew
and the other atrocious acts that in our
account seem to be too bad to have
ever taken place. As I am and grow old
I am delighted with an exhibition found
of such monuments at the wonderfully small
number of the community in the three King
doms who are capable of appreciating in
its true light the grandeur and real
sublimity of the Anti-Slavery struggle in
the United States in the teeth of the fearful
odds that the Abolitionists have to contend
with. I am fully apprised the practices of
Webster, and that I learned fully to judge

the difference of his morality. - There is a
man living in Manchester that I suspect
I see in the habit of calling on us in pass-
through. I think they must be like many
of the early abolitionists. They are a
mother & daughter and keep a little shoe
shop. They read the Standard and are
in full sympathy with the A.S. cause.
Very plain & simple - thoroughly true
hearted & sincere. When Joseph Barber
was maliciously arrested by the late
Attorney General on a false charge of
sedition Miss Weston faced the decision
of being his friend and called the ministers
to her aid. I hope you will see them
when you go to Manchester - such people
are of the right metal.

But I was near forgetting to tell you
that my sister & family have come back.
Her husband did not like going and
when he got to the U.S. did not act as
one who meant to remain. They are
now on the verge of poverty - and my
brother-in-law affords an illustration of
the proverb that there are none so
difficult to help as those who cannot or
will not help themselves. One of their children &
a fine boy of 12, is with us now from what he
tells me I am quite sure they might have done

and if his father had shown a little pluck
instead of waiting till good fortunes fell into
his lap. Two of the boys - this and an elder
one are more than commonly clever and intelli-
gent, and I believe if either of them were landed
at New York without a cent in his pocket, he
could make his way in the world.

I did not hear a word of poor Madame
Bardoune till I got your letter - and was really
glad to hear of it. Poor M. Bardoune! I could
not communicate much with him - not knowing
French - but I saw how attached & devoted he was
and that he would befriend his own. One
does not know what to say to one so stricken
or how to take comfort in thinking of him.

Dear I had a letter yesterday from S. May, for
announcing the approach of the Annual Bazaar
which always makes me a little ashamed to
think you ~~did~~ think it necessary to send
any thing to this side of the Atlantic. Still
I think that though many could not receive
any such stimulus to their zeal, there are
others in whom it is not thrown away. In
these letters you first saw pleasing themselves with
the notion that they are ~~not~~ about to under-
mine British & French influence in Brazil
and that they will have a pretty good field
of cooperation with the American Society.
The Patrons too of Glasgow were so to wish have
always been to the interests of the cause.

My father says that Hannah & I must go to Bristol
to help them to entertain you. But they will need
no help - and you won't want to be entertained. It is
better than entertainment to such people together. -

Now this blessed Sunday, I have done no good
but write to you - if it be good to do that same. A
cold sad wind is out - and Hannah is confined with.

Madame
The Duke of Saxe-Weimar
Paris
C. W. W. W.

On our young child - Anne - who sits in bed with
influenza - and so between a little reading of her
friends letters in I have made a day of it. With
kind remembrance to all your circle hoping to
hear from you whenever you are disposed to write -
to see you before very long -
I remain yours very truly
Richd D Webb

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25. 65