

Miss A. W. Weston

Anti-Slavery Fair.

Fansmil Hall.

1838

J. W. Chapman

100

Ms. A. 9. 2. 10 p. 89

Brookline. December 28. 1838.

Dear Miss Weston

You will remember
that in my note I left myself a
loophole of retreat. I am sorry to say
now, that I do not feel, on the whole
prepared to speak. The truth is, that
I am so unpractised an orator that I
cannot speak at any with any emphasis
or effect, that I without either a
considerable preparation or a very strong
stimulus. The former is at present out
of the question; the latter is I find also
wanting. I do not feel personally
inspired with any message for those whom
I should meet at the Fair; I have nothing
demanding utterance which will not be better
uttered by others; & I shrink from coming.

I am sure you will
attribute this to its true motives. If

you were opposed, & I could defend
the good Cause from its Opponents;
or if I opposed you & could defend
it from its friends: I would
come, & shld. have strength to come
& speak, perhaps, not without efficiency.
But there is no danger of ^{your} ~~my~~ being invited
or ~~your~~ ^{my} inviting me; my visit is not
needed & I expect anything, great or small;
& I feel the need of some stimulus,
& save me if I spotted from doing
great injustice both to the merits of
the Cause & to my own love of it.

This may seem to you somewhat
= factory - but if you will imagine yourself
in my place, you will probably easily
perceive that good will alone will not
make a speech - & I have not, at
present, anything more.

With best wishes for the success
of this Fair & all your efforts
I am very truly yours
J. W. Higginson.

9
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

Ms. B. 1. 2. 10. p. 89