

Roxbury Tuesday Morning

Dear Deborah -

I charged Maria yesterday  
to write to you directly - but I am haunted  
by a fear that in the hurry of their first arrival  
they will neglect it - & so I seize this sheet  
of ruled paper, which is in my school room  
affixes & sit down to write to you, touching the  
surprising events of the last few days - I hate  
for granted that before you receive this you  
will in some way have heard of the arrival  
of H. & Ch. - & you will not wonder that in  
the confusion of such an unexpected arrival  
no one thought of any thing - I was sick &  
threw to death to begin\* - the pain pouring  
in torrents - & contending with divers disad-  
vantages - I yesterday wrote to nobody - I thought  
they would write before I got in town & when  
I did it was late - & raining - & so many folks  
coming & going - & a great package from Eng-  
land - letters from George Thompson & born law  
speeches - & pamphlet innumerable - letters from  
Richard Webb - & enclosure enough - from & Pease  
I did not try to read them - then Quincy and  
then - & Wendell - & I all the time trying to  
find out why they <sup>(H & Ch)</sup> came home -

This you will wish to know - The short &  
long of it was between ourselves Henry got to such a  
pitch of uneasiness that he would not stay any  
longer - he & Ch were both attacked at port  
au prince with a Dysentery (enteric) which  
is the alternative with yellow fever - & were ill  
at the time. H. feared I know by what I gather  
that it has an alarming feature of his com-  
plaint - & he threatened to go home in  
a hoysheem of rum - all this however is not  
to be taken of - he was then in no situation  
to go by land to the Cape - & the Hatter  
craft by sea were unhearable

Ms. A. 9. 2. 3. 104



& in short come he would. - I highly set it down  
is he with his performance - I am only sorry  
that in consequence of his vicissitudinal  
they saw very little of Port au Prince & had  
no interview with Boyer at all - Henry saw  
Ingenac - twice - They had 4 days storm &  
one storm - Henry looks thin but his  
cough is far less annoying, as far as I can observe  
than when they went away - I do not  
feel on the whole any diminution of ans-  
iety on his account tho' he seems better &  
says he feels better - he has as people  
say a better countenance,

So unexpectedly did they come  
that Mary being in her mother's chamber  
in the morning - heard a knock - at the door  
& opening it then stood Maria!! concerning  
her surprise - Mrs Chapman who lying on  
her bed had not the relief of this chippie looks  
was much overcome - I fear you will  
see the arrival in the papers - & fancy it has  
come back very sick - but it can be  
helped -

Warren came out at noon & told me  
I saw that he was busting with something at  
once - & besides I am just being much sur-  
prised - & am nearly given to death  
now - I hope you got a despatch by Har-  
den on Saturday containing the letters of  
these wanderers - I sent it & trust it came  
safely

The Great Western is in at New York  
& as I came out of town ~~to-day~~ this morn-  
ing I saw the Red Flag steaming from the  
top of the post office & to suppose our steamer  
is in - The despatches of which I spoke  
yesterday were brought by a Mr Curtis of  
Ohio who has been returning on the Commodore  
in England - I am glad you have heard of  
him - ~~the~~ he came in the Sheridan  
a packet ship - just in at New York -  
P. Pease - says that Knapp's Liberator's was



being circulated in England in envelopes direct -  
if she had her eyes in Charles Stuart's hand  
writing - but she did not seem much moved  
by it -

Richard Webb is very bright & interesting of  
course - he has sent a manuscript of the  
longest work he has ever published & which  
as he printed it was left in his hands & he  
sent it to us with C. C.'s permission -  
R. W. hopes it will sell for \$25 & wishes the  
money may be given to Rogers -

G. J. Thompson writes as usual - an old friend  
not in a great hurry - very affectionate  
& sends all his pamphlets which are beautifully  
printed -

I don't know that H. & A. have any  
definite plans - since & except H. is quite  
determined never to go away again -  
I sometimes fear he will never have the chance  
to visit the very mention of Philadelphia  
in the interview - & really "attends" to  
give himself as little chance as possible  
not say anything to any one of all  
this - for it is of no use to contend  
with a man on his own behalf - He  
seems so glad to get home - that it is really  
pleasant - & his appetite is tremendous -

Your letter to William Coffin are not yet gone  
to Chicago for I don't like to send by the  
stage - & there is no other way - I had  
no time to send them for post - in view  
there was nothing of any moment - as I  
stopped at Chancery place to get Lizzy on  
Monday morning. I was on my way from  
Cambridge which I spent Sunday - with  
Mrs. Church - & was exposed to death by a hot  
air stove -

Hope you will make out this  
incoherent epistle & hoping I shall see  
you soon - I am yours aff -

Caroline Norton



Miss Abigail Weston.

New Bedford

Mass.