

(3)

Wm. Thompson I sh^d have to tell you to hear about. We have
diligently mastered the contents of the Liberator & we
missed during absence, then much delighted with some,
especially J. Parker's Convention speech, Whittier's Sabbath School
Miss Dale's letter &c. &c. The recent no^s of the paper my Father
saw fit to have me ^{read} ^{highly} ^{praised} ^{by} ^{him} ^{and} ^{the} ^{Refugee} ^{of} ^{Oppression}
& continue variation to the Advertisement page. We have
also made some way thro' Moses Stuart's twaddle, w^{ch} Mr
Webb has so happily epitomised in his last letter to the Stars
Poor D. Webster ^{will direct} to have recourse to such a prop^r! But I
much not enter on comment, but adhere resolutely to
plain facts in the communication. Mr Webb has just
been in London, ^{so} we hear from W. W. Brown, who is in
full communication with us about his panorama
w^{ch} will be completed in a week or two. My Father drew
up ~~some~~ ^{at least} sketches, a little appeal for the Bazaar - before
he was taken ill, in fact it was the last feather in the
weight of w^{ch} he broke down the very evening he sketched
it. This appeal is to be published in Brown's description
of the Panorama, & in future editions of his narrative
He & W^m G. Thompson approve of it just as we ^{wrote} ^{sent} ^{it}
I doubt not once to prep. We did our best to condense
all that people want to know into the small compass
allotted, & to subjoin a list of receivers of donations.
It was rather dismal work to me prunning & drawing
out my Father's rough sketches while he was too ill to
discuss minutiae. I was it counted considerable
arranging & curtailing &c. & I never c^d get thro' above three
words at a time for some ^{part} ^{of} ^{it} ^{up} ^{stairs} & down,
from the half way post where I stationed myself, the
poor manuscript lay more than a week before
reaching its destination, however as it gives satisfac-
tion at last, there is nothing to lament. We shall prob-
ably get some copies of it, ^{printed} ^{separately} ^{to} ^{enclose} ⁱⁿ ^{letters} ^{to}
where parties want explanation or stimulus, when
one is ready you shall see it. We find that W. G. Thompson
is going to Boston next month & are grieved to think of your
disappointment at missing him. If you were dead
there how I sh^d envy him! I do a good deal as it is - but this

is departing from my prescribed boundaries. We have had an
apparition of Russell Carpenter here for a couple of days;
but he went on to join his mother on the south of Devon, ^{where he has been}
as my Father was not well enough to look for more
than half an hour I was afraid to let him get upon
exciting topics during the interview, we have not heard
much of Russell's sentiments. He impressed us as having
been run off in not giving the Anti Slavery movement the
investigation it demanded, as being ^{favorably} predisposed with
the leading members of it, in their individual capacity
but smarting in his ^{own} official position by their public
exposure of the short comings of his ministerial brethren
admittedly they were filling a place & doing a work;
that the nation stood in deep need of, but of course
thinking they might do it in much more unobjec-
tionable ways ^{of} ^{others} ^{and} ^{win} ^{now} ^{extensive} ^{cooperation}
Dr. Dr. D. L. B. Hall of Providence has been here. He
preached us a sermon w^h illustrated points you
dwell on to us, of the overreaching influence of Church
fellowship in your country. He identified, becoming
a Christian with uniting oneself to a church; & repeat-
ed with open confession of error before this Church, ^{to}
w^h we have nothing so analogous. And there
was something ^{complete} in his prayer for "liberty to the captive"
& then for the master & for the slave" w^h left ^{us} ⁱⁿ ^{confused}
uncertainty whether it was caused by his uttering
usual form in unusual circumstances, or
adopting an unusual ^{one} for the occasion. Charity of
course demanded the latter explanation, but at best
there was some of the particularizing of the wild & un-
individual ^{of} ^{particularizing} ^{the} ^{wild} [&] ^{un-}
-tute my ideas of "effectual fervent prayer". We were
much amused to find that he was commissioned by Dr
F. Parkman to take an opportunity of informing Mr
Armstrong that his (Dr. P.'s) views on the slavery question
were materially modified since the time when he carried
on a correspondence with ^{him} ^{on} ^{the} ^{subject} (about 4
years ago.) That in fact he now accorded essentially with
his brethren in this country, & could not now have written
the letters he did then! Thus is the story as it comes to us
thru' Mr. A. but the picture is as my Father ^{often} describes
it so completely of a piece with the other such things those
ministers are always saying that we can't doubt its accuracy

in the main features; & "sneaky" in the extreme it does
appear to send back a private intimation privately to
parties here (with whom his popularity has decreased
in consequence of his past course) that now his people
have advanced a little he is able to ~~take~~ stand in
a more favorable light, "instead of making this announce-
ment in their faces & acknowledging past short-
comings openly at home. Your intimation of
the probability of Mr. Follen's making London his winter
residence was very exhilarating. My chief ground for rejoicing
does not consist in the circumstance that I sh^d stand
a fresh chance of seeing her from her being within a few
hours journey; but because I think her mere presence
there w^d effect a vast deal of Anti-Slavery work. The
society there w^d come in contact with (I mean especially
the Unitarians) are so intelligent & cultivated & take
such expansive views of most things that their prejudices
w^d arise in part from ignorance. I'm part from their
imperfect ideas having been chiefly imbibed from
Mr. Dewey, Gannett ^{Partington} Rev. G. L. Ellis, &c. Others of that
school" are worth combatting, but susceptible of being dispelled.
And Mr. Follen from the high position she already
holds in their reverence & love has an almost
unequalled weight to back her personal influence,
among that set of people with whom we have not
been able owing to our testimony being second hand,
to make much way (tho' ^{enough way} to despise of progress
with means of pushing the theme). We think of you &
my sensible leading article in the last "Inquirer" headed
"The slaveholder's last move," & from the very copious
extracts now appearing in that paper from A. S. publications
that ^{Mr. Lator} he has derived an added interest in the theme from
the interview at Heidelberg w^{ch} he expressed himself so
ready to have repeated till he has made a thorough convert.
Amongst others had added light as Mr. Follen & ^{at} impact, ^{nothing}
from one identified with him in religious sentiment
w^d not be thrown away. Then there is Dr. Hutton who could

seen Mr Ellis & Dr Gamett having been termed by Mr
Lieney once "hate of God & man" Ed Bradley & several other
Unitarian ministers all with spheres for imparting their
own convictions. I mean to write to Mr Labor as soon as
I can & ^{ascertain} how widely they are awake, but before writ-
-ting fresh correspondence there are 19 letters I have
just counted up to be disposed of; & while nearly ever
post brings something fresh, chances are slender
clearing them off at present. This epistle (as well as
the picture frames I mentioned) will I fear betoken
the fragmentary nature of the periods of pro-
but if so you will understand the state of the cause.
It was begun on Sunday & this is Tuesday; to-day's pro-
brought an application from Miss Wigham of Eden-
for some "Replies," in a letter ringing the same old
changes whose notes assail us at every turn. The song
the Glasgow circular alone has done us harm by
exciting alarm by jealous inquiry in some; "but a
"progressive feeling of disputed faction has been in the mi-
of many for a long time respecting the religious argu-
of the American Abolts. This feeling has become so strong that
it has resulted in the Edm^o Committee withholding their
of contributions this year; ^{the} ad hoc committee." The other in-
-vidual members are collecting as usual, but fear to
shall not have much to forward. They have written a
statement to Boston of the reasons for the division of
the Committee & are hoping to receive a response wh^o will be
productive of good. We have had several Americe
flitting thro' our town, Mr Prentiss of Keene, & Mr Kirk
their daughter from New York. She mentioned being acquainted
with Mr Follen & Mr Chapman, but my interview with
was too short to ascertain what amount of sympathy she
had with them. Not much I conjecture on A. S. matters, but
I sh^d like to hear more about her. There are topics ever
to fill trouble the number of these sheets, but it is right to
to send you all I have found time to pen; & I will
reserve ^{the rest} for a further opportunity, & the 17 letters ever
withstanding I will take care as with a distinct one.

MS. A. 9. 2. 25. 10

I wish you were here to see things ^{some} pouring in
for the Bazaar. There is a packet ^{thus impudently} just brought in from
Bridport, labelled "from the children of J. P. Stephens".
The Bridport people, I am concerned to find, are going
to lend all their collection to F. Douglass, but I have
to cloak all symptoms of disappointment, or it w^d
be instantly affirmed we were prejudiced against
them by you, & that it was much better to support
them, ^{rather} than help the Bazaar with w^t Mr Garrison
is so closely connected. We are doomed to a good deal
of this as it is, so take the greatest care not to provoke
it. How I want to describe to you the ^(if possible) deepened interest
& clearer insight with w^t I have perused the document
in my profession (Mr Chapman's especially) relating
to the history of your warfare, & my increased competency
since listening to you, to push the bearings of the case in
a forcible light to others; by how unaltered is every
single impression from those imparted by my previous
study. And I w^d gladly too make you sensible of some of
the many ways in w^{ch} ^{your} intercourse has been as helpful
to me since as it was delightful at the time. But this
w^d lead to needless transgressions of my restrictions
& keep the letter ^{as} being finished up amid dabbings
with Beecher an indefinite time. Still people coming
on our recent privileges, I want to know what Mrs
Chapman is like, some regarding her with mysterious
veneration, others who have in mind Miss Martineau's
assertion that "English air was not free enough for
her to breathe" with the utmost curiosity. These
latter I find it expedient, since a metaphorical
interpretation is quite inadmissible to anyone regard-
ing British soil as incompatible with ^{the existence of} slavery, to leave
under the delusion that she is so constituted as
to need a greater supply of oxygen than our climate

yields. The former, seen after ^{as well as before} my description to call
me a prodigy of a purgess to have felt as perfect
ease in her presence. ¹⁸⁴⁷ Kate Parker (or even Phoebe) had
my wildly venturing to engage her in conversation of
my own ⁱⁿ enjoyment, & edification, a piece of
presumption no conceivable circumstances could
have rendered ^{me} ~~them~~ guilty. I could help these divers
of sentiments, my own are unchanged!

Goodbye dear Miss Weston, give my most tender love
to each member of your circle & accept it yourself
from your ever affectionate

Mary Estlin

Remember everything you will let us hear about
^{at all times} you so most acceptable, & we shall be greedily looking
out for further tidings.

Letter to Mary
Mary Estlin
Pack St Bristol
Sept 17, 1850
Quaker part of
Letter to Rowland