

Copy.

Boston, Nov. 24, 1855

My dear Mrs Chapman:

148 Now that the joyful event is made certain, I avail myself of the earliest opportunity to congratulate you upon your safe arrival home, after so long an absence from your native land. The fact, that you are really with us again, only needs to be generally known, to excite the liveliest emotions of pleasure in ten thousand hearts, bound up with yours in the most vital and far-reaching movement of the age, and cherishing for you the warmest regard and the highest appreciation, as one of the earliest, most clear-sighted, uncompromising, and efficient advocates of the imbruted slave. The delight I feel in the anticipation of seeing you, face to face, in due season, is inexpressible: it will be almost like a resurrection from the dead, or a return from a higher plane of spiritual existence, so far as your bodily presence is concerned. From a particular stand-point, it seems a whole age since you left us. Seven years is, indeed, a long period to have been absent, considering the brevity of life; but, in the activity and tumult of a desperate campaign, where no time is left for leisure, meditation or retirement, they seem reduced to a single point. How extraordinary and multitudinous have been the events, directly connected with the anti-slavery cause, within this term! What changes in sects, parties, and whole sections of country, on the right side! What rapid strides, startling achievements, and boundless aims, on the part of the Slave Power! In what a close death-grapple are Liberty and Slavery found!

Though absent in body, we know that you have been with us unceasingly in spirit since you left us; that nothing which has occurred, affecting either the integrity or success of our glorious cause, has escaped your observation; that you have not only improved, but created opportunities to aid us, on British and



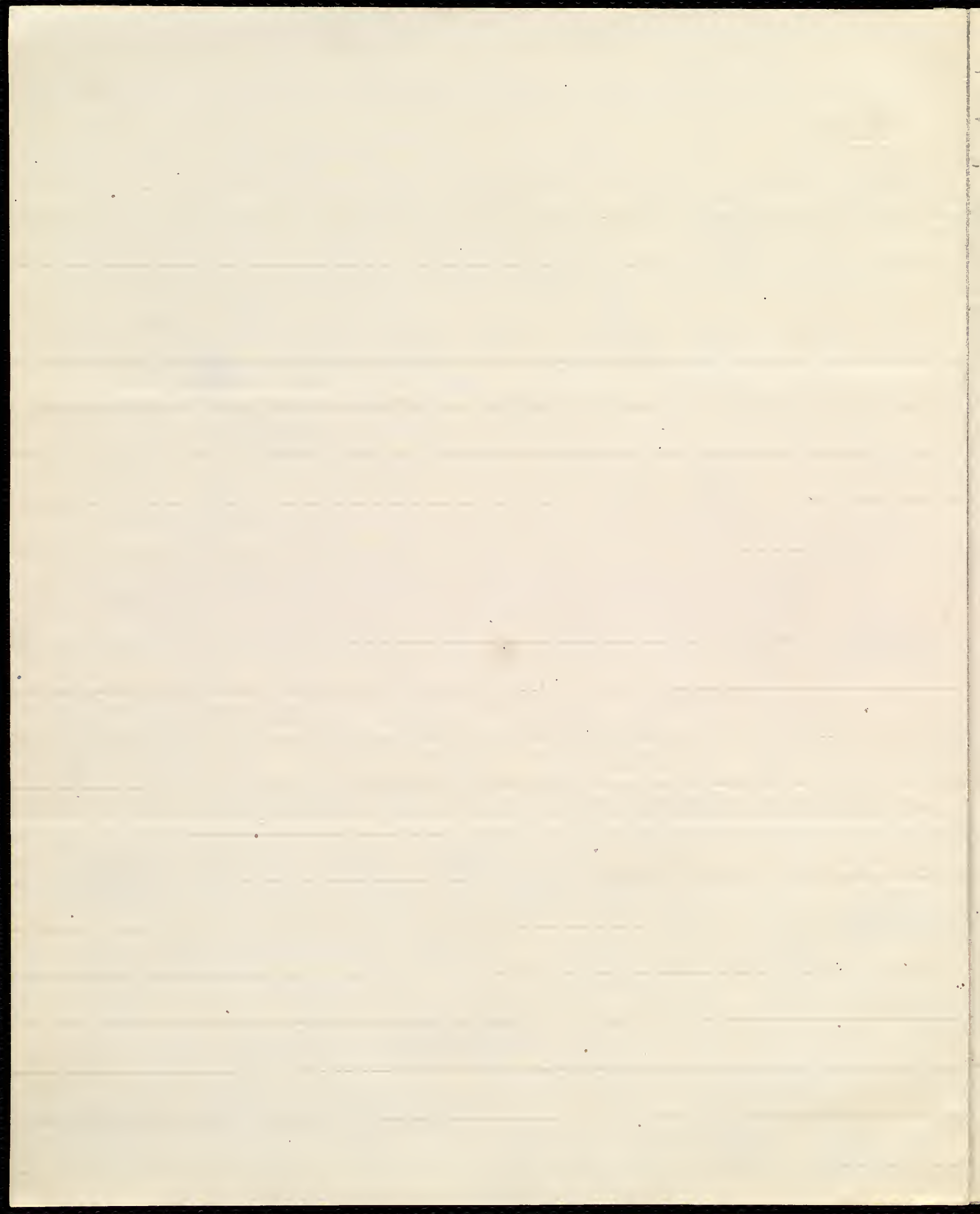


on French soils, by speech, testimony, personal influence, the press, the preparation of circulars and tracts, a generous pecuniary co-operation, multitudinous letters, and well-directed blows, struck at the right time, and with irresistible force. For all these efforts and sacrifices, we are immensely indebted to you; to say nothing of antecedent years of unequalled industry and labor at home, under the most trying circumstances, and in the midst of all-abounding obloquy, proscription and danger. I will not put up the superfluous petition, "May the blessings of those who are ready to perish rest upon your head!"—because they do now rest upon it. I will not add, "God bless you!"—as it might seem to imply that he had been "slack concerning his promises," and was growing forgetful. "Blessed are," not shall be, "the merciful. Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake"—&c. &c. The reward is ever in the performance of the deed.

Welcome home again—a thousand times welcome! Welcome to whatever of unpopularity yet attaches to inflexible and incorruptible abolitionism! Welcome to a still further participation in a cause, which, notwithstanding its grand advances, has yet to contend with Church and State, and all that is rich, strong and powerful in the land! You have a place in our heart of hearts: we already feel the magnetism of your spirit, and the quickening influence of your presence.

How deeply do I regret that you did not arrive in season to be at the twentieth anniversary of the memorable twenty-first of October, 1835, held on the very spot where the mob of "gentlemen of property and standing" achieved such a ruinous victory! It was a most thrilling occasion, as you may readily suppose, and full of heart-stirring reminiscences.

Three weeks ago, we were expecting the speedy and inevitable departure





to the Spirit Land of our well-tried and noble friend, Francis Jackson - his physician having oracularly pronounced his disease incurable, wanting no hope of his continuance beyond a fortnight. Now we are rejoicing that, almost as by superhuman power, he is convalescent, and looking and feeling much better than he has done for a year past! How happy he will be to take you by the hand, and you not less so to reciprocate congratulations!

It must have deeply saddened your heart to find that your beloved father was no longer of earth; for, though "no strange thing has happened" to you, seeing that all are mortal, and the most endearing ties of life are constantly severed - and though death is but the transition to a superior state of existence - still, "some natural tears" are pardonable, and it is hard, very hard, to part with those so near and dear. You have my warmest sympathies, as well as every other member of the family, in view of this bereavement.

Hoping to see you at a day not distant, and wishing to be kindly remembered to your mother, sisters and brother, I remain

Your attached friend,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Mrs Maria W. Chapman.

P. S. Helen desires me to unite her congratulations with mine on your safe arrival. We shall be most happy to see you, at any time, at our residence, 14 Dix Place, Washington Street, between Elliot and Hollis Streets.

Please say to Anne, that she shall certainly have my article for the Liberty Bell in the course of this coming week. I trust you will find time to write something also.

Nov. 24-1855