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March 4/77

My dear friend Garrison;

19 Yesterday noon the two volumes of
Miss Martineau's Autobiography arrived,
I recognized Frank's hand in the address
before opening the parcel, - which soon
gave up its contents, the two remarkably
neat & tasteful ~~volumes~~ volumes which you are so
very kind, considerate, & friendly as to
send me. I thank you warmly; they are
books I should value highly, if got in the
ordinary way; how much more prized,
in these circumstances, by me & all my
family. I began to read Mrs. Chapman's
Memorial aloud to my wife & daughter last
evening; have read, aloud & to myself, in
the autobiography several hours to-day; &
have resumed the aloud reading of the
"Memorial" this evening, until my voice
has got quite husky; but I must not
sleep, without acknowledging to you the safe

removal of the books, and my great
obligation to you for them, and sending my
thanks to Frank too for so promptly sending
them. We shall be likely to give a good
deal of time to them, for many days to
come.

They are volumes, which cannot but
call for a great deal of comment, - much
criticism, - much dissent; & Mrs. Chapman
will come in for her full share. I am
appreciably pleased at finding Mrs. G.'s style
more simple, less involved, than it formerly
was; indeed, quite natural & often very
impressive. But what an absolute
charm there often is in Harriet Martineau's
style, for transparent honesty & perfect
simplicity. How rare, how almost
unexampled, to find one's appreciation of
one's self so just, cool, & sober; neither
affected by in one direction or the other by
egotism, - neither touched by conceit nor
by self-depreciation.

I was very sorry, - very sorry, indeed -

to find, in the account of the historic meeting of the Female Antislavery Society at Francis Jackson's house, that "Rev. Samuel May" was named as the one other man there besides Ellis Gray Loring, when it should have been that other so dear & faithful name "Samuel J. May". How could Mrs. Chapman be so inaccurate, - shall I say so careless in her editing? Many readers will know at once who was meant; some may be confused; possibly some, misled. In all events, it is not correct; and no other name should be there but "Samuel J. May". 'Tis unjust as it stands, all round! May it not, perhaps, even now be corrected? before another set of copies are struck off? Would you kindly suggest to her, to have the correction made?

It occurs to me that you may not have the immediate opportunity, which you have so generously given me, to read these vols. yourself. Let me know, and I shall speedily seek the pleasure of lending you my copy!

I met our dear good Wallcut in Bromfield street last Wednesday, & we had much talk together, - in part of yourself. He told me of the new physical trouble you were having, - so troublesome at night. I felt ^{I feel you} ~~so~~ badly about it. Next day I made all my arrangements so as to spend Thursday afternoon with you, - when a sudden message from my Mother, requiring me to give it immediate attention & considerable time, deprived me of the desired visit to you; - which still I hope for. My mother grows more feeble; but is quite comfortable. I earnestly hope you may get relief from this new difficulty; and I think that you may.

On Friday I met Wendell P. He had not heard of this later disorder of yours. He told me of your being a year younger (if I may use an Hibernian way of expressing it) than you supposed - from a discovery of some early record, giving your birth in 1805, instead of 1804.

I hope you have good acc^{ts} from Fanny's family. I think I have heard she writes you a dear letter. When you write me, please say how Lucy (M-K.) is. My very kind regards, please, to Miss Southwick, & to all yr. Children, and Sam, dear Garrison, Ever gratefully
we are all pretty well, now. Yours, Saml May.