

Bristol Park St. Feb. 9 1851.

My dear Miss Weston,

Tho' conscious that the probability is you have
not yet got thro' my last voluminous effusion, or if
^{that you} so have but partially recovered from the effort; tho' more
over my Father is grudging every minute spent in any
thing but reducing the magnitude of the pile of newspapers
and in for distribution (which we have to heed lest
our friends sh^d decide we are grown demented) tho'
in addition Mr Armstrong wants ~~my~~ help, in all
the time I can redress from other things in mending
a number of her children's household in a few
still an unvisited corner in my Father's envelope
to Mr Garrison is an ~~invaluable~~ irresistible opening
for pouring ~~in~~ my gratitude to you for that ^{great} Report
which has been delighting our hearts in the
last Liberator, & which is all more than all
my fondest hopes had looked for! Mr Webb was
with us at the time it arrived & shared our
pleasure at it, in fact I believe ^{say he} "never did
read anything so clear & telling, & instructive"
or so. My encomiums however are simply
on the score of its suitability to the purpose
I have at heart of giving people full light,
clearing them in possession of the elements
of judgement; & as I think the set of people
among whom I described myself as thrown
just now are a fair type of the characteristic
sentiments in England among the majority

of minds interested in the A. S. cause, I augur
that the report will be as valuable a helper
in other places as here. You are too well prepared
for the full exposition of the plans & constitution
of the A. S. Soc. not being acceptable to numbers
here to need my reminding you that some who
have hitherto aided it will recede; that its
basis by our own spirit are far too Catholic
for the majority of ^{our} orthodox philanthropists
who cannot hope for any undertaking not
conducted exclusively on Gospel principles
to be blessed; & these will probably lure themselves
into the belief that some of the other professed
means of helping the Slave are as efficient, & as
^{the same time} free from the contact w^{ch} violates their con-
-scientious scruples. Don't think me ridiculing
these; if the words ^{anay} bear that construction, I
only use them in explanation, & feel the greatest
respect for the scruples & their holders. All who,
after sifting the matter, find they can work ^{with you} consistently
with their principles will be doubly firm
friends, & far more warmly enlisted ^{than had before} in the service.
My special gratitude for your statement of
answer to the various complaints of the discontented
comes, as you know, from having no power
of my own to satisfy them. The mere fact of
its being advocated by the holders of our views

points of disputed ^{we suppose} theology makes anything, be
looked at with suspicion & distrust, by all
who are more orthodox, & they would never be
persuaded that I had given them an impartial
statement of the case, but they have faith in
you, & I can boldly lay your declarations before
them leaving them to draw their own conclu-
sions & take upon themselves the full res-
ponsibility of refusing to aid the Slaves true
friends in their labors, & then they will more
readily accept my assurance that whatever
be the dangers of alliance with the Boston Abolitionists
"it is a stake to spread Unitarianism". However
you shall hear more when I have put it to the
test as I shall in a few days when the collection
of people I told you of are going to meet trusting
on my giving them further light, the materials
for which I have no longer to hunch off from
various heterogeneous masses. Dear Miss
Wilton, believe ^{my faith} ~~that~~ when I turn your name &
words to account in this way, I recoil from
the thought of obtruding anything so sacred to
yourself as your own individual opinions ^{at the same time}
before the gaze of strangers; but that, it is in
no irreverent spirit that I use the trust you
have confided to me, (to fill a deficiency
I could in no other way supply,) to further the
cause to which you have consecrated

These ^{your} ~~all~~ other talents ~~to be cultivated~~ ^{to you}, however
cherished ^{holly} their possession. I have no
time to express myself intelligibly; my Father
has been demanding my letter several times, &
set me to make sundry money calculations
since I began; but you will not misapprehend
my spirit. We shall want to hear what you
think of the combined exertions of ourselves
Mr Maffee, & Mr Webb, in the Month's advertisement
if you show the article please to alter the mis-
of pre-eminently into prominently ^{(in the part} about the
Scottish meetings) & United into "Southern" in
F. Douglass's lecture, & the blunders in both
quotations of "the sum of all villainies." We
long for a companion in our present occupa-
tions, & were refreshed by a peep at Mr Webb
who had been spending some very happy hours
with Mr Follen, & confirmed Miss Cabot's un-
favorable report of Mr ^W's health wh^{ch} is a great
comfort. Mrs Richardson preserves an
ominous silence since that letter of my Father
w^{ch} Mr ~~Webb~~ Webb carried off to copy. W. W. B.
has just written in good spirits having got on
very well with his painting & lectures. Both
Crafts are thinking of taking Bristol after
visiting Carlisle & other towns in the North of
England. Excuse this violent haste & with
my Father's kindest regards to you all believe
me your ever affec^{ed} Mary Estlin.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25, 64