

Brookline 11<sup>th</sup> Mo. 16. 47

Dear Friend  
Mr. Chapman

Again your Obedience is ready at hand -  
I again have our little circle here endeavoring to collect their  
mite to aid in the great cause of human freedom - I  
hear however that the Irish contribution is not equal  
to former years. But you will not wonder at this - the  
home calls have been so numerous & so pressing that doubt-  
less some have from conscientious motives, kept their  
mites for home; at the same time all my experience con-  
vinces me that those who talk most against "foreign ex-  
ertise" will be found preeminently behind hand in home work.

I presume you must take the will for the deed, & re-  
ceive what we send as the widows mite; a portion of it is  
I understand the production of one of our industrial associations,  
which have been set on foot to avert starvation & beggary.

There are several subjects of interest now on the tapis; which  
of them shall I allude to? I believe I must first ramble  
a little about Ireland - though perhaps what I say may be  
a twice told tale, as I have some ideas I alluded to in  
about joining in took lately in a letter to Garrison. Apropos  
we are looking anxiously for further information as to the state  
of his health, & we will have it to morrow in Seeley  
The "Evening Post" of this evening that the "Cambrian" has arrived  
safely. There was a dreadful shipwreck the other night  
at that place of famine, Skibbereen - or rather outside it  
at the Delta of Schull - the "Stephen Whiting" one of the  
fine New York lines was dashed to pieces on the rocks,  
& ninety five of her passengers & crew hurried into eternity.  
It has cast a gloom over us, used as we are to accounts  
of death & suffering, but I need not add particulars, of which  
I had than we have as yet, as the papers that go out of this country

papers will tell you all the ~~particulars~~ minutiae - It has  
been for some time it was the Cambria or the first acco-  
unt - that an American Steamer had been lost -

But I was going to speak about Ireland - poor Ireland  
whose condition furnishes endless materials for every one who  
takes up the pen to write or scribble about her. Daily  
she engrosses abundantly the public talk, both in England  
as well as here - The Times, the Morning Herald - the  
Chronicle & all the other lions of London, devote their  
best pages to chronicle her miseries, her misdeeds, her  
massacres, & deeds of oppression & crime. The work  
of assassination goes on fearfully now! Not a day passes  
without an account from the South or West, but principally  
from Tipperary of lives sacrificed to popular vengeance;  
it will continue to be so until a radical change takes  
place in the condition of the country - How my blood is  
stirred within me when I think of the wretched & wretched  
state in which the country is by wicked & oppressive laws.

Think of a country being almost altogether in the hands of  
such a class of men as our landlords are - absolute  
embarrassment will debt, nominally worth thousands a year  
but living in splendid beggary - their estates mortgaged to London  
Jews, who wretched tenants, committed to the tender  
mercies of agents whose main aim is, to collect all the  
rent they can, totally careless - why should they be other-  
wise? of the improvement of the wretched tenants - Improve-  
ment - did I say? Such a word is not in their category!  
they care nothing about them! Thus the work of increasing misery  
& starvation & crime goes on, & when it will end nobody holds on the  
bosom of futurity. - Put out of evil will spring good! even  
now, a great work is going on, the new poor laws are rapidly  
effecting an extensive confiscation of property - the land will rapidly  
be pass from the hands of its present worthless nominal owners,  
and I trust they will be succeeded by a class of at least enlightened  
and money makers, though where enterprise, the population  
would secure abundant employment - But meanwhile, just trials



me to land - even now the career of starvation has commenced  
in many parts of the country the produce of the harvest, is  
scarcely, or altogether consumed, & American holds the keys of  
England as it were in her hand - i.e. Your expenditure  
produce must feed thousands of thousands or they die. I  
fear few American may not thoroughly understand this; the  
past monetary depression which has overruled by Britain like  
a flood has forced down the prices of produce so much that  
your corn will appear nearly worthless as an article of  
exportation to our shores, but it is my deliberate opin-  
ion that your home supply will prove far short, & that there  
be abundance of supplies wanted from your side of the Atlantic.

At the height of the ~~strange~~ <sup>strange</sup> prices rise, up the  
soul animating feeling that our great calamity has mightily  
expanded the feeling of human brotherhood; how has the  
deed of America thro'pped in deep commiseration for  
poor Ireland, & sprung out with loving hand of her  
abundant to ~~share~~ <sup>share</sup> the wisdom of the fatherless for finishing;  
I have my poor Ireland from the bottom of her heart  
invoked blessings on your land as ship after ship are  
lived freighted with the staff of life. Such dumb offerings  
as these are what cement nations together, and baffle the  
schemes in their schemes of warlike ambition! Long-long  
will it take to eradicate from the hearts of the Irish  
people the recollection that America stretched forth her  
hand to them, & snatched them in thousands from the grasp  
of famine & despair -

But I must quit this with too long a letter, besides my  
Annie was the front page I want of Sean make out, send to Smith's  
a little to St. George & to Garrison if I can manage them. I intended  
to have said a little about the West India, about the fearful game that  
is being played there - a the recreation of the slave trade with the  
Cortic export scheme & now there to be added to its competition  
to the Court of Africa - also a revival of the slave trade. It seems as  
if we must reorganize our Anti-Slavery Society for some work - to fight old  
battles anew, from Government seem willing ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~allow~~ <sup>allow</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~slave~~ <sup>slave</sup> ~~trade~~ <sup>trade</sup>  
to start. Parliament is of the eve of meeting; I hope I fear it is too much  
to hope that they will do any thing to stay the career of depression. Richard Allen



*[The page contains dense, illegible cursive handwriting, likely a letter or manuscript.]*