

Dublin October 23 - 1857

My dear friend - Mrs. (Pear) he shall write
to me lately in the name of a Glasgow publisher
to ask me to write for pay biographical notices
of the great eminent English ~~and American~~ writers
for a Biographical Dictionary which he is about
to bring out. With his consent I have handed over the
affair to a very honest & industrious, but not to his
Chapman & Pellsbury, who has greater facilities &
more time than I have. At the same time Mrs
Richard said that unfortunately the whole American
matter has been handed over to the Editor of the
North American Review who, to say the least, is no
abolitionist, and would not be likely to do justice to
such of them as ought to appear in the work.
I wrote a strong remonstrance to the Publisher
through Mrs Richard & said I was sure the thing
would be properly done by some who possessed
positive information, except to authorities, & are
abstemious of any disabling prejudice which the editor
could lay us down to. To day I had a letter
from Mrs Richard from which I take the following:-
"With respect to the Am. Abolitionists the Boston (her
husband) is fully alive to the importance of the
question & is in the hands of the publisher if
we may judge by the terms in which he speaks
of it in conversation last evening. He recognized
that a true & good biography of these men & women,
Phillips, &c would be an important feature in the
dictionary & you are assured would they be en-
trusted to his hands. I am sure your suggestions
that Samuel May should write them, which he
seemed to approve. Whether he will agree to write
to Brown [Editor of the N. A. Review] & tell him
that there would be done by S. May, I am not sure
but in the mean time Mr Richard wishes me to say

that he would wish like you wd write to S. May
 and tell him of the probability that he will be
 applied to to do them & enquire if he will under-
 take them till they have the sense of the work &
 the necessity of confusion, & requesting him
 to write a ~~short~~ sketch of Mr. Williamson, at
 one stand at dural there (D. Nichol, Observatory
 Glasgow) as his letter (C) come on speedily, & will
 not admit of correspondence to & fro, except the
 attention as to who shall write, & who
 Adam Ballou to have a notice of who among, and
 friends besides do we think ought to, & will
 endorse a list of them I think ought to that have
 struck me.

Strike out & add to as you see
 right. Will you be so good as to send me the
 exact address of Samuel May, in case Mark-
 ensie should wish to write to him himself, or
 to the Brown that I know to do them. I am
 glad to find headquarter quite alive to Brown
 indignation for doing them.

To end Mr Nichol - and how you
 know as much as I do his names as as
 follows: -

Ferriss	8.	Thomas Gault	7.	John Rankin.
Phillips	15.	H.C. Wright	22.	
W. W. Chapman		Theodore Weld	20.	
Mr. Smith	13.	Mr. Stone	19.	
Mrs. Foster	5.	C. Follen	4.	
Leamy	17.	Wm Child	2.	
S. Smith	18.	Whittier	21.	
Judding	9.	J. Parker	14.	
C. W. May	3.	J. T. Holifield	10.	
J. Johnson	11.	Loring, Elizh. P.	12.	
Pillsbury	16.	Foster	6	A. Weston S. J. May Wm. J. May Maria Graham A. E. Grimké (with T. Weld)

I doubt whether it would do in such a book
to name any who have not written or pub-
lished something remarkable - but you are
good sense requires no help from me. I think
very desirably things be taken to put the
names of the chief abolitionists before the British
public so as to make them as far as possible
known & read - You can write to the bookseller
& suggest any you think proper. The book is
to be in 3 vols imperial octavo, breves type
double columns. The paper 20-1/2 by 13-1/2. But
I look on it as a thing that ought to be
done & I know no one so good as you
for the work. I mean to write to nobody
else about it whatever - so that the whole
matter can be a secret between the bookseller,
the publisher & yourself.

I have been rather late only on two returns
from the hope to the English before the
had a good success in the few last
days of the Manchester Exhibition.

I send you the account for July
at the end of the first article is an
allusion to John Puffett's friends in
information sent me by H. C. Wright &
procured for him by one of your agents whose
name I cannot recall. Mrs Chapman
will know it I doubt not as it was in
consequence of another allusion by her to the

walk in plain talk
5th May
ask to see
the
Went
Ruffell's
Haw
had to
ask

I am fain in a letter of hers that I made
the remarks in question. Now I have
been brought to account by Robert H. Coates
& Maria Holt, who declare the statements
to be utterly false and the Holt's say my
expressions are mean & contemptible for
trying to undermine Julia's influence by
propagating falsehoods. I believe them to be
true, but will thank you to enquire further
I had no news of it in the case as I have stated
that Julia holds a mortgage on my part
of Frederick's property, which is all I want
to know. I don't care two pence for Rufell
or Maria - but would like to be able to put
them down. They are good as almost their
begotten liability to the Am. G. S. but seem
to think they should be allowed to say what
they like & set no tail for their tail

The Dublin Bazaar is on today - I
hope we may have the Delerium in time
but it is out of our power to hasten it as
it depends on the travellers coming & on
the slow movements of the High & mighty
London house. Will you attend at once to
the London Julia affair. I think the year
was hard & rough who gave H. G. S. chapters
& work
Yours ever in great haste

Richd. D. Webb