

Dedham Feb. 9. 1871.

I return you a thousand thanks, my Dear Friend, for the
Copy & most welcome letter wh. I found awaiting my return
from a visit to Cambridge & Boston last evening. The intelligence
of the prosperity & improving health of the dear travellers was indeed
most welcome, & it was made doubly so by the kindness wh. induced
you to take so much pains in my behalf. By the way, your letter
wh. is dated the 1st, did not arrive till Saturday night, & was
not rec^d. by me until Monday aftⁿ, wh. must be my excuse
for not acknowledging its arrival sooner. I wrote a letter to
Moria last week & left it at W. Chapman's - & if I have time
peradventure I will pen another. The trouble about writing
to them is that they have such pestilent good correspondents of
their own households that I know there is no earthly thing left for
me to say in the way of fact - so that I have to spin my cobweb
of a lucubration out of my own brain - so that my epistles can have
no value except such as they derive from their being proofs of friendship
& affectionate remembrance. I trust you will let me see Moria's
letter [a such parts of it as are not inclosed in brackets, not
to be shown to Uncle Lelby] when I next see you; & that you will
keep me informed of the advice you receive from them; for you
may be sure, that not one, out of your immediate family circle,
feels a deeper interest in their welfare.

I did write to Collins by the Acadia a long letter, containing
all the facts & particulars I could remember, including an account
of the Annual Meeting in all its details - so you may rest easy on
that point. Your description of the affair on the morning of the
Acadia's sailing was truly Goggettian. I would advise
you to elect yourself a committee of superintendence of the
transmission of documents to Eng^d. I well remember to have seen
boxes & bundles packed for Mrs. Pease lying on the deck of
the Acadia on the day of the sailing of the Acadia ^{steamer} - & also the
philosophic equanimity with wh. my inquiries as to its destiny
were answered - but I did not know before that it never went.

I think the woman question had better be practically carried out at the office - for the A. J. women are certainly more executive than most of the brethren. Now I think a couple of the sisters, under the direction of Chase, would do capital-ly well. I never thought of it till this moment - but it is born in upon my mind, as we Quakers say, that it would be a capital plan - what say you?

Talking of Quakers, I went to Lynn last week & delivered my Quaker Lecture before a very good audience. The Quakers were well pleased with it, as I understood. I fear their good opinion of me will last no longer than the appearance of the next N. Resistant as it is I am down on the present generation. I staid at W. Pappett's where Abby Kelly & sundry other friends spent the afternoon & with me among them Elix. Whittier (Dorus sister) a fine little Quakeress, with tremendous black eyes, who was apparently a little on course for the time whenever we walked into her by arrangement. Abby is one of the most charming women of my acquaintance. Her experience of the last year or so, in bringing her in contact with men generally, has been of great service to her both in mind & manner. It is not the pleasantest way of seeing the world but I am not sure that it is not the best for the character. She intends going back and bothering the Connecticut forums again. What a development of what New York is now contained in Tyler's article copied into the last Report of Oppenheim? The clownish fool seems to be pretending as if to force itself upon the notice of the Pseudomemorial for what it was intended.

On returning from Lynn on Thursday morning Garrison & I went, at Clothe Pappett's request, to a phrenologist's room (one Coombs) to have our heads examined. While the operation was going on, the excellent Clotheine was very oracular & significant, giving the phrenologists to understand that they were as common folks who were under his manipulation. After the examination was over he wished to know who the two illustrious were who had favored him with their crania

whereupon ~~the~~ ^{the} worthy Meronipian informed him that they were
the two most remarkable men in the country (upon w^h the
excited phrenologist picked up his ears, probably expecting to hear
the names of Dr. Webster & W. E. Channing) - none other indeed
than Mr. Lloyd Garrison & Edw. Quincy!! I must give Mr. Combs
credit for a large degree of self-respect - at least - for he
received the announcement with the most surprising equanimity,
considering that he had never heard, certainly, of one of the celebrated
persons before him, & though he might have heard of the other, had
probably never heard of had any idea of him except of a vulgar fellow
who "went with niggers". His distinguished visitors, if they did not look
like the greatest men in the country were not very far, for the reason
from looking like the greatest fools in the country. After having
had greatness thrust upon us by poor clothes we went
~~our~~ way, vowing we would never ~~go~~ trust ourselves in his
appetimate clutches again. ^{The phrenologist} gave us flaming characters
of course, as all phrenologists do that I ever heard of. I should
like to see one who had told a man that his animal propen-
sities predominated over his moral & intellectual, - that he
was deficient in benevolence & personal worth, & that his
altruism was enormous. I suppose this man would
give Colver or Torrey almost identically the same characters
that he did to Garrison.

I do not know whether you have heard that Theodore
Parker came out on Sunday before last with an Anti-
Slavery sermon. Mr. Combs, a parishioner of his, & ^{the Abolitionist}
of his parish, who is an old Society & Liberator man, told
me that it was through ~~no~~ mistake. And I should
judge so too by what Parker told me of it - but he has promised
me to bring it with him when he next comes to see me and
read it to me. He has before recognized the A. J. & M. R.
movements as the chief, if not the only, manifestations of Christ-
ianity in the present age, without any Emersonian or Chas-
singian qualifications. I think that we shall get some work

out of him in some way. The is, I should judge from what he says,
 about converted to non-Resistance also. Dibley, by the way, Mr. Peapack
 tells me is a thorough non-Resistant. Parker is a very remarkable
 man - a rare instance of a man who has raised himself by the
 force of his own energies, & by self-education, to the rank of the most
 learned men in the country, who ~~was~~ not overlaid by his knowledge &
 assigned to the gown of hopeless Conservatism. You of course will not
 count much upon him yet - nor do I - only I hope, for his temptations are
 many & strong. I went to his Church in the aft^m heard him preach a most
 capital sermon on Phoripism - the Phorip of the inside, street, politics,
 Church & pulpit. He has already pretty nearly preached himself out of all

Feb 9th 1841.
 very interesting
 Theodore. Parker
 (to be left at W. Chapman's
 opposite the Church.)
 Chancery Place.

Mr. Peapack's opinion. You will see as often
 as you are moved about you have sufficient
 to say to all. Don't let all change in them
 & don't let all change in them.
 I am, Dear Sir,
 Yours truly,
 Samuel May.

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 respectable pulpits & will ere long I think preach himself out of his proper
 The signing the call for the Lab. Cav. was of infinite service to him & I think may be
 the turning point in his life - as it helped him to get rid of a large proportion of
 that unpopularity which is the first thing a man has to free himself from
 when he wants to be good for anything - & moreover it conferred upon
 him a very wholesome share of odium - the true baptism by fire - & I think
 he will stand it. My sister who is to take this letter is on the early
 departure so that I must hasten to a conclusion. I thank you again for
 your letter. & I was, you do not apologise for the length of your
 letters - you know me, & ought to, & it is enough to be sure that they