

St. M. M.

Dublin November 16. 1848

My dear friend

The Box - our friend's annual box - is gone in its way to Boston. A mighty little one it is. There are several reasons for this. There are very few workers or donors - very few who care a pin for the Anti-Slavery cause, and as we in Dublin think it better to send the best value we can for what money we can spare, we have this year invested nearly all our mites or pounds in the purchase of a large quantity of Dela Rue's beautiful state map which, to save expense, we have directed to be sent direct from London to Liverpool & thence to Boston so that we shall only see our donations with the eye of faith. As to the Box I have put now left at the Steam Company's stores it is a ridiculous little thing - but at all as big as a "bureau" as you never knew declared a former member of our ~~committee~~ was. I must tell you that amongst all our anti-slavery friends in Dublin, James Haughton's daughter is the most distinguished in point of standing - they are a little but aristocratic and exclusive, and one shape their aristocracy takes is a strong desire to send their own gifts alone - in a separate box by themselves. As they are not very much used to business this disposition ~~rather~~ rather an awkward result for they generally send all they have to send in an envelope 2 or 3 times as big as there is any necessity for, & so as to incur an amount of expense in the freight nearly if not quite equal to the value of their gifts. As my wife and myself are always the packers & forwarders from Dublin we have on more than one occasion taken the law in our own hands in this particular - and have opened the ~~pack~~ Haughton's parcel, repacked the goods & discarded the envelope. We did so this time - if we had not, you ~~the~~ would have had to pay for double freight which would have been very disagreeable both to you and to us. You will find also that the Haughtons have sent in the largest brown paper bundle in the box, and directed as from them - excepting some ~~very~~ work

The box is directed to come to W. Weston, care of Francis Jackson, Boston, N.S.A.

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articles (also from them) which my wife packed in a Shelby little  
basket for greater security. It will be a mercy if they ever safe.  
I tell you she tells that, ~~you~~ <sup>which you</sup> appreciate our motion for  
contravening their wishes, you may be so far as to be allowed as to  
say nothing to them about it. You will perceive that the things  
they send are such as bears packing very well - and that the way  
articles are as safe as such things can be made for such a voyage.  
If you publish any account of the find or include in it a description  
of your plan to any individual donors (which I do not recommend) I hope  
you will say a good word for the Misses Haughtons for they might be the  
betters of a little blarney, which we can get on very well without it. [Here  
you see naturally, remark to yourself - How wonderfully magnanimous  
these Webbs are.]

At the bottom of the box is a flat brown paper parcel containing  
an oil painting on panel of ~~an~~ a nocturnal eruption of Vesuvius  
and 4 water colour drawings of Naples & Vesuvius. I picked these  
up lately for a trifle. I think the painting worth 6 or 8 dollars  
and the water colours say 10 dollars for the 4. The last were  
done in Naples and I told by those who have bought the  
like (there) give a good idea of what they represent. I know  
it is from some ~~recesses~~, but if you could easily manage to  
let me know whether they sold and how they sold, I should be  
glad.

At the top is a patch-work silk table cover - hexagon shape. This  
was put together by a cousin of mine, Henry Poole, of whom you have  
perhaps heard. She got married lately and while they went was  
in anticipation she kept her hands out of mischief by the patch-  
work. When she had finished her point in this particular she  
made it over to the Bazaar and Susanna Fisher bought it also  
round, and Hannah Webb lined it and pinned it as you see  
and Maria Waring gave 2<sup>d</sup> dollars towards their expenses - alto-  
gether it cost about 5 dollars independent of the patch work -  
so this will enable you to price it and I hope to sell it. I think  
it would sell well to the far parts of Wisconsin or Missouri or Iowa  
or Fox or the like

The hardware goods were well begged yesterday morning from a friend  
of mine - a young widow - who gave them very cheerfully. Her  
husband lent some things last year, which we heard sold  
very well. They are all marked with the selling price  
here. I hope you may get twice as much. The donor  
is sister of your staunch friend John Vignam of Edinburgh.  
She was left with 5 young children and one of the finest Sheffield  
and Birmingham Warehouses in Dublin. I was well pleased  
that Hannah had even such good success - for it is very  
little success we do meet with on behalf of the fair. In a  
general way, we find it easier and pleasanter to give our-  
selves than to ask from others - so little interest exists in the subject.

I suppose you know that your sister Maria and I have an  
account always current between us. I hope before this  
letter goes to send you the best statement. I am only ~~sorry~~  
worrying for ~~the~~ De La Rue's account ~~for~~ the statement of the  
charges for ~~the~~ ~~money~~ ~~in~~ the box. They sent me word that it amounts  
to about £28. We only asked £25 worth - but they ~~generally~~  
exceed their commission. Whatever we could they allow for  
cash, or if there be any drawback on the duty, you shall of  
course have the benefit of it. You will observe that I take  
credit for a balance of £6.11.1/2 due me at last settlement.  
You must only take this in my honor - or if your sister left  
the accounts in your hands, you can clear up the mystery  
without being driven to lean on such a need.

You will find in the bin a little one filled with Sea Weed Baskets.  
Of these the 6 shabbiest came from Waterford last year, and  
as they are so very frail, she knew nothing of the value set  
on them in America, we did not lend them. When Miss  
Russ sister, she incited me into their money value, & accordingly  
I now lend them, bad & good, along with ~~the~~ more which we  
picked up here. But we have ordered £5 worth of them to be  
sent direct from Cork, where they make them in superior styles  
and these I expect will be to our mutual satisfaction. I wd  
also like to know how the sea weed we lend have ~~borne~~ the voyage.

Some crannies at the top of the box are filled with ~~papers~~  
old books - in small type - such as used to delight my  
nephew. They will probably sell for all they cost (I don't  
mean the marked price) and that is all I look for.  
They are sent as filling up. Was always endeavored to  
make our parcel tight and room as nearly as possible -  
no - I mean the reverse - to always cut down our box to the  
size of its contents.

Pursuant to your request that all donations should be sent by  
the middle of the month, I wrote to Cork - but am sorry to  
find that they will not be able to be ready till the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.  
They are not very prompt, and as they like to have a previous  
exhibition of their gifts, they prefer not sending any till all are  
ready. I offered to send any they had ready, but they refused  
on this account. They sent a parcel to Manchester - by did the  
people in Belfast; and these, with any anti-slavery contributions  
from Manchester, were sent to Rochester. I believe they did not amount  
to much altogether. - Very little <sup>came</sup> ~~was~~ from Belfast last year, and  
that little went in our box. Unfortunately, you did not perceive  
that there were marked on the parcels as from Belfast; and  
when they found no acknowledgment of their gifts, they were I  
suppose a little huffed. At any rate the principal contributors  
there are personal friends of Douglass, who thinks more of him than  
of his cause - so of Manchester - and so, I would almost say, of  
Cork. Besides, the Manchester & Belfast people were directly  
acted on by Maria Webb (a connexion of my own) and Anna  
Nicholson (who was the means of buying Douglass's freedom) and  
these are great anti-Jacobinians and Pro Liberty Party partisans.  
They tell me their box from Cork will not be much of any thing less  
than last year.

I am sure you must, in your secret soul, think me a great  
Dolly to be so fussy about ledgers' work - but there is absolutely  
nobody else <sup>to</sup> do the fussy & the writing which must be done  
~~to have things~~ ~~to be done~~ ~~to be done~~ ~~to be done~~  
You will show me by taking a note of the request I sent some  
time since that a liberator sent to D.ough - or Susanna Fisher  
- or R. C. Fisher, himself. (I don't know which precisely) should be dis-

as far as I know -

continued - only ~~unforgotten~~ <sup>and</sup> that one is to be stopped.  
If it should happen that James Fisher <sup>Lincoln</sup> takes the liberator,  
don't stop him. He is another body entirely.

I think I told you of a Miss Jesse Kollan that I met with  
at Leeds, who is an energetic laborer for the Bazaar. She told  
me she would be glad to get a Liberty Bell for some children -  
in a school I think - who work for the Fair. I told her I would  
mention it. Any such gift is greatly increased in value by  
containing some autograph - yours will do very well - something  
stating it to be from the ladies of the Massachusetts A.S.S.  
or the like.

As to the Liberty Bell ~~do~~ see how little I could do for you, tho'  
I do my best consistently with ~~for~~ regard to my personal  
safety. Our literary people care little for the cause - they know  
little of it - and whenever they are sufficiently well known they  
make too much by their brain to be ready to give the product  
for nothing. You are aware that the proprietors of the  
English Bazaar (when they were in vogue) paid largely  
for all their contributions. As far as I know there is extremely  
little enthusiasm in any good cause among our literati.  
Their most thrilling expressions smell of the shop. I know  
hardly an exception except Harriet Martineau ~~and Maria~~  
~~Wentworth~~ ~~and~~ ~~Miss~~ ~~Wentworth~~. Then she consorts  
with very good people - the nobility I think like - and those  
who do, don't like to have much to say to little ones, who  
hardly ever saw a lord in their lives.

I often wonder in myself at the less people suffer who  
know little of the cause for the American Anti Slavery  
Cause and its upholders - But so it is - we who do  
sympathize with you are a mere handful - ~~little ones~~  
~~is a small party~~ ~~for the cause~~. There is no one thing  
I rejoice in more than my intimacy with "your honours". If  
people of note had had the same ambition, I could not have been  
so fortunate - I tho' like of me wd have been lost amid the throng

- Among the articles in the box are the following. They are marked with the number I prefer to my notes

- (1) a pair of Bracelets made by the order of the late Gen. Dimes & valued at 1/2
- (2) 3 very neat Pincushions, the work of Miss Ford (an excellent worker of the wild Indians - sometimes there is no great difference in our favour) These are from Maria Waring - and are valued at 1 dollar each
- (3) Childs Fork 75 cents (4) Purple Collar 50 cents (6) Pincushion 50 cents
- (5) Emery Pincushion from Mary Elizabeth Webb, a little girls gift.
- (7) 3 pair Babies socks - (rich wool) 1/2 dollar each
- (8) 6 Collar - Real Himmich lace - 75 cents each
- The Round Berlin wood Turkish cushion - 4 dollars - made by Maria Waring
- The Square Cushion, block pattern, from Margaret Fisher, Himmich, 2 dollars
- The Hoopem Table Cover I find is valued at 10 dollars - the material cut in

It is now Friday Nov. 17 - I have had this letter over till today - hoping that I would know from London & Liverpool the cost of freight & that I could get the women of the Stationery to lend you - but they have not come. Delamies travelled told me that on the each parcel of articles with him they would write the descriptions - if the women dont come today - I think you had better not open the box till it arrives for I will send it next week. If you opened it without the one you would probably confuse them.

You see this is a long business letter but is no means delightful for you must only live in hope for better times

There are a few articles sent unmarked, as they were of small value, & you can easily affix a price - How pleasant if some of some be with you to help to mark & arrange - now that your hands are fewer - but no doubt there will be plenty of willing hands, glad to give their aid, though none can supply the place of your absent travellers.

I had a note this morning from your only contributor in the poverty stricken province of Cunnought - Miss Kennell of Carrick an Shannon. She wants to know if a contribution from her will be in time - and I will take her res- for I wish send it on to Cork. Some of the better things in our box were sent by her too late for last year.

I have just got a letter from Liverpool saying that the boxes with is but deferring the statement of it till next week - so I may as well send off our letter in time

Yours ever truly  
 Ruth S Webb

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