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Part II Jan. 10 - 1853

Dearest Mr^s Chapman;

How you overwhelmed me with your
generous devotion of your precious
time to me out of pure love! While
I, ungrateful recipient of your bounty,
am wont to content myself with an
acknowledgement of it thro' some
one of our family who may be writing
to some one of yours. This unreciprocated
your affection is far from being un-
appreciated. I think I know how
to value it, if certainly I count it
among my choicest blessings. The
last few months have been most
unsatisfactory ones in my personal
history. Indisposition in some un-
accountable, unpreventable form
proving a perpetual war plot to
all my designs, & often a damper.

to the energies & enjoyment of my
friends. Distinct ones have been
neglected, while present companions
have been annoyed in consequence
of my capricious & unmanageable
maladies. But as I am never well
in damp weather & there has been
no other during the whole of this
four months I resign myself to
letting golden opportunities & hourly
duties slip daily away unimproved
& unfulfilled, & to wait for the ultimate
passing by of the wind to "clear the
cloud" which has so long prevented
me from seeing the "bright light" ^{by day}.

When disposed to grieve over my own
incompetency to "improve the passing hour,"
(antislavery wise I mean) I turn with
self complacency to the abiding pieces
of work effected by securing Miss Pugh's
presence in England. She does good
service wherever she is & convinces

the minds while winning the
hearts of all with whom she mixes.
She is at present with the captives
of Leeds that has been there about six
weeks. She is mixing with Quakers
& orthodox folks liberal & bigotted,
seeing the nature of the hostility
to genuine Abolitionists, & discovering
the depths of ignorance & miscon-
ception that exist, all which
she could hardly credit an our
evidence merely. Never was there
such an Ad. ferment over the land,
& such openings for truth to enter
& find acceptance, but alas the
labors are not forthcoming, unless
some from America who can speak
in public as well as Miss Pugh.
Does in private will come to our
aid I fear the enemy will soon
take a advantage of this newly ploughed

field to sow his tares in. Mr. W.
calls "all this fuss about pennies &
memorials, soda water" which is
true, but until the angel had touched
the pool, its healing properties were
not name enough. The surface for us
to benefit by them. Now I don't like
to "step in" & deprive us of them
but long for some Wendell Phillips
to come while the agitation lasts &
proclaim the whole truth to the
eager multitude. A few weeks of
his labors amongst us would defeat
the machinations of ~~any~~ ^{the} pro-slavery
clergy to retain the English ecclesiastical
sanction that they have hitherto relied
upon.

This is a theme on which I
cannot help harping, & which I must
put forth to you & to all whom we
may meet at this crisis! & their words
their personal presence. & their words
of truth. I know you ^{will} think I am
overestimating the importance of our
little distant island to the cause, &

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say that there is a work of greater
magnitude for all your labors
in the immediate scene of action.
But I can't help looking from my
own "stand point," & after having
tried to pull down some barriers
to the triumph of antislavery prin-
ciples here, & seeing many others ^{roughly}
tottering & ready to fall I do long
to have the finishing stroke put by
a few living witnesses to that of
which we have affirmed. The
power & prestige of "Friends" is on
the wane; ^{rapidly} they no longer give the
tone & circumscribe the bounds
of antislavery activity; but the newly
aroused sympathizers "see men as
trees ^{looking} ~~standing~~" & are perpetually making
the most egregious blunders, which
Friends will catch hold of to shield
their own disgrace as long & as often
as they can. The Advocate will be

a great help, but it can hardly
travel fast enough for the unpre-
cedented demand. Scoble has
departed this ditto Bolton, & ac-
tually Broad St. has a secretary
who admires & desires to fraternize
with Mr G. Thompson, & an associate
editor of the Reporter who venerates
Mr Garrison! So at least it is
rumored, & there are symptoms of
amendment in the ~~best~~ No. for
Jan 9. How long Friends will let
it last remains to be seen. My
Father is investigating the matter
in London, & will doubtless let you
know the result. Application was
made by Mr Chesson the thorough
hearted associate editor for our
Society's reports & papers &c about
our separation; in his letter (which

was to Miss Matthews) after asking
you first, as to the extent of the
breach he enquires if it might
not be healed "now the evil genius
"of Broad St. has bolted" & his suc-
cessor is a man of a really different
spirit?" I doubt often whether you
with details of what is going on,
believing that you prefer keeping
out of the fray while you can avoid
taking part. But the present is a
somewhat remarkable time with
us, & if you know its leading features
you may give your voice in our
favor, if you have any part in in-
fluencing the movements of our Ame-
rican friends whom we would find
welcome to our shores at this season.
^{we sh^d} hail them for the cause's sake yet
more than for our own. If it should
add a feather's weight to your motive.

for repeating your visit to us or ^{going} to
any other English homes that your
presence would brighten & improve
I shall rejoice, tho' except as a state-
-ment of facts & of my own convic-
-tions of what would promote the
interests of the Cause, I know these
matters do not lie within my province
to discuss. You know my abiding
wish for you. I regret very much
my Aunt's inability to accept your
proffered hospitality at this time.
I wrote to her urging her to reconsider
before declining it, but she tells me
her strength is not equal to the journey
itself, & that she feels as if some
members of her family who are peculiarly
& painfully situated, might stand in
need of her presence. My private opinion
is, - but don't tell her so please - that
she would only make the effort she

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I would be greatly benefitted by the entire change, & that there is no time when her brother & his family could better get on without her than during the next "half-year"; & that she would return to any arduous duties that may await her with much greater power of accomplishing them satisfactorily to herself. She has not however quite the requisite energy for such a step I fear. My Father declares that she never would have gone to Paris if the Coup d'Etat had not taken place for her ostensible hindrance. All this is untrue now. It seems to me as if your numerous English friends treated your tempting invitations much as the horse & the ass & the bee in the fable did the

sportive boy. I am not extending
the simile to you & the boy, but
we matter of fact business folks
seem very ungraciously heedless
of allurements to turning aside
from our proscribed path. Miss
Monticau tells me she is in-
cluded in your generous designs,
& she theorizes on your overlooking
the obstacles to pleasure-seeking
which public literary undertakings
of daily ~~raising the~~ recurrence
present. Will I trust we may yet
meet on common ground where
pleasure & business may be combined.
Miss Monticau holds out a hope
of our seeing her here in the spring.
How I long for you to have another
meeting with our Committee now
that they have attained their perfect

stature, & for them to introduce
you to their new allies. They have
long since finished their education.
Some have outstripped their teachers,
tho' they don't ~~praise~~ own to such
proficiency. It is pleasant to
have no anxiety about them
but to find every fresh recruit,
falling naturally into the right
track. There is one who I know
would be your heart's delight, Miss
Pugh dwells upon her - a Miss Chick
a great friend of former school fellows
of Fanny Seaton's - A young lady
with considerable ability & leisure,
an inviol'd, ~~but~~ a reader, thinker, &
ready writer, one who finds the Cause
fill up a long felt void, & open a
sphere of useful action. To her ~~many~~
energy. We have a great contrast

in Miss Leonard the Secretary. She
is a steady, silent, methodical,
undemonstrative person, but
always goes right, & does off-hand
what has to be done, in the most
"perfunctory" manner, but Quincy
would say. Mr. Libe continues
the star of the group, & a "terrible
evil doer". How I wish writing
didn't hurt me ^{at} time ^{for} it, then
I might describe the industry of
the Quakers &c. about this memo-
signing affair. They are so pleased
at the opportunity of appearing on
the field where all is glory or
"controversy" or disgrace, how they
take to themselves the whole credit
of the Shaftesbury movement, being
following in the wake of the aristocracy,
they put forth this slightly amended
Address!! And in Bristol the Friends

4. look with such fear & trembling
at our little Society, wish they
could keep aloof, yet are forced
to defer to us & invite our co-ope-
ration to have appearances.
This ^{is} a good thing, for some who
dreaded us on hearsay find when
we come face to face that we
are very sober, practical, good tem-
pered people, & some we think will
not be in a hurry to part com-
pany. The whole town is being
briskly canvassed, & many new
workers are solicitous of more light.
There was a great meeting of ladies
to arrange the taking of districts, at
which a few gentlemen were present
by invitation. Two church clergymen
& two lay-men of the same faith, a Unitarian
a Quaker, & two Independents were
selected, & a funny party they were.

Still they were all warm in the
matter & the presiding Clergyman
came out so strongly for immediate
Emancipation that we gave only
slight allusions to the "five six" &
"a lady like work" at which Miss
Leonard grieved audibly. There
were about 120 ladies present.

You will see in the printed paper
I have put up the course that is
being pursued, & how we as a Committee
treated the matter. Among the
hords of letters of enquiry about various
A.S. topics I have tried to select a
few that would give you a little
notion of the 'aspects of the Cause'
& the shades of darkness respecting it
which exist in different localities.
But the result is not successful,
for the letters which are most interesting
& most explanatory cannot be

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spared, as I need them to show
to those ^{parties} who are in the field. The
few I enclose are but a sort of
scum which you may not think
worth looking thro', with the exception
of some characteristic ones from
Mrs Tribe, & Miss Chick whom I
wish to introduce to you. Will you
save those for me, some opportunity
of returning them may arise. When
there is a speedy one I shall send a
striking ^{letter} one from Mr G. Dawson
of Birmingham (she was Susan
Fanny Crompton) & from Mr ^{others} Hap-
& Miss Wigham. Mr G. Dawson,
who has paid but slight attention to
the subject, being much engrossed in
schools, &c. &c. says "What about
"F. Douglass & Rochester Bazaar, &
"Boston partisanship? I do wish
"people wouldn't quarrel over ^{straws}

"when there is such a quantity of
corn to be cut & carried. If you
know Julia Griffiths I have
only to say. I do too! But it is
of no use for me to say that to
Mr Edmund Sturge when she comes
with her cat-like quaker-velvet
tongue & tells me Julia & Fred. Douglass
send things to Boston Bazaar but
Boston people won't or at least
don't help Julia. What is this about?"
~~Garrison collected~~ I did not
like Garrison's speeches here in England
-perhaps I sh^d. say his words, his
collected writings strike me as
very scanty of facts & suggestions
to deeds, they are chiefly epithets,
all very well in their way, but usually
lumber when work is to be done,
& worse than lumber where prejudice

is to be conquered. I fell in love
with Mrs Chapman and can say
tho' I laugh at her Woman's Rights
women companion in arms.
So that in my doubts as to whether
Garrison with all his real worth
thurdy doing is not doing wisely
to his own cause. I'm certainly
that Julia Griffiths wd weary and
the most determined of believers
I am in a cleft stick."

So she goes on I only quote this as
typical of a very large class who
oral instruction would soon
set right. You will see how hopeless
it is to us with our very limited writing
powers to give the needed light, but
people's minds are open to conviction
their prejudices throwing, & the whole
movement is undermining Victorian

exclusiveness would destroy. I would
to answer your sweet letter which
I have not dared to touch upon
lest strength should fail for expression.
You do so exactly express my sen-
timents about "Uncle Tom". I
never read a word about slavery
except as a disagreeable duty,
therefore could only enjoy & give
thanks for the book as an instu-
ment for penetrating where un-
adorned truth could find no ac-
ceptance. But I do rejoice in it. The Times
states that Mr. Stowe has accepted
an invitation to make a progrès
thro' England. You must come
watch her triumphal course.

The explanation in No. 1 of the
advocate has quite satisfied those
who were disturbed by its very uncal-
culated "definition of its position", which
was calculated to convey a false im-
pression.

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6. The "explanation" (which is not
our wording) means to me, & to all
whom it may concern, that much
as we admire & reverence the Disunion
Abol^{ts} we are not going to be dictated
to even by them, that the doings
of voters as well as non voters will
be recognized & reported, & that our
columns will be as open to the
honest ones in their ranks as
to any others, provided they don't
enter upon the discussion of a
question ^{with} which we are not called
on to intermeddle. We can act
ecclesiastically & morally, but
not politically, so except as a
simple fact in ^{the} history ^{of the movement,} it is not
our concern. Some readers of the
Advocate think Disunion doctrine
sound, others very foolish, & so do
some of its supporters. Now I must

break off, - the theme on which
I have entered being interminable
So is one to which you tempt me
by the remarks you make on
y^r "maternal duties." To them
I have the fullest accordance,
only it seems such a matter of course
to admit them that I sh^d as much
think of writing to you a grave
apertion that dissenters were as
much entitled to state privileges
as members of the establishment,
if tested by their intelligence or
their moral worth, ^{or to tell you} ~~that~~ many
artisans were endowed with superi^{or}
talents to those of the wealthy owners
of country manors. There will always
be an interested class trying to
prove the reverse ^{in order} ~~to~~ maintain
their own ascendancy, but that
doesn't make liberal minded

people admit their claims.
I discovered very early in my youth
that the duties of the presiding
genius of a household were more
arduous, demanding far more
vigilance & variety of powers than
those which devolve upon the
pursuer of any profession; duties
in a straight line where every
blow tells perceptibly ^{are} always
comparatively easy, & other things
are made to give way before them.
It was not without many a
sigh that I resigned myself to
abandon my cherished hopes
of bringing some one attainment
to a certain amount of perfection,
but it was clear that filling up chinks
& supplying wanting links here &
there & distributing time & strength

thoughts were my "inferior"
as they are of the majority of the
sex. This is no admission of
inferiority but exactly the reverse.
I don't believe one man in a
hundred ~~thinks~~ holds the doctrine
in sincerity. I always used ^{in childhood} to think
men were secondary, or almost
supernumeraries, in a family,
tho' very well at their proper post,
but that the woman was independent, & that
this of course was the class not indi-
viduals. That much abused
"woman" question will, I am per-
suaded, never be comprehended
in this country, for the simple reason
that the oppressions of the sex are
so merged in those where men &
their fellow sufferers as to be scarcely
perceptible except to individuals whose
attention is directed to them by some
special grievance. We suffer here
so much more as dissenters, as

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towns people, as untitled, as
destitute of landed property, or
^{from} some other social inequality than
as women, that people will laugh
for ever at the American Women's
Rights Conventions who ^{are} passed
fine sounding resolutions to
assert that they ^{women} are rational
responsible ~~and~~ agents. Much
orange outrage, or Hottentots! Such
seems the substance of their deli-
berations as the echo is wafted
to our ^{plodding, conservative} sober, ^{hemd-w.} by-conventionality
realm. I find very few people who
are aware that with you all white
men are on a legal equality & that
consequently our class restrictions,
religious disabilities, landed property
monopolies &c. & all the host of
oppressions under which we

grow & resolve themselves
with you into distinctions of
sex or of color. If the English
public had this key to the enigma
they would be a little more merciful
to the transatlantic Amazons
as they suppose all the Advocates
of Woman's Rights to be. Still the
latter do give us plenty of provocation
& there is no convincing us of their
wisdom, in running in the face
of conventional notions & usages
by way of reforming them, & exciting
prejudice as the way to remove
it. But I have actually unboarded
my mind at your expense till I
feel tempted to end this effusion
in quest of the interesting one of which
you cheated me. Good bye for the
present. With much love to yr quartette
I ever affec^t & grateful
Mary Estlin.

Did I tell you of my Father's having
received a letter from Mrs Richard^{son}
boasting of the success of her scheme
for carrying on the Levant "Savannah
Trade" while admitting that the
individuals over whom she had
sentimentalized were not to be
found? She made an excuse
for writing, of enquiring Mr Horace
Main's address! And my Father
coolly replied he did not know
his residence, & thought she
had involved herself in a dilemma
by raising money on false pretences.
The resolutions of the Philadelphia
Convention will make her very
rabid. I fear she will stir up Friends

to make England too high to hold
his Pugh. Our Committee has
the greatest contempt for Mr R.
Their "strong language" amuses me.
There is a curious medley in a
Report of an A. S. Meeting just held
in Dundee (Scotland.) A speaker
does justice to Mr Garrison, & thinks
his religious opinions are sound.
This if not it is no business of ours,
but he mourns that he sh^d be un-
avoidably associated with such well
known Pantheists & Rationalists
as P. Pillsbury, J. Parker, & Wendell
Phillips! How can any but living
voices set these misguided souls right.
The same speaker wishes to sympathize
with both A. S. Societies in America, & Mr
Garrison & Mr Chapman a down one
& F. Douglass & Mr Lowe the other he
is sure they cannot be really at variance.
There are meetings all over the country now
where is the work of doctrine they hear.

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A note from my Father with the "latest
intelligence from ^{London &} Broad St." says

"To day I have seen Isaac Diez, Mr Grant,
"Mr Chamberlain (the new editor of the
"Reporter) - Messrs Chepman & Bolton. Long
"talk at 87 Broad St. with Mr Chepman: he
"drinks tea with me to night.

I am hopeful about the new Secretary -
"He will commence the Advocate!!"
"Who is expected that from Broad St?"
"Isaac Diez says he sat up till 1 o'cl this morn-
"ing reading the Ed. Matthews controversy wth J. C. [unclear]"

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