

All's well.

Poplar St. Jan 9. 1849.

Dear Caroline 'The longest day comes to the vesper hour.' It is finished. The Fair is over! The receipts are \$3151.32. That is good for a minute before the clock has been sold, a sundry little debt paid for which may make it a little more. We are living & are just living. we have now so bad & I may say dangerous a time that we have unanimously resolved that we will never hold another. I mean under those circumstances. No house of our own is enough to that knowledge. I came in this almost a fortnight before the Fair & staid at Remond's. You know how far that is. & how much running there was to do. I made all the use of our busses, running it down a carriage or carriage. But I could not find one all the time. The glass you had brought, Petit, Dublin & Leeds boxes arrived the 20th Dec. They were got directly thru' the Custom House by old Mr. Tracy who has returned like an angel from out. But they could not be expected to favour Hale because that way to be used for a young man's lamp base. They will be carried then the Thursday before the Fair & I would give no time to mark them, but the advertisements for the Liberator must be written before those. So dear Bros. Tracy & I finally settled that the boxes should be carried to his Master's home in State St., & on Sunday afternoon, as the clerks would also be there on a week day, Emma & I should meet him & his wife in the hotel of the Old South & from there proceed to the shop & look up the name of Mr. Tracy to write the notice. So Emma came in the morning to inform me of this, where she & Anna were, & Sunday came. She was very violent when we started but we found Sam & his wife in the porch, not in childishly high spirits at the thought of us & a couple of old men knew nothing of all this. We tapped at the door & Fred said, the other companion replied & we were admitted. We staid the whole afternoon & looked over all the boxes. When we came away about dark it was pouring like a shower but we had to fort it, for of course, I came and took the charge of a Sunday afternoon to send a carriage to him further, & when Emma & I came back Poplar St. goss, Peter cross & Rogers, every thing had to come off. Unfortunate we did not take cold & that I was to spend & worn out that it was the finish of my hair. I was to wear out the next day when Deborah came in & said that she was frightened to death almost. I did not look all fagged out & ugly, but had assumed the odd & appearance of giddiness & delirium; my eyes as big as marbles, & thick streaks under them. I was to work I could scarcely stand, could eat nothing, & could hardly go to sleep at all & my mind & all my mental powers in the most active & excited state. The quickness of my thinking power was increased that I really felt afraid I might be going to have an attack of hysteria. You need not think

that all this time I had not my wife perfectly about me, &
you who with much working & constant exertion & being
very unwell I suppose my whole nervous system was greatly
deranged. The moment Deborah arrived I gave up all I could.
It was on Tuesday 12th that I wrote to you, & tho' I was very mis-
erable when I wrote, I thought it best to say nothing about
it. The next morning came Tom Lovell to tell me that Mrs Ford
was dead, and requested that either Wendell or Mr May speak
at her funeral & that Mr Ford wished me to see about it. Poor Mrs F.
suffered a great deal at the last, but preserved her spirits & calmness.
& had not intended to go at, but so conjured I went over with Lovell to
the office & it was arranged that Mr May & I should go down on
Thursday as far as Quincy, since there a wagon should be waiting to
take us over to old Spain. I felt that I owed this to poor dear Mrs
Ford. I believe I wrote you that I went to see her before I left very
much & we took a tender leave of each other. Thursday was the day ap-
pointed at Franklin Hall for the meeting to begin, & it was very
inconvenient work for Bro May & myself to be gone, but I believe
it a sufficient duty for us both to go. It was a very immense funeral.
Out of compliment to her father & mother who are still living
over to the Smithson Bark River made the prayer. A ^{young} man
that one or two of the Emery's church (from which ^{you} know she was ex-
communicated) had selected an hymn beginning "Why shew our tears
in vain full, when God reveals his face". Mr May then made a
long & most excellent address in which he described the whole
course. Very many of the church must have been present
but I suppose they bore it as well as they could. Both Albert &
his children behaved beautifully. They were deeply in sleep
mourning, & the whole house had the same hue, caused for
work that Mr Ford surely used to give it. Many of the friends
were down from the Lansing, & out with the Richards,
and Remond walked. Mr May & I don't remember as said at the
levels. When I reached Poplar St at night, I found that L. & C. had
arrived to take up their abode in town. They had marked
several boxes at the Hall. The people present were Mr Living
Anna & Ridgway, Mrs May the younger, & Deborah. L. & C. These
carried their dinner & stand at the Hall all day. The next
day it was pouring of rain, but we all went up. The same
people with the addition of Edmund who came & helped very
well. Here our quiet trouble began. Mr May fought every
step above the meeting. He struggled to give away every
thing & worse privately clothed up a thing & mark it posture
very very a worse. We resisted & struggled & Mr Living did very
well, but it is hard to fight over every article. The Glasgow

things were very beautiful, by themselves valued at £. 16.9-1-10
There was not as many as some years, but very handsome
Elden mayt also very handsome. Both old very well indeed.
There was little or no truck. Laces was very beautiful. Blend is the
new lace. Beautiful little covers. Every bright coloured thing Mrs
May resolved should be given away, & as there was good for
showing them off to start, we hated to part with her. A most beauti-
ful of day apron black satin with dark blue pattern most curiously
laid in to the front face & worth \$6. Mrs M. continue to make
\$1. Deborah met with it, & all in a hurry altered it to \$4. Mrs
Runcie carried it home to her sister Marion who swapped at it
as the greatest bargain she ever saw, Mrs R. remonstrating herself
that she had not put it up to \$6 because This is a specimen.
The Dublin things were not much. There were beautiful
shaws from Kiriadry & £28^{worth} from E. Pease. Sarah Cogan sent
pretty things & so did the Gildithes, tho' not so many as before.
At night we were home wearied enough the walking not
measured. That night I ~~wrote~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~end~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~letter~~
~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~mother~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Middleton~~ ~~children~~, for
I thought I had done enough ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~children~~. I pointed down
Hindfold ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~children~~, but had such
a head ache & ~~had~~ ~~to~~ ~~get~~ ~~the~~ ~~children~~ ~~that~~ all the next
day I could not sit up a minute. Not even my Deborah &
had been invited to go with Mr Chandler & her return
to her Anna Bicks. We in were in my place & they
had a good time. All day Sunday & Monday I was as careful
of myself as to touch ~~any~~ ~~china~~. But I could not eat
at all. Any thing but tea & cake brought on the table &
dinner. Mean time all the country friends had done wonders
in the way of green. Plenty was brought. Farmer John Kerr, Stone
ham & Reading came generously up to the work. The holloway
was come in & with all four & no dogs could work hard.
A deer boy went to of Salem did every thing Taylor was very
good & very amiable. Tuesday noon, the horse was nearly dead.
In a much greater state of found up than any previous year.
I took a carriage & went once, the Ark box which arrived
in a Carter Steamer and the Bridgewater box which came
via N.Y. were in the Refreshment room being marked.
Merchants May G. Runcie & D. Living were then marking.
all our folks was of course doing a million of things in the
house. I sat down & tried to help but it was dead fine cold there,

I felt I did not know it that I had best go back and speak to Glasgow Take. I felt so ill & we seemed to have landed there after trying what I could, I had to abandon the things to the fate. Mrs Russell & Loraine wished to do just right but Mrs Sam seized the wrong reins & went thundering down the hill. It was no use to try any thing to her, for of good set purpose she was resolved to have her way, & we all felt desirous with Sam laying down as it were his life not to fight. Well, the horses were all arranged & every thing looked beautiful. Mrs Smith came in full of life & mirth. The carriages arrived. Nancy Sam from Nancy brought a bonnet of her own making. No N. H. people were in any capacity save poor Franklin who was up for one day. Nam, and Maria & Sarah staid at Mrs Parko's. I only sent her by the first bat as Mrs P. asked for some I sent the other. Well, the Fair morning dawned. I had been very poorly all night. Nevertheless I rose & depred & rode to the Hall. But had hardly got there when I was taken so poorly (the same old complaint) & was so cold & sick at the stomach that I could not stay a minute longer. I delivered up the little to Mr. George Russell & Mrs May & got into the fair carriage that could be found & rode home. I went to bed & was not up again that day. Thursday, I was better, but as to least exertion, or even taking any thing appeared to hurt me I staid at home the two next days. Saturday, Maria I ventured over & sold & worked all day & staid fit pretty well. Sunday, of course I rested. Monday I went again & worked hard all day; was poorly again at night & had to stay at home all day Tuesday. The last 4 days I was able to stand to it for the riding now, albeit the making of the Bristol Box which was not got one of the custom houses till the last part of the Fair nearly upset me again. I did nothing at all above cleaning up. Deborah has had the whole brunt of that. Indeed she has had the brunt of a great deal. Almost all the ordering & over looking which I was alone to manage that I never hardly get the hang of. Mr. L. E. Mrs Lorine, Ridg, Lucretia & Susan, May, Taylor & Jacobs were at work at the Hall all day Sunday & all but Mrs Lorine & Ridg have been there to day. And all is cleaned up & settled. It is probable I think that the expenses will be less than they were last year. The advertising will be only \$40. & I dare say the debts will be rather less. Now I will explain as well as I can, the most prominent reason why we lost

left them last year. First the non arrival of the hom^l boxes, was
a great injury & I thought it gave right to complain & Maria's account
of the facts did not prove the facts. I had little hope of their
arrival, and afterwards when it was known by other means that the W.M.
had not come till 6 days later than for suppose, I gave it up entirely.
But the people behaved extremely well about it, following my instructions
in every thing, but they forgot to inform me of the same and for that
I am sorry to get lost. In particular as to the people kept back
their money, trying to keep the things it would deserve. I & his
wife never kept back more than a £100 & the others by the time of the play and day
arrived all others had been sent to him & he had nearly only two good days in all
so as to do his best. He had nearly only two good days in all
so as to do his best. Both those days passed weekly I & Mrs. Robins was of course
a great help. Few as my knowledge was, say. Help not but let it look
desirable & when strong to keep the general & no sight of the
box & the card will not take a thing. It also respects us, regarding
help we were nervous but handled it so well the repairs were
done by Mr. & Mrs. Robins & Madam May & Mrs. Robins & in
the behaved perfectly & said themselves perfectly reasonable
on the other, but Mrs. May is what has in Luton still with
the took better care. At the last gone with you will come
to see if Mrs. Robins will see to part of the cost. They & their
poor people, but so many of the things were so bad
I think that we must have lost a good deal. I suppose
Mrs. Robins took her full reward & as Mrs. Robins did the
most of the work of last year she may know what she
did. I do not because she was there then. She did her best
during a month of misfortune given there would probably you
find them very kind. It is a fact these people are about
giving away things in the shape & there was a reason for
the doing the price a little, but to much was given off the
Sciz and Cost. Think to go to your desire & expenses and I
will give you the bill to know its true. Louise from
there, has behaved well except however I have all think
of giving back the quarter less. At the Duxbury hotel
I think it did not even by half. I told the manager of
the hotel as thoroughly corrupted by old Mrs. Robins where she had
her place working for the both of us when coming over. House &
bed and board for the both of us. We got up to £1. B.
and I had the best gift sake will I hope yet be fit to go to the old Mrs. Robins
with the jointed & never come again. He should always be
at her elbow. And Mrs. Robins old Mrs. Robins will be
bad been set aside & should be seen after the money & banking
and done so far as can be done. So the old Mrs. Robins
that she gained any body but themselves for the arrangements
was never an elegant one than the one brought at the fair, for

A week, no ten days & then would come & park out an elegant
estate there & say he believed she would change it & part the estate
to us. Therefore I had said come & worked & behaved like a lady.
The South visitors were there less than & even good wife Sarah
on paring herself at one of the best tables, said she did not
think there was as any thing there that any body would wish
to say. The German ladies behaved sweetly. Not a soul in Duxbury
would help them & they got up the little all themselves. Mrs. Wayman
had the & said & a Miss Chase of Worcester behaved well.
The ladies came & brought a nice table & behaved very well too.
Mrs. C. had 22 forks of nice cake & 30 minie pies. There
was a good round table & the girls did well. I cant say I admire
the new fash' noise. The (Mrs B) was there too, & I dont know
that they gave away things, & I dont know but they did. But I
know the things were amazingly
expensive all. I know the things were amazingly
dear. So, there is enough for a good Worcester fair which
they expect to get in us. Much fewer people were in, so perhaps
the things were not so well & the money made on them, as easily.
The first day of the fair was taken at the door. Lots of the folk
had to leave. No refreshment was taken at the door. Lots of the folk
had to leave. Some stayed away, but a good many done who done
what they could. Here Lucia takes the pen, my hand is lame I can
hurriedly hold it. There was the most friendly feelings shown by all
the people. I will enumerate some of the new people that came,
in the first place Mary Robbins got her friends completely under. The
first day of the fair down came Mrs. Annie and her daughter and
brought for themselves and the Springs well on top & work. Aunt
Margaret bought \$7 and at last stole away from her family and
came to the ball herself. She wished Maria to know partly nearly
that she had been. The last day of the fair my astonishment was great
to see a fat gentle man come in whom I thought to be Dr Robbins
arrived. Mary found the refreshment room and told her my suspicion
she thought I might be mistaken, for she had begged him not come to
the ball every morning but he had always declined, but there was no
doubt of him where he was at the book table and Emma dealing
with him he brought the Swain of New Bedford with him, Mary
had not lost out of her senses. He made every Neston of us all pass
before him. He dr was very weak and tender, & had never rec'd
such friends before. He behaved well spoke affectionately of Maria,
though he supposed her absence made it easy for him to come, and
brought up the work of his Toxy of summer & and her children came and
all well and behaved well. Mrs. Borland, Mrs. J. R. Mills, Mrs
Rollins, Mrs. Thaxter,

He did not have to say apprehension nearly as handsome a book
table as we had last year, but nobody seemed to find it out. Maria
canton china served us from disgrace it was a feature and sold
well and used the means of selling the other things. our hearts were
very much down when we came to see how few curious and pretty
things we had, but we kept dark, said nothing about it, put a good
face on it, and actually made more by nearly a hundred dollars
than we did last year. we marked our own things that is Emma and
I, put on our own prices and got the money, but being obliged to do this
we could not of course help very much in marking the things for
the other tables. Richard Webb's paper was exquisite, and sold beautifully,
he sent portfolios, blotting books, drawing books, little memorandum books,
paper card cases, and a great many of them, and this all sold. We made
over \$800. The Loring's have done every thing for us, have been very kind
appeared to have ~~cheerful~~ compassion for us, and were tried
to serve us in every way they could. Anna has given to Emma for
a New Years gift a very pretty ^{tiny} turquoise and pearls. She has given
me a beautiful ring & large pink topaz set round with pearls. Tell
this to Harry, Henry and Hanchy. The richest things kept happening
all the time of the fair, that I suppose you will never know unless
you get it from Emma. Among many other incidents ~~they~~ ^{the} thing
that amused me the most, ^{made} and fit to roll on the floor was
Miss Tufts raffle of a bedquilt which strange to say was drawn,
by, who do you think? Mrs De Grego! During the fair a dreadful
thing happened. George B Emerson's son shot himself, it is said,
that his has been in a melancholy way for some time, he
blew his brains out in his own chamber. Jan 2. we had speaking
the last 6 nights, we it was all as good as it could be save the
first evening when W.L.G. & Willy Bowditch spoke. Wendell was, for
such a speaker to speak tho' he intended to be one point off.
He had no disagreeable thing about it. May 8 I had selected, there
was rather a dearth of speakers to ask. J. F. Clarke. He did & Clarke
accepted. In the mean time the Female Emancipation Soc. got up a
free love party, trying to mix themselves up with this set of
people, & Clarke spoke there. After which I did not wish him to speak
for us, I gave May some advice whereby by the interlocutor. Of
other speakers, he might avoid him. I would have managed
May well enough, but his wife who seems to be a personal
friend of Clarke was so resolute, & close at May's ear working
him up that I could do nothing without very much hurting
his feelings who had most laid down his life for the Fair & having
a wife not weak with her. I saw at once that I was a fool to

have asked him at all, but often he was asked, I perceive an outbreak word or harm, as down his feelings would have been hurt & some other w^t I let it go on, seeing how that I did not want Mr. Clarke ever banished from with none of us. Upon Oct^o 1st A. & Channing had spoken, he made a poor twaddling little speech. I told him if he wished to preserve Clarke with a place by his side, to do so that I did not wish to myself, but he could. And said that Clarke had never heard of the Ball or their capers. So Ed told me suppose he had, but my mind revolved upon finding an opportunity to say to a man wh^t he just been speaking for them & that I desired to be said know above New Eng. However nothing been any thing of our struggle, for it is a publick feeling that I dare not say nothing of the disgrace of the occasion. Parker Clark and others for some reason or other H. C. Wright and Pittsburg spoke & Abby Kelly & Lucy Stone. - I too give your services consideration & I do not see that with Emma gone we could hold a fair without risk of losing lives. I long to stop it to be up with the foes, & friends, etc. The world it must be well to propose to Glasgow or even Wright to hold the next year's Fair there & we to send them things. I cannot & dare not take the lead again, & I shan't be frightened to do it alone in struggling alone. I have written principally about my own experience but I wish you had seen the nights passed by us & the rest of the family. Deliberating all over & laying eyes upon her & Emma lying awake! most wonderful of all. For it is just now like the third time May, for she has been sick a good & does like a fair tired as she is may come forward & offer to help it. If so, why she may & I will give what help I can, & the next part of help that other folks give, but I have a feeling that we will have help & serve us there is no harm, it would be better to do it. There was more help on the ground before we had another. Now ever write mind & express your mind, for it would be remiss of the May Convention to have our list of names resolved upon. Maria might sound Jane Wixson, as the person that first suggested having one. but of course the next year & will be in Europe. 12 will be living in the country with no town houses. 11 live in Boston, 3 of which have no houses, Miss Wiley, Miss Taft, Mrs. Hale & Mrs. Garrison & Mrs. Phillips and of course do nothing - that leaves Mrs. May, Misses Sargent and Mrs. Palmer (who was Harriet Jackson, who was married during the Fair at N.Y. at J. Upper's house, Palmer being his grandson) & the day people who really have a house to work in or can do any thing. & with them three Catharine & Henrietta have done more for us than any one can ask or even think. They have stood by us in sickness & in health & done & struggled that we should have every thing easy, have kept a fire in our chamber been willing to sit up for us & have all the little, fuss & confusion necessary of a Fair. No words can tell their kindness & generosity. But I really feel unwilling to Catharine's time of life that she should be such a charge & a burden to us in the house. However think over all these things & see what kind list be done. None nearer nor arrived at N.Y. or I see the Europa is