

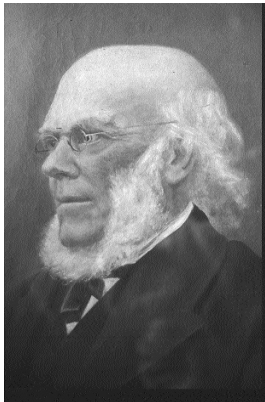
Richard D. Webb, Dublin-based Reformer

Richard Webb, a publisher and prominent 19th century abolitionist based in Dublin, founded the Hibernian Antislavery Association with James Haughton and Richard Allen. He, Allen and Daniel O'Connell, the first MP (Member of Parliament) from Ireland, represented Ireland at the 1840 Anti-Slavery Convention and at the 1846 World Convention on Temperance. Both meetings were held in London.

Webb scheduled Frederick Douglass' speaking engagements during his Irish tour. Douglass landed in Ireland August 31, 1845, before moving on to other spots in the U.K.

Webb organized the printing of The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. According to a WIKI entry, Douglass earned as much as 750 pounds sterling from "a single print run." He also served as a editor and publisher for Wright.

Webb authored one book of note, The Life and Letters of Captain John Brown. He was born in 1805 and died in 1872.



This 1845 letter from Webb reveals a humanist streak coupled with an abiding contempt for the "peculiar institution," particularly as it existed in the United States. He commends Wright's anti-slavery articles and pamphlets. He also offers editorial advice on one of Wright's pamphlets, mentioning he has the manuscript ready for print.

The pamphlet condemns the Free Church and calls for dissolution of the Union (U.S.).(A controversy arose in the British Isles after the Free Church of Scotland accepted donations from U.S. churches with congregants who were slave owners.)

During the years Wright stayed in the British Isles, Webb was his publisher. Webb published Defensive War, another of Wright's many written works.

Dublin 9th of Nov. 1845

Sunday morning

Dear Henry

I read your pamphlet through last evening, and I consider it one of the very best in the whole range of Anti Slavery literature. It is full of facts as an egg is full of heat, and if we can only get people to read it and to digest it after having read it, it'll do a great deal of good. I always maintain that it is the interest of the whole world that American Slavery, above all other slavery, should be abolished. It is impossible that Christianity & Liberty can prosper in the world whilst such a great and powerful people as those of the United States make slavery, as they do, the corner stone of their republican edifice. There cannot be a clearer case than we have made out for the duty of the moral interference of all honest men, with a view to the overthrow of a Union which can only be maintained by holding three million in slavery who have as good a right to the blessings and enjoyment of life, intellectual light, and personal liberty as we have ourselves. It is now [illegible]__ and our committee do not meet till Wednesday __ nor would it be an easy matter to call them together before that day. I have no doubt however that they will cheerfully vote a contribution towards the public ...caution of the pamphlet.... I greatly regret that the type is so small and so crowded. It will not be read by half the number who would read it if in a more attractive & reasonable shape. It is a task to get through so much small eye killing type, printed on such wretched blue paper. For the sake of 1000 copies you may as well let us have tolerable paper – yellow and gold. It will relieve the painfulness of the small print. It should always be remembered by the writers and promoters of such effusions as this one that the great majority must be induced by every means to read what we think so interesting and important. Ignorance and Apathy are terrible and corrupting when we reflect on the amount of wickedness they protect. Oh! For a voice of thunder to dissipate them that blister for Dr. Chalmers, Candish, & Cunningham is just what I like and they deserve. The change of Slaveholder & Slavery into Manstealer and Man Stealing was a happy idea and cannot fail to awake attention. I never felt more thoroughly than I now do the minions influence on the popular ceremonial ideas of religion __ so distinct from the love of justice and mercy, from upright living & common honesty.

I am now at James Haughton's. I walked up here with vitality initially. [He is] going to meet us'... He has no doubt that our Committee will pass a vote for as much or for more than you ask. We would be glad if the name of our society were on the title article as the name of the Glasgow Society. I return the title and last page with some corrections as to the display.... Which I am sure would be of great value to the look of the pamphlet. Make __ The Dissolution – The American Union -- Chalmers,

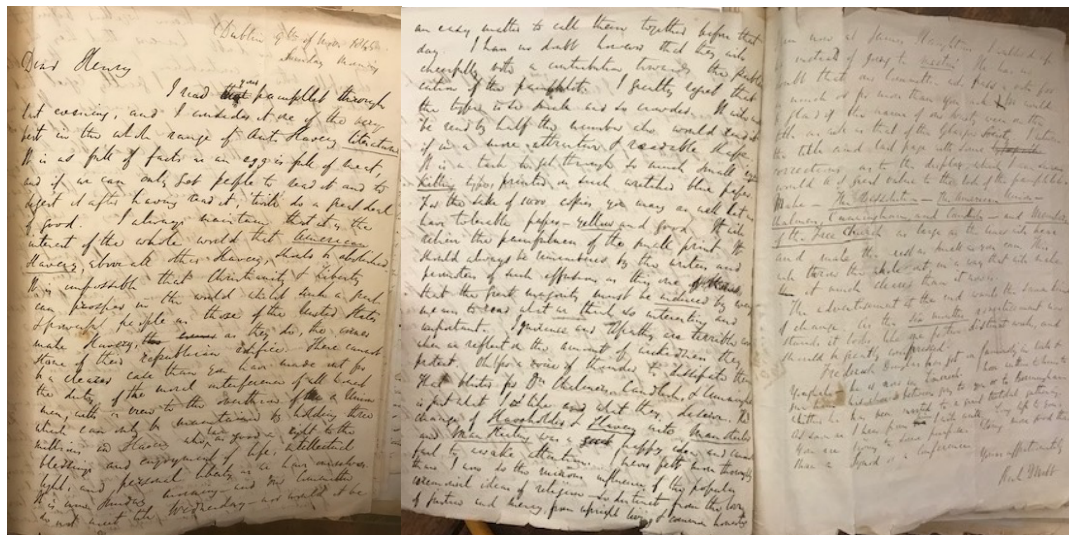
Cunningham, and Candish – and Members of the Free Church as large as the lines will bear and make the rest as small as you can. This will throw the whole out, in a way that will make it much clearer than it now is.

The advertisement at the end wants the same kind of change, as the [Sir] matter advertisement now stands it looks like one ...or... two distinct works, and should be greatly compressed.

Frederick Douglass has got on famously in Cork & [illegible] ___ he is now in Limerick. I have written to him to give him his choice between going to you or to Birmingham whither he has been invited to a great [illegible] gathering. As soon as I hear from him I will write. Live life to ever [illegible] You are living to divine purpose. Doing more good than a Synod or a Conference

Yours affectionately

Rich D Webb



The letter below concerns one of Wright's pamphlets and the frontispiece for the Irish edition of Frederick Douglass' The Narrative of the Live of Frederick Douglass. Webb edited works he had under contract for publication, including Wright's and Douglass'. At the time Webb wrote this letter, he knew Douglass did not like the portrait of himself at the front of the British Isles edition of his book. The portrait was printed from an engraving by Henry Adlard.

In January 1846, Douglass wrote Webb saying, "You asked my opinion of the portrait. I gave it, and still adhere to it...I am displeased with it.. I am certain {sic} the engraving is not as good as the original portrait."

Adlard, a highly regarded engraver, was prolific. His works hang in museums in the U.K. and U.S., including London's National and National Portrait Galleries.

Dublin 26/May/ 1846

Dear Henry

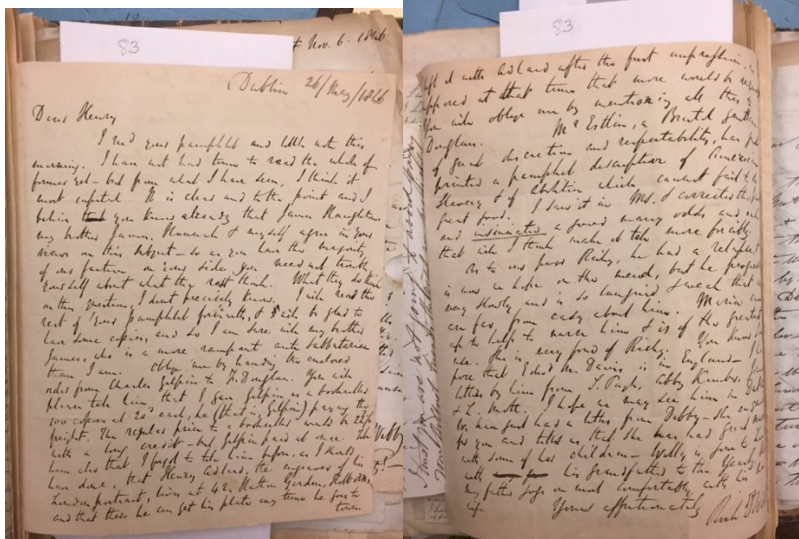
I recd your pamphlet and little note this morning. I have not had time to read the whole of former yet _ but from what I have seen, I think it most capital. It is most clear and to the point and I believe ~~that~~ you know already that James Haughton, my brother James, Hannah & myself agree in every vein on this subject _ so as you have the majority of our faction on beside you. Need not trouble yourself about what the rest think. What they do think on this question, I don't precisely know. I will read the rest of the pamphlet forthwith, & will be glad to have some copies, and so I am sure will my brother James, who is a more rampant anti Sabbatarian than I am. Oblige me by handing the enclosed order from Charles Gilpin to F. Douglass. You will please tell him that I gave Gilpin as a bookseller 100 copies at 20' each, he (that is Gilpin) paying the freight. The regular price to a bookseller would be 22' with a long credit _ but Gilpin paid at once. Tell him also that I forgot to tell him before, as I should have done, that Henry Adlard, the engraver of his London portrait, lives at 42, Hatton Garden, Holborn, and that there he can get his plate any time he goes to town. I left it with Adlard after the first impression as I opined at that time that more would be required You will oblige me by mention all this to Douglass.

M` Estlin, a Bristol gentleman of great discretion and respectability, has just printed a pamphlet descriptive of American Slavery & of Abolition which cannot fail to do great good. I saw it in Ms. & corrected the proofs and insinuated a good many odds and ends that will I think make it tell more forcibly.

As to our friend Ricky, he had a relapse, & is now we hope on the mend, but he progresses very slowly and is so confined & weak that we are far from easy about him. Maria came up to help to nurse him & is of the greatest use. She is very fond of Ricky. You know I suppose that I [illegible] Mr. Davis is in England _ I had letters by him from S. Pugh, Abby Kimber, James & L. Mott. I hope we may see him in Dublin. We have just had a letter from Debby _ she enquires for you and told us that she has had great hardship with some of her children _ Willy is gone to London with his grandfather to the Yearly Meeting my father jogs on most comfortably with his new wife

Yours affectionately

Rich D Webb



The following letter from Webb pertains to anti-slavery advocate George Thompson "G.T.," a Member of Parliament, who visited the United States on a number of occasions, and to the esteemed American abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, "WLG." The chief matter of concern is travel schedules; he wants Wright to encourage Garrison to pay a visit to London. In this way Garrison can meet a larger number of English, Irish and Scottish abolitionists gathered there in advance of a Temperance Convention.

Dublin 23rd of July 1846

Dear Henry

In 5 or 6 days at farthest Garrison will be in Liverpool and you will be there to meet him – and I am greatly afraid that from the loose way that matters stand, he will not be in the way of doing much good. The plan that G.T. preferred, and which I know W. L. G. understands himself, is that he should at once go to London, to Thompson's house and that there he should rest with such friends of the cause, who make it a point to convene for the purpose of consulting with him as to further specifications.

James Haughton, Rich D. Allen, James H. Webb, & myself intended to be in London by the 3rd or 4th to attend the Temperance Convention, and at interval, to hold consultation with Garrison, Douglass, yourself, and such other as could be induced to meet us.

Your plan of taking Garrison to Scotland & Ireland & then to London would I think split up his short visit in an inefficient & wrong way. If, as I suppose, the main

part of his effort are to be put forth in Scotland had he not better be there from London, & pay his visit in Dublin towards the close of his stay, when we can all be at home to receive him, instead of at a time when we will clearly all be away. We have settled to go to London_ but with the exception of R. & ... Allen (who are going to the Continent) I don't think any of us would go if we did not hope to meet Garrison there. I am sure I would not.

Last night I had a note from Thompson saying he had agreed to your plan _ but that when we meet, his house in Waterloo Place would be at our leave there if we (the Irish handful) don't go to London in the beginning of August, we certainly shall not be there in the middle of the month.

I understood that some would go from Scotland. If so, why bring Garrison to talk to them at home, if they can see him & others they have never seen in London where [illegible] be taken for the ..deferral ... of the which of Garrison time during his stay.

I would be particularly sorry to see you in Dublin for two or three days of a hurried visit in the first week of August _ we want a regular sober visit immediately preceding your return home _ and am willing to go to London to do whatever is necessary to be done in the way of useful time. I do wish that the Patrons, & such & John Murray were consulted. I think they would see the ...reasonableness & greater efficiency and [illegible]...of Garrisons meeting us all at once in London at George Thompsons house in Waterloo Place, Pall Mall in the 2nd & 3rd + of August. It is my intention if possible to be in Liverpool on the 28th or 29th to meet Garrison on his arrival.

+ or thereabout.

I will enquire for ...him.....at Brown's Temperance Hotel, ^[illegible]_ or Miss Knebbs Lodging house where Garrison stopped, when last was in Liverpool. If you know where you wish to be put up there, write to me at once. You see we will all be like [froth] if we don't come to some agreement immediately (side of sheet) in ascendance to what [Douglas' self will is], or that he'll not shape (give) an inch to any one or for any notion. In fact, if you take G to Scotland and Ireland, I don't see why he would go to London at all _ for surely Thompson can come to him If London is to enter into the scheme and he is to meet any of us there the time for him to go there is while he is near to it, and when he will be likely to meet some of his friends there who [want] to meet him.

I hope that some of our Scotch friends will attend him in London. It is a shame and a pity that some arrangement convenient to all interested was not entered into before

Now like a good man, write to me without delay and let me know your inclinations

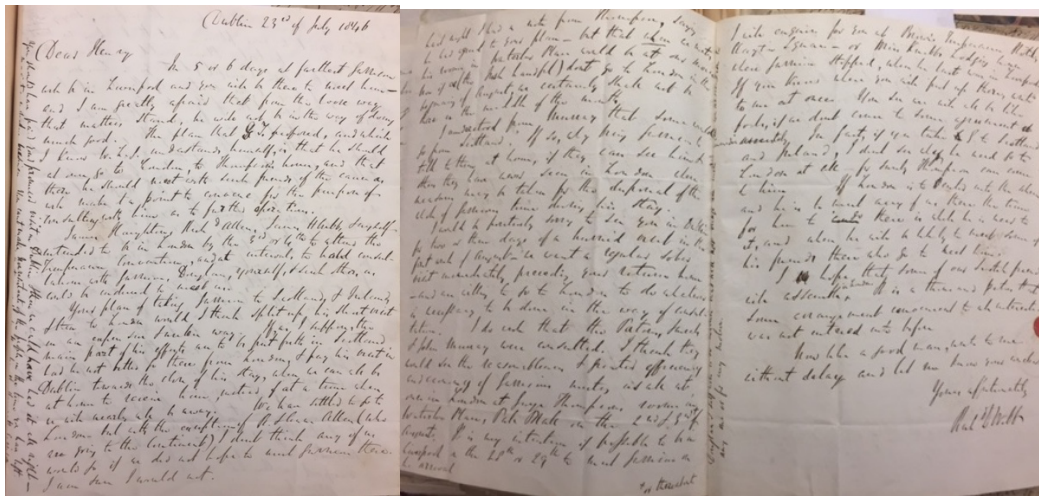
Yours affectionately

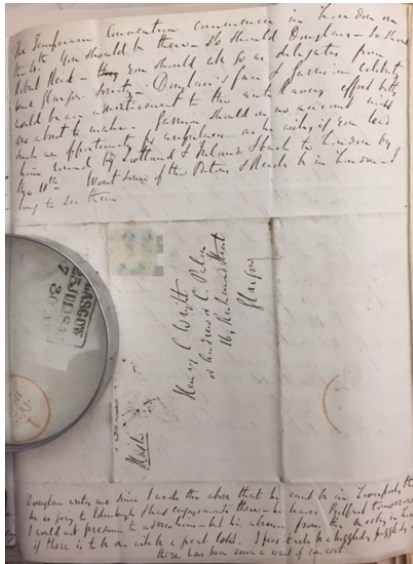
Rich D. Webb

Alongside page one: You should have paid your promised visit in Dublin & then we could have had it all right _ ...now it is nobody here. You cant make nonresistants of the people in the time you have left. [*partially obscured*] Garrison.

Overleaf: The Temperance Convention commences in London on the 4th. You should be there _ so should Douglass-- ..Ribut Reich —they eve.. should all go as delegates from ... Glasgow Society _ Douglass' face & Garrison's celebrity would be an advertisement to the anti Slavery effort both are about to make. Garrison should on no account miss such an opportunity for usefulness as he will if you send him around by Scotland & Ireland & back to London by the ..11th.. Won't some of the Patrons & ..Reich.. be in London _ I long to see them.

Douglass writes us since I wrote the above that he cant be in Liverpool, that he is going to Edinburgh & has engagements there. He leaves Belfast tomorrow – I would not presume to advise him – but his absence from the meeting in London if there is to be one will be a great loss. I fear it will be a higgledy piggledy affair that has such a want of concert.





The following letter discusses publishing details and everyday concerns.

Dublin 11 mo 22 46

Dear Henry

The binder has got 500 DW and 500 I for And he promises them by Wednesday or Thursday next. Whatever day I receive them, I will forward them the day after, papered up in 10's as you desire. I have no doubt you will get through the Defensive War very soon & that a second edition will be called for before long. I [wasted] no time in calling on Kavanaugh after I heard from [Eu] and you may rely I will give him no peace till he keeps his word. I will I think send them all in a bind You talk of getting out of my grip _ I think it likely that I will keep you in mine for a while longer. There are only a few bundles of the Kiss & Blow left. Why man, we are becoming quite a popular author.

Your remarks about poor ..Rosen.. are quite according to my [judgment] of the man. I felt a pang when I heard of his death to think that he should have felt betrayed from his old friends _ but I never wavered from first to last in my estimate of the merits of the matters that caused the estrangement. Mrs. Nicholson has recd for some time past a letter from Wm Goodell which was out in its travels [for a while] – so that I did not [read] it til yesterday. It is very long and grim a very full account of the divisions among the abolitionists it is civil, [yet] colored by his own views _ yet I think on the whole remarkably impartial. I know Elizabeth Pease.. will like to see it. I am copying it and if I get time [to acquire it] from ..Mrs N will send her a loan of the copy. You heard

of poor ...Thurman Waug's death and burial from Maria. His mother is anxious and bears it so [well] that I cannot think she feels fully herself [illegible] of the beautiful doctrine of future punishment. I look on this from fellow friend ...weak virtues of an overtired A propensity that was two powerful for [reining in] .. to condemn. ..Requital in pace..

I send you the beginning of a letter from Deborah _ she says that Nannie splattered the ink over it. She also says she is leaving off _ because she didn't want to write any more _ ..and [illegible] around.

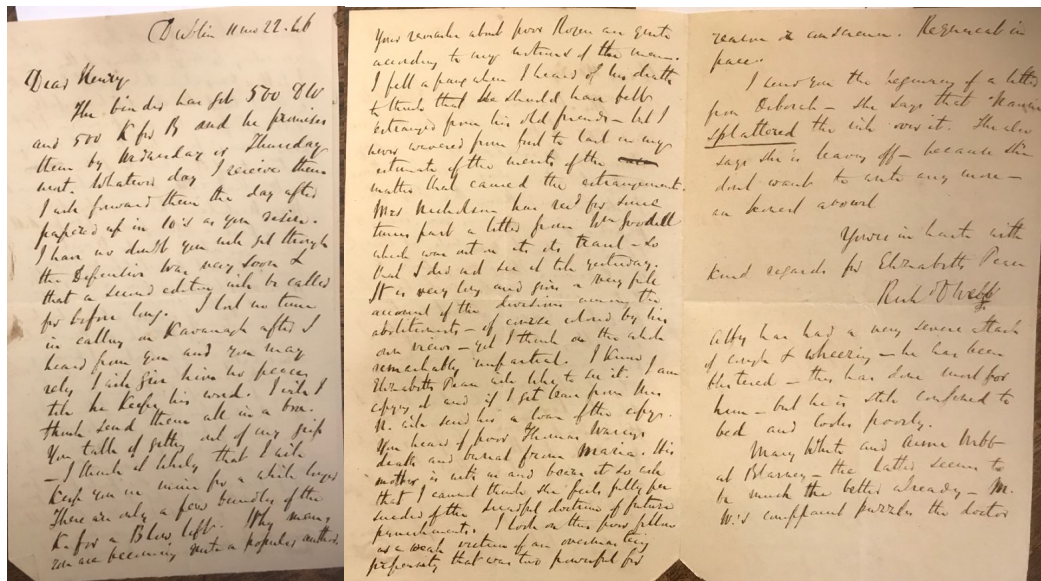
Yours in haste with

Kind regards for Elizabeth Pease

Rich D Webb

Alfy has had a very severe attack of cough & wheezing _ he has been blistered _ this has done most for him _ but he is still confined to bed and looks poorly.

Mary White and Ann Webb are Blarney _ the latter seems to be much the better already - M. W.'s complaint puzzles the doctor.



Members of Richard Webb's Family to Wright

William Henry Webb (Richard's and his wife Hannah's son)

As with any number of his U.K. friends and comrades in reform, Wright appears to have formed relationships with whole families, including children, during his years in the British Isles. Wright focused on young peoples' welfare, the subject of much of his writing. Here we have a letter reflecting a refreshingly unadulterated view of Frederick Douglass. The writer, William Henry Webb, the son of Richard Webb and Hannah Waring Webb. (Maria, Hannah's sister, adds a post-note.)

Being Quaker, they were part of a small, but outspoken religious minority. Note the uniform use of "thee" and "thou," reflecting the Quaker register of speech. Unfortunately, the letter is undated, though it was probably written in late August 1845 or early Fall 1845, just after Douglass arrived in Ireland.

My Dear Friend

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to thee ___ I am at a very pleasant school – there are several large Maps round the school room and the teacher's name is James McCormack -- he is a very pleasant man -- Hast thou heard of Frederick Douglass a coloured man and he learned to read in a very curious manner – he was a slave at Baltimore and his mistress not knowing the laws of slavery was teaching him to read but his master ordered her [to] stop teaching him and said when he had learned to read that he would want to write and then to cipher and so he would go on till he would escape from slavery. He overheard all this and made up his mind that nothing should prevent him from learning to read, and so he did at last _ But I cant go through the whole of his history for he has not told all to us yet. I have been at two of his lectures and he dined with us yesterday. I think he is a pleasant man able to interest children very much about slavery and other things too. But I must not take up all my letter in telling about Frederick Douglass for I must say something about Casino. The leaves have now nearly all dropped from the trees. It is rainy weather and we have had very little frost or snow _ but the country has all the appearance of winter. I have got the skeleton of a kite that is six feet high it is just ready to cover but I am afraid there will not be weather fit to fly it for a good while I have a nice little bantam cock and Maria Dorothea has a hen We have put a dam across the burne and made a fine waterfall and after rain there comes a great foaming torrent down it.

Last night there was such an excessively crowded meeting that one half of the people could not get into the house where Frederick Douglass was lecturing. They were greatly disappointed and some of them broke one of the windows that they might hear through it.

Farewell my dear Friend

I remain very affectionately

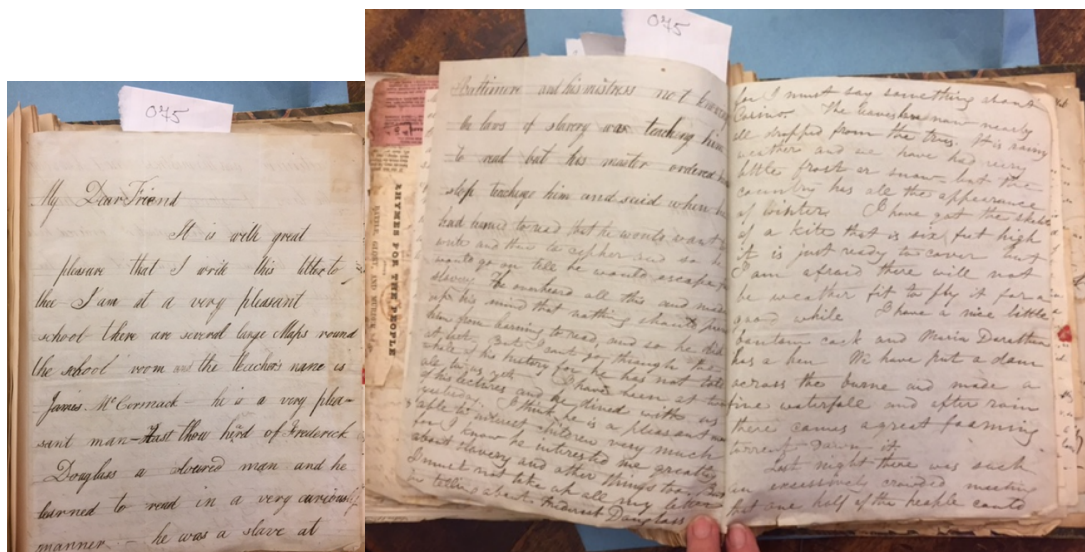
William Henry Webb

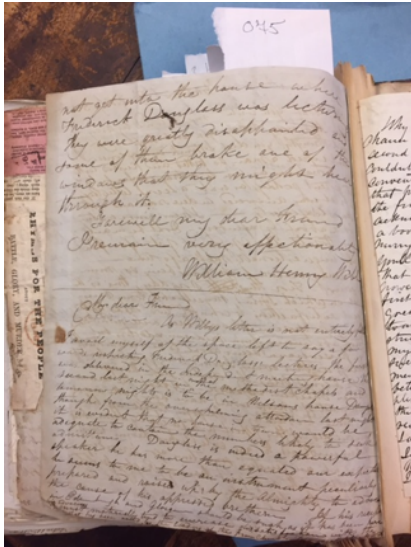
Postscript:

My dear Friend

Casino

As Willys letter is not entirely filled I avail myself of the space left to say a few words respecting Frederick Douglass lectures _ The first was delivered in the Independent meeting house The second last night in one of the Methodist chapels and tomorrow nights is to be in Nelsons house Douglass... though from the overwhelming attendance last night it is evident that no house in town would be adequate to contain the numbers likely to seek admittance Douglass is indeed a powerful speaker he has more than equaled our expectations he seems to me to be an instrument peculiarly prepared and raised up by the Almighty to advocate the cause of his oppressed brethren If his reception in Edinburgh and Glasgow should be such as it has been here his advocacy must naturally tend to increase dissatisfaction with the hurt that has been ...acted... [meted] by the leaders of the Free Church Farewell affectionately....M W.... (may be M Waring or Maria Webb. Maria Waring seems to have been Hannah Webb's sister and Maria Webb appears to have been Richard Webb's sister. One of them took care of the children.)





Deborah Webb (The Webbs' daughter)

Deborah Webb also wrote to Wright. One of her letters, obviously that of a child who writes large and in between lines drawn on the page, follows.

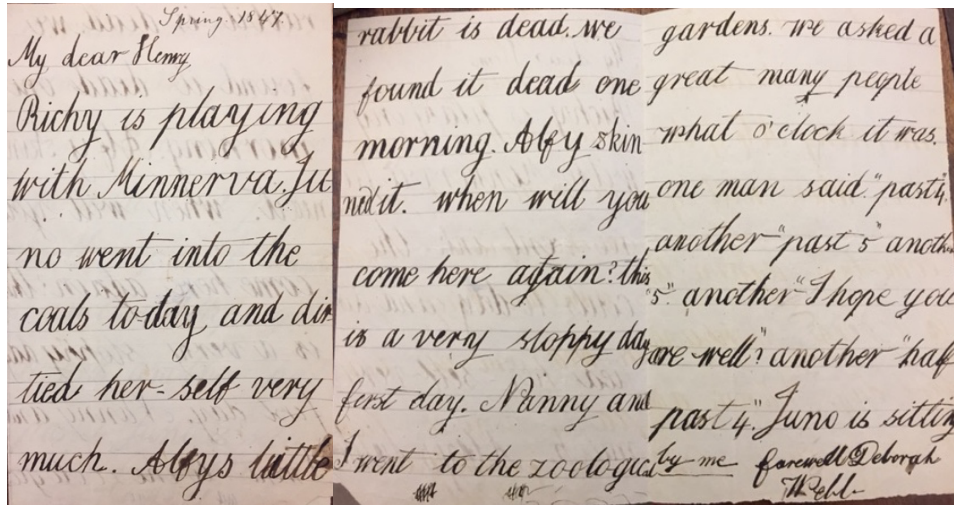
Spring 1847

My dear Henry

Richy is playing with Minnerva. Juno went into the coals to-day and dirtied her-self very much. Abbys little rabbit is dead. We found it dead one morning. Abby skinned it. When will you come here again? This is a very sloppy day first day. Nanny and I went to the zoological gardens. We asked a great many people what o'clock it was. One man said. "past 4" another "past 5" another "5." Another "I hope you are well?" another "half past 4." Juno is sitting by me

Farewell Deborah

Webb



Maria Webb:

This letter from Maria Webb (Webb's sister) is addressed to her cousin, not to Henry C. Wright. We don't know how it came to be in Wright's possession. The contents include mention of Frederick Douglass and James Buffum, the American who accompanied Douglass in the U.K. He and Douglass slipped out of the U.S. and together undertook the speaking tour of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

Maria Casina 9th Mo 25

My dear Cousin,

Along with this thou wilt receive an address issued by our antislavery committee. Any stricture [restructuring] thou mayst be disposed to make on its contents I hope thou will freely communicate to me. We may sometimes help one another by openness in this way. I am not sure that our American friends will be quite pleased with the position our association has taken __ However the most mature consideration convinces me that it is the best for us and according to any conscientious convictions the only true ground we should occupy.

It is a point from where our hearts are prepared to sympathize with the antislavery efforts of all sincere friends who are laboring for the overthrow of slavery. For my own part I have no unity with that narrow sect parting on feeling whether it is philanthropy or religion which prevents one from recognizing and appreciating sincere hearts and devoted labourers in a common cause even if their mental vision does not enable them to see eye for eye with us in deciding on the best means of attacking the

common enemy _ let the enemy be pursued steadily from various points of attack with vigor proportioned to the ability of each _ but if instead of this the combatants turn their arms against one another the consequence is evident.

Instead of bitterness and litigation among persons whose main object is the same I long to see each wielding such weapons drawn from the Christian armory as he can use with greatest dexterity.

It appears to me that a want of expansion charity in relation to other abolitionist that cannot see through the same medium they see, that this sort of...May I not say, narrow mindedness is the [herething] sin of the Garrison party.

Whilst they profess the most unbounded liberality in being disposed to work with all whether Turk Jew or Infidel for the establishment of the rights of the [illegible] man yet in the spirit they manifest towards their fellow labourers in the United States we see a deplorable contradiction between practice and profession.

Such exacting acrimony is strikingly exhibited by the Old organization party through their organ the antislavery Standard. When speaking of the Liberty Party in private conversation James Buffum displays a deal of it. But by the way we were somewhat surprised to observe ^from Richard's letter in the Standard > the different impression JB made as an antislavery advocate in Dublin and in Belfast. I mean as a public advocate. Here he was listened to ~~on behalf~~ because on account of his cause and his company but his influence as an antislavery man went for nothing except it might be that by contrast Douglass eloquence stood out in more bold relief. He was an agreeable intelligent person in private but on the platform he was by no means like [illegible]__

But to return to the former subject _ I cannot bring myself to think that our valued friend Henry Wright cherishes such a narrow spirit as before alluded to. I know he conscientiously differs from the Liberty Party as to the means best to pursue but surely he is not so [unrealistic] as to conclude that he will ever be able to make men with their present diverse organizations see exactly alike as that humanly speaking it wont be possible for all sincere advocates of a good cause to be agreed in relation to the number of steps that must be taken in approaching it.

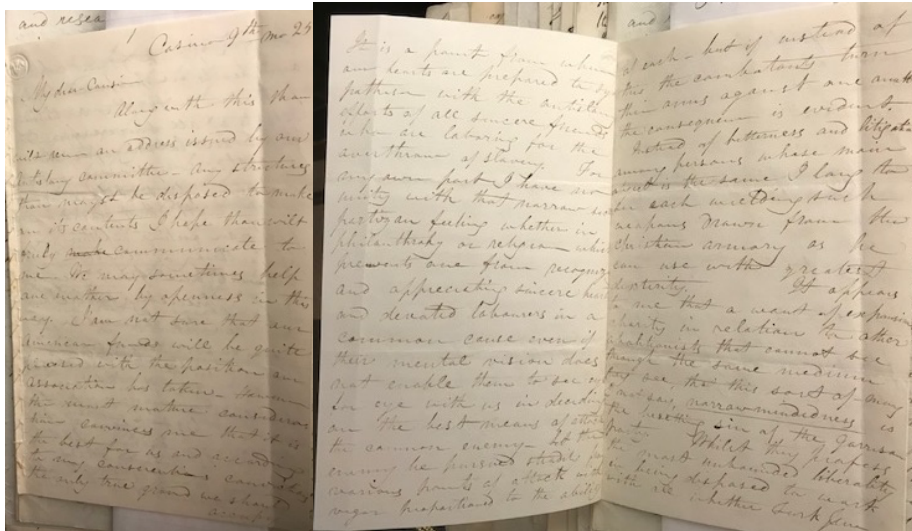
In ascending a while say can take longer strides than others, and in order to reach the summit some will press directly forward whilst others amongst needs wind their path around the precipices. For heads that cannot steadily gaze from a giddy height it should be madness rather than wisdom to attempt it _ As in the physical so in the mental world _ and is it not worse than useless to he entering into strife in order to make it other ways.

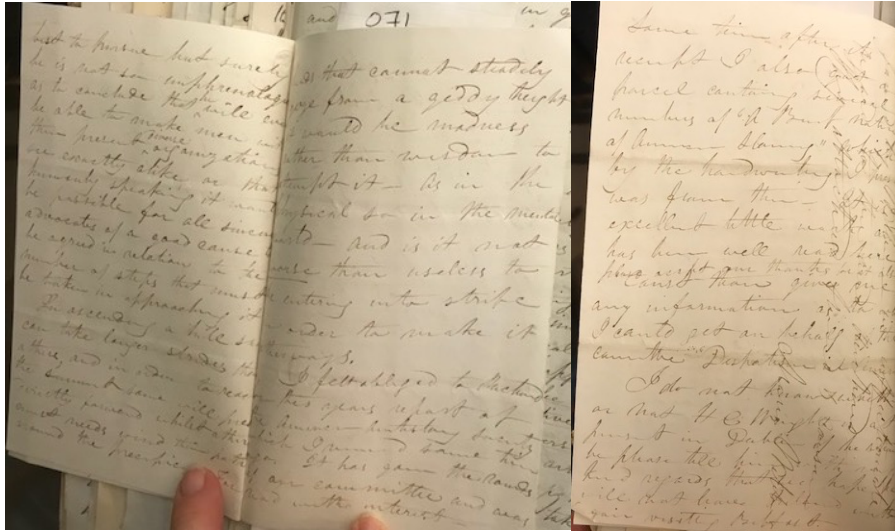
I felt obliged to Richard for this years report of the American Antislavery Society which I read some time ago. It has again [done] the rounds of our committee and was read with interest – Some time after its receipt I also got a parcel containing several versions of 'A brief [narrative/history] of American Slavery' which by the handwriting I presume was from this _ It is an excellent little [volume] and has been well read here Please accept our thanks for it also.

Canst thou give on any information as to who I could get on behalf of the committee "Despotism in America"

I do not know whether or not H. C. Wright is at present in Dublin if he returns here please tell him with very kind regards that we hope he will not leave Ireland without again visiting Belfast.

Issued by [illegible] in affectionate regards to thee and Richard thy attached friend & cousin Maria Web





Maria Webb wrote the two letters that follow. She wants her book about geography to be used in school classrooms. The Darton family of publisher Darton and Clark, mentioned in the first paragraph, established a print publishing house in England. The Dartons were Quakers. Their company published children's books, as well as games and juvenile ephemera.

Casino 1st mo 17th 46

My dear Friend

I regret much that I have not been able to present thee with a copy of my little geography _ The printer and afterwards the binder each in turn delayed it so much beyond the promised time that I fear considerable injury will be done to the circulation of the book. I have been led to this apprehension from the following circumstance. When the printer gave me to understand that the work would be directly in the hands of the publisher, I gave an order to our bookseller for a certain number of copies from Darton & Clark the London publisher _ It seems that our bookseller was told by them that they had no such work he then wrote to Longman who furnished him with a book bearing the title of Geography Simplified that had been published in 1838 by Limpkin Marshall & Co Not having been aware that such title had ever before been in use I have felt a little perplexed about it – especially as the work in question is in its whole plan different from mine _ being a dry collection of geographical facts prepared for getting by rote. I find that my friends in Newcastle have also been furnished with the same little book and how many more who have been looking after the one and have been supplied with the other and probably by this means prejudiced against it would be

difficult to imagine. It is evident that the advertizements too far preceded the publication. Dost thou know how it could have happened that a notice of Geography Simplified should have been in the British Friend for 11th mo whilst at that time it was not quite all in print _ I suppose Wm Smeal must have been furnished with it by the publisher whilst it was in loose sheets. I felt obliged to them for their kind [commentary] on it and it would have been answered all very well by being thus early drawn forward if the parties had not afterwards made such an unexpected delay __ Would they start than think he likely again to allude to it _ J [illegible] of Birmingham who is bringing it out tells me that it is extremely difficult to get any new school book brought fairly before the public as most of the established publishers consider it as opposed to their pecuniary interests to push forward a new book whilst they have purchased the copyright of others now in circulation. For my own part I have so much confidence in the principles on which this book has been prepared that I am not afraid that that it will be able to make its way if the attention of practical teachers could be moved to it. I shall also tell one that he thinks its peculiarity in relation to peace principles should be put forward _ prominently __ These principles will be found to be alluded to and frequently illustrated throughout the Third part of the work under the head "Moral & historical observations in connexion with geography" I wish exceedingly that Wm Smeal's attention could be drawn to that section of the book __ If thou sees him soon wilt thou be so kind as to allude to it. I expect the publisher has furnished him with a perfect copy by this time as I find that ~~at least some~~ copies of ~~the~~ are at last before the public though none have yet reached me.

With so many little children to engage my attention I should probably never have had resolution either to begin or to complete the book in question were it not for two long intervals of delicate health during which I was for many months obliged to be almost entirely confined to the sofa my mss (manuscript) was then begun and proceeded with as a matter of duty and in the course of its execution it proved to be ~~both a~~ pleasant duty which gave interest and entertainment to what would often ~~have~~ otherwise have been felt as a weary time. And having been always accustomed to track my own children ~~and~~ particularly in their study of Geography and history I had by practice and observation in relation to their minds been prepared to arrange the lessons so as by their gentle progression to render them easy and at the same time I endeavored to make them as attractive as possible without introducing any fiction. ~~Though wilt perceive~~ Thou wilt perceive that that the book has been prepared with reference to the present most approved method of teaching geography to the exclusion of the old plan of learning by rote. I hope thou wilt excuse this long and I fear somewhat confused detail Whilst writing I have had my attention so frequently drawn

to some of the little ones who are playing on the carpet beside me that I doubt not many mistakes have been made.

I was sorry to learn from the remark in thy last letter that the weakness of thy chest has not yet been entirely removed. Art thou any better since I heard from thou

We are very anxious to hear how Frederick Douglass gets on in Glasgow. Of course thou hast had due account of his proceedings here __ Those who were not as we had been watching the operation of antislavery principles on the public mind in this community could scarcely be aware how much the people of Belfast had been prepared for the cordial reception of Douglass and the maintenance of the views he promulgated by the lectures on the same subject last year – Dost thou think the Free Church will yet be induced to send back the money?

It is the increasing feeling here that the public sentiment will oblige them to do it __ But so many interested motives stand in the way so much human pride would be mortified by such an act that I almost fear there is not enough of right principle even where backed by that portion of public sentiment which bears upon it to induce such a step

I have no doubt but that thou hast prepared the way for Frederick Douglass in Scotland as well as here __ Our acquaintance with him fully realized thy description. I cannot but regard him as an instrument in the hand of the Almighty for the salvation of his race and had I trust what a superintending divine provides will sustain him amid the temptations to [forgetful] which especially encompass those who become the object of popular regard __ Frederick has so much facetious humour ~~and~~ such an admirable address and so ready all of which recommend him favorably to many who are scarcely able to appreciate his more exalted qualities but who materially swell the tide of his popularity that one cannot but feel conscious when looking calmly at his position with reference to the advancement of his own religious strength I have not told any of our little people that I am writing to thee else I should have more messages than I have time to give

With fond regards in which William writes I am

Sincerely thy friend Maria Webb

does not call for ___ When shall we have the pleasure of seeing thee in Belfast again? Our little people still speak of thee but, little children remembrance of their friends soon fades if it is not occasionally renewed by intercommunication ____ About the geography I wish to make a few more remarks. I am not aware whether ~~or not~~ thou hast been accustomed to look into the details of children's intellectual lessons or been observant as to the best means of communicating such lessons. If thou has been I shall feel very glad to hear thy opinion of the plan on which the lessons of any geography are arranged _ especially those of the first course. ____ Their arrangement is the result of experience as to what is calculated to render the study attractive to little children ____ The descriptive text in each lesson is designed to lead the pupil by an easy progress over the map to which it refers, beginning with the most prominent outlines and especially avoiding at first the minute details which so often at the very outset cause children to dislike a study which might have been rendered delightful to them if only the striking features had been exhibited at first and afterwards the picture filled up by degrees.

The questions which are appended to each embody an important part of the lesson. To use the book in accordance with its design especially in the first course, the pupil should read the text or descriptive part again and again carefully following its guidance over a map till he has made himself familiar with all the names and localities to which it alludes Then he is to read the questions one by one and from his own observation on the map to find an answer for each ___ By such a process each lesson should be prepared before it is presented to the teacher ____

I never knew this plan to fail in awakening the interest of children in geography ___ By inducing them to examine for themselves instead of exactly telling them the identical spot where every place is to be found they seem to become parties in geographical discovery and research whilst they have been guided just far enough to make the discovery easy to any child who can read the names of places on the map. ___ (See page 6 Exercise on the map of the Grimsby Islands of an example)

The Third Course is that which has been chiefly alluded to in any critical notices of the work which I have seen; this I expect would be the case especially when those who are not practical teachers are the critics ___ And in fact that is ~~that~~ the portion of the book in which my own feelings are most interested. ____ Its leading object is to impress the youthful student with the great moral truth that in a national sense, peace and happiness become established among a people, be they rich or poor, in proportion as their legislative policy is guided by Christian morality and vice versa. This will be exemplified by reading the article on Iceland page 104 and that on Spain pg 130.

Hannah Waring Webb

The following note from Hannah Webb, Richard Webb's wife and ally in reform, alerts Wright to a parcel's arrival. She also shares day-to-day matters with Wright. Wright was obviously a good friend.

At Mehorn April 11, 1846

Dublin 8th of 4th month, 1846

Dear Henry,

Richard sends thy parcel of six months by this evening's steamboat, & wishes me to let thee know accordingly Maria had left before thy letter came, as my brother returned to Waterford & it is necessary that she should go with him; but we hope to have her down again _ she looks thin, but not to delicate as we heard, & seems in pretty good spirits, nobody says I will.... Things than she knows how to say when the human takes her _ I wish thou could contrive to join us sometime while she will be with us, that we may all meet once more on this old earth _ Dost thou know anything about a feminine auxiliary meeting or committee to be held in London next May. - of course if there be such a thing thou wilt be there, & Richard too if possible _ I hope it may come to something. Richard says thy description of localities around thee makes his mouth water to be enjoying the same good things, & he would like well to descend upon thee some fine morning. I wish he could, but he has been much confined of late, by the illness & subsequent delicacy of Robt Chifirm who is not yet able to give any help at the business

Here is new ink, which is some comfort, though it comes so late _ Alfred is gone to Wexford today, on his way to [howtown] - his health has been troublesome of late & we hope the country will be good for him. Ricky continues rosy & fat, he likes to take the world easy & to be his own way, which however is not a very unreasonable way - - Deb & Nannie have great play together, & are not a bit sorry about Alfred who sometimes bothers them _ Thomas & Mary have moved into town & their grief has taken a quiet & cheerful form, though they feel it deeply _ They feel indignation to the Divine will, _ but I, more wicked, think their fine little girl might have

been living still if we had a judicious, hydropathic doctor at hand to apply to. I heartily wish we had such a one.

Anne Allen's house is more elegant than ever, fresh from the painting & [illegible] _ and she herself is all alive as usual & ready for an enlivening battle or two with thee when thou comes _ I seldom hear of Richard Allen except in his great placards on the walls, among his glorious manufactured coats, vests, shooting jackets, & other [outerwear] I do not think his heart is dead to higher things, but he has not the gift of dividing himself among rival claims to his attention with any sort of rigor, as RD has (on my impartial testimony) and so he has become almost absorbed in this great affair of moneymaking _ We came in from the country about ten days ago, & I am pleased to be at home & near the office & Richard, though I can't boast of doing him a deal of good _ I attended better to my little girls when in the country, in town it is not easy to make out a quiet time to devote to their lessons daily & so they run wild _ They will be delighted to hear that Henry is coming _ D Gough is to be in town soon -

Goodbye affectionately

Hannah Webb

