

York July 17th 1851

5497

My dear Cousin
We have returned safely from the
"Worlds Fair", and I dare say you will expect from me a
long and elaborate description, and I know not what you will
think of your cousin, when I tell you, that I am truly quite at
a loss what to say. In order rightly to estimate the mighty show,
you ought to live in the place for a month, we were truly
there three days, and really scarcely saw half the contents.
The first sensation, is one of bewilderment, yet the gorgeous display
fresh beauties arrest your attention at every step, what at every
turn, and it is a work of time to get the eye satisfied,
then, comes the intellectual improvement of the whole, and for
this we had too opportunity: However I am glad we have seen
it, for never shall I look upon the like again. We entered at
the East entrance, and the first thing that arrested my attention
was "United States!!!" we walked through with much interest, we
wondered whether observation would bear out Punch's remarks,
and really my cousin, I must confess that your contributions
were a stronger testimony to the bounty of Providence in the
various productions of the country, than to the industry,
skill, taste, and ingenuity of that inhabitants. Goods smothered
in soap, and a building with transparent soap windows seemed
rather too much of the ludicrous for English notions. Their
your contributions bore more the appearance of stalls contain-
ing articles for sale than specimens of what you were capable
of producing, being so many of one kind, scarcely any variety:
even here Brother Jonathan would have set eye to the "pocket
at any rate my cousin, there was very little in the "United
States" department, to feast the eye! I must however except
two pieces of Statuary, which did not a little please and
surprise me; these were the "Greek Slave", and the "wounded
Indian", shewing what your people could accomplish, if they

were not so ultra-utilitarian. Truly as you say, "He is a mighty
boy", neither is he so far seeing as we give him credit for, "if
he look only upon the Exhibition, as the great sight of the
day, can the not see in it, the germ of a movement that
will be felt by all future generations?" I should have ex-
pected that such a levelling nation as America professes
itself to be, would have put his broad shoulder to the wheel
and hastened forward the chariot ^{of equality} in its course. Here rich and
poor, high and low, learned and illiterate, meet together on
one common footing, in a way that has never been witnessed
before in this country, surely this must be agreeable to your
Republican feelings, and our Trans-Atlantic brother should
have taken a bold stand, and shewed what a nation
flourishing under a Republican government could have accom-
plished, when contrasted with others growing under the
iron grasp of tyranny and despotism. One thing pleased
me. I saw your titles and opened it. I regret to say, I could
not find our own, though I took some pains to seek them
had I had the ordering of it, they should have occupied
a prominent position in the center of the whole, and shewn
to our Papish visitors, that we gloried in "the Book" to whose
precepts we owe all our National glory. But after this Phil-
lippic, for I love to rap at you, you grow so proud of
your mighty nation, I must enter more into detail. In order
to make an intellectual use of the whole, I think the best
way would be to take one department each day, and carefully
examine the natural productions of each, and then the
artificial use made of them, this would be the best means
of ascertaining the comparative industry, skill, &c of the
different nations contributing to the whole. You will ask
me perhaps, what amidst the magnificent display most
pleased me. I think I must say the Machinery, and yet
I hardly like to say so, for I am thorough. My English

And here we are beaten hollow by our Continental neighbours. The Russian Department contained some exquisite specimens of the art, one, a velvet vest, took almost as firm a hold of my imagination, as that beautiful monument in the chapel at Windsor. The veil seemed as transparent as crepe, falling into every crevice of the neck and shoulders, and perfectly revealing the features, in her hand was a mirror containing the sacred face, it was a noble specimen of art. The whole of the Russian department was very magnificent, and reflects great credit on the exhibitor. In the British section was some fine statuary, best of course we presume not to compare with our classical neighbours. I think next to the sculpture I was most surprised at the carving, and here we were at home, for I refer not to the exquisite specimens in ivory from China, but to the carving in wood executed by our own countrymen; two birds, a partridge and a Lark were so beautiful that you might fancy you could blow the feathers, they lay so lightly on the breast. I think I hear you say but where is the "vile" of all this? Stay a bit my dear woman like I went principally amongst the ornaments, not having time nor perhaps taste for the machinery models, &c. "Chacun à son goût" as the Frenchman would say, my husband left us and went to peruse among the maps, globes, telescopes, orreries, in short amongst the whole catalogue of philosophical apparatus, there was enough for all, ~~enough~~ enough for each, but here the simile fails, I can not add, enough for everyone. The contributions from India were gorgeous and magnificent, and must have been costly in the extreme, such an array of diamonds and pearls it was never before my lot to witness. The contents ^{of the whole building} are valued at nine millions. Many of the noblemen entering into the liberal spirit of the day, have thrown open their mansions to the gaze of the vulgar, and we visited two belonging to the Duke of Northumberland

and are highly gratified. I think England may well be proud
of the position she occupies amongst the nations of the earth.
Some countries excel us in one thing, some in another, but as a
whole we may lift our head above the highest, and the most
interesting sight after all is our patriotic little queen, walking
about amongst tens of thousands of her subjects of all classes, and
receiving the heart homage of them all, surely our restless,
belligerent, revolutionary neighbours will learn a lesson that
they will never forget, and she must be more than swayed
if a feeling of pride does not creep in now and then, when
she contrasts her own position, with that of most of the sovereigns
around her. And now I shall take my leave of the "Exhibition",
if there is any thing on which you wish for more information,
that is not beyond my reach, you must name it I will do
the best I can. I must now take breath, but thank you for
your very nice letter, it has quite made amends for the failure
of your last; these domestic pictures make one so well ac-
quainted with each other, that if ever we do meet on earth
it will not be as strangers. I should like to bring the cousins
together, but I cannot persuade my girls to write, because Joe-
phine does not write to them, and they profess to think the con-
sider them troublesome. Whether this is only an excuse to cover
laziness I cannot tell, but you have the best within your reach.
I am very so hear George does not progress to your satis-
faction, heart affections are various things. I wish he may
outgrow it, but he will require great care, and he will be the
subject of much anxiety. My own girls I am thankful
to say improve in health, though far from strong, as they
both take cold so easily if exposed to the least damp. M. C.
was 10 yesterday, Eliza will be 17 in February, so you must
no longer consider them as the "little Cousins", they both
look over my head, which you know was never very high.
Eliza goes with me to class, and seems very desirous to find

The one thing useful to C. is naturally ~~rather~~ reserved, and possessing more of a reasoning spirit, will be a more difficult subject to be brought under the influence of Divine grace, except as nothing is too hard for the Lord - We were much interested in your account of our Swedish favourite. I have always thought highly of her character though I was not aware she was so decided in her religious ^{principles}. I should think she is naturally amiable, independent of grace. I feel glad you have all heard her, we heard she had been grossly insulted at Pittsburgh, but I hope for the honour of the Town it is not true. We met again in London, our interesting friend Miss Stearns I think I named her to you in my last letter, and she has promised if all be well to visit us at Genoa, so we are looking forward to a rich treat. Whilst in town, too, we saw Capt Porrett who took my father out to Robert Town, and heard many interesting particulars about him; we have had several letters from him lately, and he seems very happy in his new home, and I hope the climate will agree with him, he has sent us some seeds &c I hope we shall succeed with them, their letters are filled with glowing accounts of the baby, who grows a lovely little creature, as all motherly babes must be. There is no mistake about Charles Guchbox, but perhaps before this time you have heard or seen something of him, as he was going to New York. I am afraid he is perfectly desolate. Mr Bowen of Crowland gave him 30 to take his family over, they went in the Steerage, and one son was left behind, because they had not enough to pay his passage, and one of the Mr Crookes of Postland has taken him. I heard this from more than one quarter. One day whilst I was in the Exhibition I found both my hands seized and the

exclamation saluted my ear, "Oh that we should meet you here"! I looked for a moment, and then recognised my friend Mrs Crane and her daughter. I spent the remainder of the day with them. Poor John, the eldest son, is quite blind. You refer to the state of our church, and ask what will be done. I really do not know, the two extremes will never meet, and whether the middle party will be able to coerce them into any thing ^{like} concession is very doubtful; meetings of ministers and lay men, are being held in different places preparatory to the Conference, but what will be the result, or whether any thing will result at all is ^{uncertain} ~~at least doubtful~~. There are faults on both sides, though I do think the Reformers (so called) are the worst. It is said we have lost over 50,000 members and our chapels are not more than half filled, this is a sad state of things. how is it that Methodism has all at once become such a rare thing, and its ministers amongst the off-scouring of all things? I think in the complaints there is much of misrepresentation and falsehood, with perhaps a little mixture of truth, certainly Methodism must be divine, if it stand the shock for all the world is against it - Well now do I not deserve another long letter very soon, you know your host but one is to stand for nothing, so you are still one in my debt and I hope you will soon discharge the obligation. Present my affectionate regards to your wife, and tell her I am looking out for her promised letter. We all write in sincerest love, and believe me

Yours affect - ^{etc} cousin

W. Taber

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As I have not said that we left your sister and husband and child quite well I told her I should write as soon as I got home and she wished me to give her love and say she should write soon.