

10-6-1880

## Letter from Anne Whitney, to Maria Weston Chapman, 1880 October 6

Anne Whitney

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elder Garrison (Wentworth) says  
he should greatly like to become  
acquainted with you. I shall  
ask him to come some evening  
you are here if you will con-  
sult me to gratify this single-  
hearted & genial son - of his  
father. [Indiana]

The news from Ohio & Ind.  
is full of cheer. I fear does  
me over family picture what  
it would be to lose this cause?  
However we may choose &  
decide the half-loaf of  
moral achievement is a thing  
we may give over.

With regard to Mrs. Weld I  
believe you are over-reacting,  
so in certain other cases you  
seem to me to be ~~so~~. There is  
no mistaking the tenor of her  
life - if she deflected in one  
instance from the high, heroic  
path which was hers. ~~to meet~~  
~~that error~~ with ever-renewed vigor  
is not I think the way to  
save others. It is very well &  
all <sup>right</sup> to help ourselves & the  
world by so much near-sightedness  
as can be come by - but also it is  
~~not~~ a law of optics that as we  
recede from the individual, <sup>scenery</sup>  
has no longer ~~the~~ same value &  
the large meaning of a life ~~is~~  
untold

Wednesday evg. Oct. [6 or 13, 1880]

I have a great fondness  
to threaten a descent upon you.  
I believe it would work a  
cure. In fact, I think I have  
noted something of this kind  
before. No - it will not come  
to Castle Dangerous - but I can  
repair to the station & see  
you down a road up a  
message of inquiry to your  
house - this will bring you  
down if you are not in-  
conspicuous - & at any rate  
I shall know.

How long is it since I  
have looked into your dear  
Obedemarthine eyes! - I  
have in mind a shadowy re-  
collection of some story of  
Howthornis in which an  
eccentric genius took it into  
his head to walk out of his  
house one day & sequester  
himself in the neighborhood  
of it. I think every night that  
possibly he should walk  
into his home the next day -  
but in reality gentle pat off

for years. & this for no cause  
other than as it were to play  
with fate & tempt what had  
it been foretold or assigned  
to him - he would have looked  
upon as a calamity. Something  
like this - a possibility of  
this sort - seems to hover  
on the border lands of fate  
& you will see in all our lives.  
I can imagine myself at any  
moment the unnecessary because  
unconscious victim of it - if  
one knew, how would one  
spring to the heart of the  
beloved & break up all the  
web of false magic & loosen  
the ensnare again into the  
half-forgotten light & air.  
What was I thinking of?  
Why this. Why. How dreadful  
it would be if you should keep  
spelling - of coming to me till  
it became easy not to come.  
Till it grew to be a melancholy  
(concerning so much) habit. But  
this can never be. Still.  
How pitiless a thing is fate  
in the throat! what a

protruded grip it has - & now  
you have to wait - for a chosen  
weapon from Paris! - Got a Church  
friend of the Subtil prevents itself  
to my mind. The Congress - women  
Club. Lobby came last week.  
I shall not see much of her  
for our paths diverge - but her  
visit threatens to outlive the  
Congressional sessions by some  
days. I might - Chase unless  
this if I thought you would  
come if she had not come.  
Now - I see you will be well  
when Debra Colby has  
gone back to her broad savanna.  
& then you will come. Pelah?  
Adeline has gone out with  
the lady & night - to that Choking  
little smoky suitor. & I  
only hope she will come out  
of it - safely.

The Garrison Brothers  
came for me this P.M. to  
go out to Forest Hills (by previous  
consent). They wanted my idea  
about a Memorial Stone -  
The place (in the drive) is  
wonder - beautiful at this  
time - <sup>Don't</sup> we were to go out there  
I remember sometime. The

& Less a more than equivalent  
benefit for us. Also I think  
that there is so large a  
proportion of men and women  
if they had a finger would  
go it to retard instead of  
to help <sup>on</sup> a righteous cause I  
should find for my own part  
a strong question as to whether  
I should ~~not~~ cheer the lowest  
persons still fighting ~~in~~ their  
great battle by singling  
out for censure the exceptional  
braves of a former field.

The least differences are the  
greatest - I fancy can explain  
why it happened - The men &  
women who were your comrades  
- contemporaries - turned their  
all of themselves into that  
one channel - What could you  
expect? - if they had a taint of  
indecision or weakness of any  
kind - the cause must have  
the benefit of it. But on the  
whole their co-operation was  
their salvation & to be accounted  
not to them for rightness.  
At least they were not like  
one or some of my comrades

who, sat sucking our  
fingers in cheery retreats  
while your dear heart  
went out & flung compliments  
in all manner of deliciousness.

All of God there may  
be & God's - bless you &  
them would it not be

women? —

Good night.

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