and devotion; and, although I have been so mysteriously silent, yet have I been doing all I could to promote the great cause to which you have consecrated all your energies. The only reasons I can assign at present for my protracted silence are: 1st I have always desired to send you a very full account of all my proceedings and have therefore waited for a suitable opportunity. 2nd my time and strength have been so entirely monopolized by my home engagements that I have had no opportunity for furnishing you with the details I desired to send. I trust however that we shall soon meet, and I will then explain at large. I had hoped to have been by this time on the eve of starting for the United States but find it necessary to remain in Gt. Britain a few weeks longer in order that I may form some auxiliaries in aid of the society which has recently been formed in London, the prospectus of which I send you herewith.

I was greatly delighted with the proceedings in Philadelphia in Decr. — last — In such a spirit, with such views, principles, and plans, you must overcome all obstacles. You have laid hold upon omnipotence. Believe and all things are possible.

I hope to start for New York by the latter end of May at the farthest. On my arrival I shall consult with your society and act as you may deem best for the advancement of the cause —

Scotland did nobly. I shall be able to visit your country principally through the liberality of the friends in Edinburgh and Glasgow — You were much wanted in both Cities. Should you live to visit our country again you will do well to show yourself amongst your many warm, though unknown friends in Scotland. Captain Stuart will bring out with him a splendid present for Miss Crandall, obtained by me for her during my stay in Edinburgh. When I come I shall bring with me a piece of plate from Glasow sent by the ladies there to Miss Crandall. A report has been spread in London that Miss C. has fled to Canada. Is it true? I hope not.

I send you a memorial prepared by G. Stephen which we have some thoughts of getting signed as a national document and forwarded to the United States. I do not send to any one beside yourself deeming you the best judge of whether it should meet the public eye. I should say no! Since it may be forwarded and in such a case ought to be new.

I have a relative who is about to sail for New York and proceed from thence to Baltimore to which place he is invited as a minister. By him I shall forward a parcel for you which I trust will contain more information than this.

I trust our dear friend Capt. Stuart will arrive in safety. May he be made an abundant blessing. I long to be with you — Nothing but the belief that I am imperatively needed here could keep me another fortnight in England.

1. The inaugural meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society.
2. Sir George Stephen (1794-1879) had been active in British anti-slavery circles since 1826, when he collected evidence for Buxton that slavery existed in Mauritius. He worked also for prison reform and other humanitarian activities. His Anti-Slavery Recollections, London, 1854, is useful for an account of the early years of the movement.

G. Thompson.

MSA 1.2, vol. 4 Anti-Slavery Letters to Garrison No. 39 James Cropper to William Lloyd Garrison

Liverpool, 5th Mo. 17th, 1834.

William Lloyd Garrison:

Dear Friend—

I have just received the Liberator bound for 1833, for which thou wilt please to accept my cordial thanks. I had ordered through my friend Jos Sturge the Liberator to be sent to me regularly but I know he has ordered some others at the same time & I hope to see him next week when I shall know if any have been received & if not the order must have miscarried & he should write again.

The friends of Negro emancipation were greatly rejoiced to see thy manly Declaration against Slavery: — it was right to attack it in unflinching language, founded upon the unchanging basis of truth. These enormous evils should thus be denounced as they deserve. But every one must see, that the question on one side in the United States is beset with difficulties, which may seem to be almost insurmountable; for if you could succeed in convincing the people in the free states & if the General Government were sincerely disposed to abolish slavery they have not, by the Constitution, the power to do it. And as to the Slave States, it would have been as reasonable to expect emancipation to originate in the Assembly of Jamaica. If many of the individual slave holders were fully convinced of the sin of holding their fellow men in slavery, & were satisfied to make the sacrifices, still the laws of the state would prevent them from carrying their [?] wishes into effect — There is, however, a more cheering view of the subject, & its holders are quite as likely as other men to be worked upon by their own interest. If it can be made clear to them, that they will be pecuniary gainers by changing the condition of the Slaves (to emancipate them not being in their power) they may say to them that if they will produce to them as many bags of Cotton Tiers as of Rice or Hogsheads of Tobacco as they have done as slaves, they will no longer interfere with them, but let them occupy the land and work it in their own way, at their own times, and feed & clothe themselves as they like: they will exercise no other mastership over them but such as is required for their protection — I believe all parties would soon have reason to be satisfied — In America there are numerous instances of Slavery & free Labour being seen in operation side by side where the advantages of the latter are most obvious, in this respect you have great advantages as compared with our Colonies — Any one slave holder may begin the experiment but must not expect to be freed from care; his slaves (as they will still legally be) will expect the kind directions &

1. The Declaration of Sentiments drawn up at the inaugural meeting of the A.A.S.S. in Philadelphia.
instructions of a Father; they will need his help & must have it or the chance of success will be very small — if no other Slaveholders will try the experiment and our Society (that is) the Yearly Meeting of North Carolina have for many years been compelled to hold slaves because they could not safely emancipate them, because they might be induced to try the plan if the subject was brought before them, but it would be of no use to try it except under the care of some zealous active man who would go into it with the industry and attention which a man owns interest generally secures; indeed it would be better if it were undertaken by some man for his own profit; for then if successful the example would be complete & it would be certain to be followed — Surely this much however can be effected & if succeeds a very great step will be made — This Yearly Meeting could easily manage their slaves. — They would need no other punishment for the idle and refractory than to hold out the threat of sending them to Liberia, and if they would not submit to that, they would have no other resource than giving them their freedom, an act good in itself, but as in its consequences it would be a severe punishment should only be resorted to in case of necessity. — The existence of these people in a state of slavery proves the difficulty that individual slave holders would feel who wished to give freedom to their slaves.

Such are my views of one mode at least to which your aims should be subjected, never however forgetting to open the eyes of the people to the enormities of slavery for if the people of the Slave States had no hopes whatever of assistance from the free states in putting down an insurrection their fears would induce them to look more seriously at the whole subject & at every practical remedy. — It is of vast importance to continue the exposure of the Colonization Society. I am afraid to find that some people (well disposed to our cause) seem to be disposed to look at the opinions of good men rather than take the trouble to investigate the nature of the thing for themselves.

I am just about to try an experiment which if it succeeds would be of vast importance to the Coloured people in your country whether children or grown up. I send the[e] a copy of my plan if some individual or society in America would take it up it would be most desirable — I shall be glad to hear from thee as to the progress of our cause & am with great regard

Thy sincere friend

James Cropper

I hope our good friend Stuart will be safely arrived in America before this time.

I have taken no active part in promoting [?] America, I did however contribute to a fund which is placed at Stuart’s disposal. — I am a little afraid of our stepping out of our proper place in paying Agents to travel in the United States but I am satisfied there is a degree of apathy from which it is needful the people in your country should by some means be aroused.

J.C.

MS. A. 9. 2. vol. 7 1798-1835 The Weston Papers
No. 31 William Lloyd Garrison to Robert Purvis!

Boston, May 20, 1834.

My Dear Purvis:

Since my return, I have been so disturbed and distracted by conflicting engagements & duties, as to be unable to send you half as many letters to my dear friends in England, as I contemplated when I saw you. You will be disappointed, and I am sorry; but I dare not delay any longer. Should you fail to go immediately, (and I know not how you can be spared from this country,) I wish you would put the accompanying letters in the Liverpool and London mail bags,erasing the line at the bottom referring to yourself.

The persons whom I meant to introduce you to by letter, are — James Ryely & Dr. Hancock, Liverpool; Joseph Sturge, Birmingham; Arthur West, Bath; Elizabeth & Mary Dudley, Peckham, nr. London; Wm. Allen, Richard Barrett, Joseph Phillips, Danl. O’Connell, Dr. Lushington, George Stephen, Joseph & Emmanuel Cooper, John Scoble & c & c. I hope you will become acquainted with all these.

You will be able to communicate many interesting facts to our English brethren. Be sure to take out with you our latest anti-slavery publications. Mr. Bell will give you copies of the Liberator.

If practicable, let me hear from you on your arrival in England....

Remember me in a very special manner to my dear friend, the Rev. Nathl. Paul, and also to his estimable lady.

1. Robert Purvis (1810-98) was a leader of the coloured citizens of Philadelphia — the group from which the Liberator drew its chief support. Purvis was later to become one of the most energetic workers for the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania.
2. James Ryely (1768-1845) had married Margaret Cropper, James Cropper’s sister.
3. Dr. Thomas Hancock (1783-1849) was a famous Quaker doctor and writer.
4. Elizabeth (1799-1849) and Mary Dudley were Ministers in the Society of Friends.
5. William Allen (1770-1843) was a leading English Quaker, the friend of Wilberforce and Clarkson, and had worked for the anti-slavery movement since the days of the agitation for the abolition of the slave trade. A scientist and philanthropist he worked also for education and other social reforms, though his strong religious views led him into disagreement with more radical thinkers such as James Mill and also with Robert Owen, with whom he cooperated for a time over the model factory at New Lanark. Allen travelled extensively on the Continent examining social conditions there and interviewing statesmen and rulers.
6. Richard Barrett (1784-1855) was another Minister in the Society of Friends.
7. Dr. Stephen Lushington (1782-1873) had worked closely with Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton in the campaign for British emancipation. He was also active in Parliamentary reform circles.
8. Joseph (1800-1881) and Emmanuel Cooper were Quakers, active in anti-slavery circles, and later members of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.
9. John Scoble was one of the agents appointed by the Agency Committee to lecture on anti-slavery in 1831. From 1837 to 1839 he visited the West Indies and the United States, and later became Secretary of the B.F.A.S.S., and from then on a target of attack by the Garrisonites. He left Britain in 1852, and until about 1865 worked in the United States and in Canada.