

Chapter 22

Lodging on Front Street, Tynemouth: Martineau's "Cheerers," Stories for Children (1840-1841)

Helping to relieve Moxon's gloom over poor sales of *The Hour and the Man*, Martineau secured an agreement with Knight to bring out four children's tales on the first of February, May, August and November 1841, called (collectively) *The Playfellow*. Besides "authorship," she was spending hours gazing at the view from the window seat. Beyond the grassy down dotted with cows, she sometimes saw less bucolic scenes. Grim shipwrecks led to "the plundering by wreckers," she wrote to James. In *Life in the Sick-Room* she was further to describe "the ominous rush of men and boys to the rocks and the ridge," the launching of lifeboats and the crew "taken from the rigging" followed by "the destruction of the vessel." Then ensued parties of "women, boys, and men, passing along the ridge or the sands with the spoils; bundles of sailcloth, armsful [sic] of spars, shoulder-loads of planks" (coastal dwellers defended scavenging as a right and at times opposed safety measures like lighthouses).¹

Looking over her journal for the past year, Martineau noted two unexpected and cheering events. At the beginning of December, Lady Byron -- pleased with her refusal of a pension -- had "placed £100 at my disposal for the relief of cases of desert and distress." Then Milnes, "though a Puseyite and a Tory," sent her his "'one tract more,' and a beautiful letter as well as 'Christian Endurance,'" his poem that exactly pertained to her.

Answering a "kind note" from Fox, Martineau admitted her disease had increased. She used opiates more often -- which did not affect her head -- and would probably never leave the two rooms to which she was confined. Yet recovery *was* possible, if far off. With a "glorious sea view, & fine air," she was trying to avoid invalid habits so she could work. "So it *was* you who gave me that word of comfort in the Chronicle," she went on. Rachel "burst into tears of pleasure when she read it." Now she was "engaged for a series of 'Tales'" for children and had enjoyed a "perpetual succession of friends" since May.²

Possibly for her first Christmas at Tynemouth, Martineau's fireplace was decorated with holly -- a surprise, as she recounted in *Life in the Sick-Room*. On the 31st, she sent James an "interesting letter from Lord Jeffrey" on *Deerbrook* and reported the attempt by Robert Hutton, "in the most delicate way, to renew the pension offer." Hutton had influence with the government "as the anti-repeal member for Dublin" (i.e., opposing repeal of the Act of Union of Ireland with Great Britain), but she would adhere to her "grounds for refusal."

In early January, Martineau's "cheerer" for "more than three months," Julia, left. Yet she told Crabb Robinson she did not feel closely confined, her sea-view was "so animating." Elisabeth Reid had presented her with "a fine stand-telescope," to help her see what was happening below her window -- and she loved the solitude and quiet. "I think I see you stare," she went on lightheartedly, "as you did when I told you I was not a Utilitarian." Her mother was settled with "her children at Liverpool," Martineau chatted on, and a "Haytian gentleman now in London" was translating *The Hour and the Man* for publication in Haiti. She hoped he would add an "historical" chapter to set the work in context. Knowing Robinson was intimate with

Wordsworth, she sent the poet her respects. As a young person, when everyone else was reading Byron, *she* read *The Excursion* and knew it by heart before she was 20.³

Though no longer going out, Martineau was gratified in January to be made an honorary member of the Tynemouth Literary and Philosophical Institution. Most cheering of all, Rowland Hill's penny post act came into effect on Friday, 10 January 1840, a boon for *her* and for soldiers in the castle barracks! Evidence showed, she briefed an American friend, "that the morals of a regiment depend mainly on the readiness of the commanding officer in franking the soldiers' family letters" now unnecessary. "We are all putting up our letter boxes on our hall doors with great glee," she went on. She hoped for "a line or two almost every day" from her brothers and sisters; to save the postman's time, well-wishers to the system had put "slips in the doors." Humble people *did* write letters, and the stimulus to trade would be "prodigious."⁴

Martineau's first *Playfellow*, *The Settlers at Home*, came out in February. Set in sixteenth-century Lincolnshire on the Isle of Axholme, "a piece of land hilly in the middle, and surrounded by rivers," the story concerned the settlement in the fens of Norfolk and Lincolnshire by Huguenots, fellows of Martineau's ancestors. Her plot came from several sources: Thomas De Quincey's account quoted in *Tait's* of children orphaned by a snowstorm, Thomas Dick Lauder's *Account of the Great Floods of August 1829, in the Province of Moray and Adjoining Districts*, "read many years before," the *Penny Cyclopaedia* and a Poor Law Report. Realistic details like the Dutch settlers' loss of their farm and gypsum mine (used for fertilizer) when resentful local people open a sluice gate echoed those of Martineau's political economy tales. In the story two Dutch (Huguenot) children, a servant and a local rogue boy save themselves by quickness and enterprise and become close friends. Love and acceptance of loss seen through the eyes of the children infuse the story. Though seemingly weak as a story, this "new kind of work" went off to Knight, Martineau feeling sure of "a prosperous circulation."⁵

Though tormented by "incessant uneasiness of body and unstringing of nerves," Martineau quickly began another *Playfellow*. Even as a "prisoner" she found her days too short, she told William Ware, listing the demands on her time:

Books to write, strangers sending M.S.S. for advice . . . friends beseeching revision & "touching" for documents . . . authors' presentation copies to be read & acknowledged . . . opinions to be given . . . editors, pulling me to pieces for "information about Hayti;" my own large family . . . needing "just a line."

A friend had sent a subscription to "Hookham's (great London library)" of which she must avail herself while it lasted, and she must make and mend clothes -- Ellen was coming for a last visit before her marriage in April or May. Alfred Higginson had taken a "pretty house" in Liverpool, and Elizabeth was to live with them. At Newcastle, she laughed slyly, Ware's "Palmyra & Probus" were devoured by the "Puseyites & Evangelicals," and "we shall begin to let out that the author is a Unitⁿ minister." Did Ware know Walter Savage Landor's *Pericles and Aspasia*? Ripley's "Letter to his flock" had pleased her. She heard from Channing and Elizabeth Follen, and the Furnesses wrote "delightfully." Jeffrey's opinion of *The Hour and the Man* was that it was "the first in Europe" for that sort of work, and from those who knew of Toussaint, "testimonies . . . to the truth of the representation" were "turning up on all hands."⁶

(Macready, negotiating to take over management of the Drury Lane theatre in London, called on Martineau in late March on his way to perform at Newcastle. "Went by railway to North Shields," he recorded in his diary on Sunday the 28th. Walking to Tynemouth he got Martineau's address at the post office and sent in his name. She was "a heroine," he affirmed, with "fine sense . . . lofty principles [and] the sincerest religion."⁷)

Telling James of Macready's visit, Martineau reiterated the "rapid increase of her complaint." Meanwhile friends were showering her with gifts -- "£10 just flung to her out of the dark" -- plus a yearly stipend of £20 from Uncle Peter Martineau, allowing her to hire "a maid to sew and manage her wardrobe, and read, &c."

(James noted that Elizabeth Ker was offering to store the furniture from Fludyer Street, "relieving Harriet of the £12 per annum for storage.") Later in April, Martineau sent James an extract of Dr. Channing's "admiration" for her Toussaint.⁸

Martineau's second *Playfellow*, *The Peasant and the Prince*, opens in a village in Champagne where the poor, harassed by the nobles, are given coins by Marie Antoinette as she passes through on her way to wed the future Louis XVI -- her artless generosity enabling a young peasant to marry his sweetheart. Quickly the scene changes to Paris and Versailles and events that end with the execution of the king and queen and the last painful months of their young son. Colorful details of dress, jewelry, manners and so on enliven the story, but *The Peasant and the Prince* did not prove a success "except among poor people, who read it with wonderful eagerness," Martineau noted. She blamed Bellenden Ker, who had instigated the work and then rebuked her for not using all his ideas. Its failure, she concluded, provided "evidence that one mind cannot (in literature) work well upon the materials suggested by another."⁹

In June, Martineau told Anna Jameson she was writing a book that lay near her heart, encouraged by *Elizabeth Ker* (staying in Tynemouth), "on whose judgment I absolutely rely in these matters." With no prospect of leaving her "two rooms [and] window-seat, (w^h I have cushioned, & made a couch of)," she could look northward towards the

sea & rocks [and] a fine green field, with shady hollows, larks, cows, & a frisky young colt, the castle with the red soldiers, fine gardens & pig sties, & a cottage below, with some capital "blackguard" children.

Miss Fox, who she feared wore herself out, "chiefly with *talking*," had lately brought her "pickle & marmelade of her own making." About her own early reading (no doubt answering Jameson's query), the first book she remembered "being taken captive by was *Paradise Lost*," probably at age seven, having "turned it up at one of the *Argument* pages" and being "much struck with the idea of Satan flying thro' chaos." Afterwards, she read the Old and New Testaments, moral tales "and all martyrdoms," Shakespeare, histories by Goldsmith and Voltaire, 17th- and 18th-century poets, narrative poems by Southey and, at age seventeen, Hartley.¹⁰

Early in 1841, Martineau had informed Moxon she could *hear* better, but by late June was finding *writing* difficult. She told James of worrying about money and hoping to increase her investment out of "more recent gains." Before sending instructions to Richard, though, she wanted to know about James's "probable repayment of her loans . . . and what should be

reserved to help Henry's emigration." Henry's behavior towards "Whitbread & Co.," had been "very disgraceful." His habits had never improved "as had been supposed," and he was going to Wellington, New Zealand.¹¹

(Carlyle had at first planned to call on Martineau in early spring, taking the steamer to Newcastle on his way north to Scotland. "I must see Miss Martineau," he told his brother [surprisingly after his protests of the year before] but postponed his holiday and said he would "take a view withal" of the lodgings at Tynemouth on the way to Annan and would see Martineau on Friday, 2 July).¹²

To Martineau's delight, Carlyle kept his word. On Saturday, the 3rd of July, he ran about like a schoolboy, Martineau boasted to Emerson. To Jane, Martineau exclaimed that she "had seen all manner of good things in him before," but never "what he was in good spirits. O! he was so light & gay!" She doubted whether "so merry a person" except the Greenhow children had been in her parlor. She had taken "plenty of opium, in order to thoroughly enjoy the day," and was just finishing breakfast when he came in, "he having already bathed." After some talk,

he went to Shields, to see after his goods, & change his coat. Then in again; then off for a walk to Cullercoats [along the coast], & back to dinner at 4.

Elisabeth Reid and a young companion dined in her room with Carlyle. He went away for tea, came back, and when the two women left at nine, "staid talking till near 11: & I sat up thinking till two . . . Yes^y morn^g, I got another sight of him, -- just for 4 minutes." Carlyle had told her of "many friends, & of his own notions & views" -- more than ever before. And she thanked Jane for a pretty handkerchief and "something to wear from your hand." Though she was feeling better and eating no meat, she would "*suspend*" her present writing series "at the end of N^o 4." No. 3 (*Feats on the Fiord*) was "now in the press," and she liked the work so well she might want to "take it up again." She wished the Carlyles would come for the summer. *He* praised "our dear sea," yet she feared "Annan impressions" would efface those of Tynemouth. When Greenhow met Carlyle at Newcastle -- fancying him, from "his books & report, [to be] grave & sad" -- he found him "gleesome as his own little boys."¹³

(Carlyle asked Jane if Martineau had written: "Poor Harriet," Jane answered, "she seems quite enraptu[r]ed with your visit." Now Erasmus Darwin was "sitting over maps of the north country" [no doubt thinking of going to see both Martineau and Carlyle]. "You may tell Darwin the distance from Tynemouth to Annan by miles is 87," Carlyle wrote back).¹⁴

Two weeks later, Martineau dashed off an excited note to Jane. There was "a godsend of a house" next door, with "only a *very thin* wall" separating it from her, where her mother, "& M^{rs} Ker," had lodged, "& my aunts, again and again." There was a "chamber tow^{ds} the road . . . sitting-room tow^{ds} the field & the sea," study for Carlyle, attic for Helen (their servant), "kitchen . . . & the needful offices," all at two guineas a week, or £1.15 a week for the season. Jane could "run in at [Martineau's] back door" without her bonnet, and invite herself to tea. "O! dearest friend, you will come!" A caveat -- the crisis of Martineau's complaint could "come at any hour" -- but there "w^d be nothing for you to *do*," she assured Jane, "for we are always prepared."¹⁵

(Carlyle now seemed respectful of Martineau, seeing in her "a kind of prompt completeness" which did "honour to Nature and the Socinian Formula." In his travels, he had met with "few more valiant women," he told Milnes: "*Sunt lachrymae rerum*").¹⁶

With habitual generosity, Martineau now tried to help John Robertson find a new position, while his "college course at Aberdeen left him a very celebrated man." In March, she wrote to Nassau Senior, a senator of the University of London, where they were to choose a new professor of logic. In July, she sent Henry Hart Milman a circular concerning relief of "the poorest of the poor in London," proposed "by my friend, M^r Robertson; -- a benevolent, earnest, hard-working man." Could he use Milman's name?¹⁷

Martineau's third *Playfellow*, *Feats on the Fiord*, appeared on 1 August. She *had* "fixed upon a subject of a totally different kind," she claimed in her autobiography, when Laing's *Journal of a Residence in Norway* fell in her way. "I procured Inglis's travels, and every thing I could get hold of about the state of Norway while connected with Denmark." In her story, a young female servant (another orphan, living on a farm north of the arctic circle and betrothed to a stalwart youth) suffers from fear of evil spirits she believes caused her mother's death. Martineau deftly interweaves details of folk customs, unusual foods, colorful clothing and vivid topography while focusing on the warmth and gaiety of the couple's betrothal party in contrast to the snowy landscape outside. A young pastor who disapproves of folk superstitions counterbalances a fatherly, tolerant bishop. The heroine's fears and questions about life then precede the humble but important task of cheese making. Suddenly, pirates appear in the fiord (turning the narrative into a boys' suspense story) but the young fiancé, lost on an island, terrorizes the pirates who think he is a spirit. Farmers capture the pirates in a dramatic ambush, and the story ends with a wedding and religious message.¹⁸

When Martineau received an autographed copy of Emerson's *Essays* (comprising "Self-Reliance," "Compensation," "The Over-Soul," etc.), she gushed: "The spirit of your book has come to me like a breeze, -- like a handful of wild-flowers, & has made me like itself, bold & free." Carlyle, she added, was "about to come again, with his wife (who grows upon me continually!)." ¹⁹

Next taking "a mere morsel of paper," Martineau dashed off a note to Fanny Wedgwood gloating over "a merry letter from M^{rs} Jenny" (Carlyle) from Newby on the Solway Firth, where *their* sea was "like coffee grounds." Knowing Fanny's interest in politics, Martineau ran over articles in the latest *Edinburgh*, identifying and misidentifying authors and pronouncing on issues like Robert Peel and the possible repeal of the Corn Laws. Had Fanny read Emerson's essays, the "first immortal Amerⁿ book?" Her own "supposed losses by poor Knight's failure" had been averted, she went on, for "he and the chief creditors have resolved that I am not to lose." Though at first relieved to "rest from the pen," she could not now think of stopping and had "resumed" that morning, her "duty made clear and indisputable" (Charles Knight later admitted to a "chronic loss" from his *Penny Cyclopaedia*, and Martineau must have begun *The Crofton Boys*, the fourth *Playfellow*).²⁰

(Worrying over Martineau, Jane Carlyle told Thomas in September that Fanny and Erasmus would leave Tynemouth next day. Carlyle had not *planned* to return there but agreed to go. Some days later, he and Jane arrived to find Martineau in high spirits. "Poor Miss Martineau, she seems . . . much weaker, and with a *false* kind of excitement in her manner," he told Emerson. "The sight of her gives me real sorrow." Jane's reaction was less charitable:

"Harriet Martineau exhausted in talk my every particle of intellect, imagination, and common sense)."21

Waiting for the Carlyles, Martineau had gossiped to James that Emily Taylor's property inherited from her brother had sold well and would yield her "£200 a year." Also, a copy of the first volume of George Combe's *Notes on the United States of North America* had "found its way" into her "sick-room" (possibly Martineau's first use of the term), and she agreed with Combe's views on the new nation.²²

(For over two years, Greenhow had observed Martineau's symptoms and when Sir Charles Clarke [whom he had consulted earlier] proposed to visit the north, Greenhow asked him to examine her. Clarke saw Martineau on 24 September (1841) and confirmed that she had an enlarged uterus. In most cases, he commented, such enlargement "produced mechanical symptoms only, and *did not lead to any fatal result*" [Greenhow's italics, in his *Medical Report*]).²³

Gloomily, Martineau noted in her diary that she "could not but admire the frankness" with which Clarke had told her she could "never again feel health," just as she believed. "How my mother will grieve!" Within a month, however, she altered her opinion of Clarke and declared (to Elizabeth Bostock?) that "Testimonies to [Clarke's] incompetency . . . flow in upon me now [and] enable me to disregard his judgment." (She much preferred Greenhow's "less peremptory, & more modest & rational judgment" she told Lissey). Having previously counted on Elisabeth Reid to carry messages between Bostock and herself, she sent Bostock a kiss "after such intercourse as ours." She was finishing her "poor 4th vol; & there I stop." Bostock would like to hear that "Knight & C^o . . . (sanctioned by their creditors)" had sent her *cash* for the full amount of "vol 3" of the *Playfellow*.²⁴

By early November, Martineau was forced to rely on others to write letters for her. In another hand (either Julia Smith's, who stayed until Christmas, or Emily Taylor's, who stayed into January), she wrote to thank Anne Horner for news of the Lyells' safe arrival in America "& punctual discharge" of a commission. She had heard of the Lyells' popularity at Philadelphia "where much interest . . . was excited by M^{rs} Lyell's zealous & industrious participation in her husband's pursuits." One cause of her own fatigue had now ended: she had sent the last *Playfellow* manuscript off "two days ago."²⁵

¹ HM to JM, October and 19 November 1840, *HM/FL* 488 and 488-89; Julia Smith suggested *The Playfellow* title; "Nature to the Invalid," *Life in the Sick-Room* (London: Moxon, 1849) 45-46 (for opposition to the building of lighthouses, cf. Bella Bathurst, *The Lighthouse Stevensons* [London: Harper Collins, 1999] and see "Tynemouth Bar, Northumberland," *Penny Magazine*, 22 August 1840: 388 [on tides, shallow crossing, and three lighthouses]).

² *Auto.* 3: 238-40; see HM to Milnes, 4 December [1841], *CL* 2: 102-103; HM to WJF, 8 December [1840], *BANC* [Box 2] 71 (partly rptd. *CL* 2: 71-72).

³ See "Sympathy to the Invalid," *Life in the Sick-Room* 31; HM to JM, 19 November 1840, *HM/FL* 488-89 (for Jeffrey's letter, see chap. 21: note 38); see HM to Robert Hutton, 29 December 1840, *CL* 2: 72-73; HM to HCR, 8 January 1842, *DWL*, HCR corr. 1842 121a (partly pbd. *CL* 2: 106).

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- ⁴ HM to the Committee of the Tynemouth Literary and Philosophical Institution, 11 January 1841, BANC [Box 1] 58; "Extract from a Letter from Harriet Martineau" [probably to Maria Weston Chapman], *Auto.* 3: 249-50 (the "slips" must have listed the residents in a house).
- ⁵ *The Playfellow. The Settlers at Home* (London: Charles Knight, 1841) 1 (Martineau reused the setting in a *Daily News* leader of 27 May 1862 on the flooding of agricultural lands: see *HM/DN* 113-20 [water management, especially arterial drainage, formed one of her *Daily News* specialties]); Thomas De Quincey, "Sketches of Life and Manners; from the Autobiography of an English Opium-Eater.--Continued. Recollections of Grasmere," *Tait's* 10 and 6 (September 1839): 569-81; Thomas Dick Lauder, *An Account of the Great Floods of August 1829, in the Province of Moray and Adjoining Districts* (Edinburgh: A. Black, 1830); *Auto.* 2: 159-60.
- ⁶ HM to William Ware, 3 February 1841, BPL/MsEng244 f.15 (partly pbd. *CL* 2: 76-77); Hookham's Library, 15 Old Bond Street, London, 1813-52; Landor's imaginary high-flown letters from members of Pericles' circle alluded to *nineteenth-century* concerns.
- ⁷ *Macready*, Pollack 2: 172-73; *Macready*, Toynbee 2: 136-17.
- ⁸ HM to JM, 25 March-1 April and 18 April 1841, *HM/FL* 489-90 and 490.
- ⁹ *The Peasant and the Prince. A Story of the French Revolution* (London: Moxon, 1841); *Auto.* 2: 160-61 and 167.
- ¹⁰ HM to Anna Jameson, 15 June [1841], *SL* 58-62 (partly pbd. *CL* 2: 81-84); "Miss Fox" was probably Sarah ("Sadie") Fox, sister of Charles and William Johnson Fox.
- ¹¹ HM to Moxon, 2 January, 21 and 22 June 1841, Bod. Lib. MS Eng. Lett. d. 2. ff. 85-87, 89, 88; HM to JM, 28 June 1841, *HM/FL* 490.
- ¹² TC to Alexander Carlyle, 28 June 1841 *Carlyle Letters* 13: 165-66; TC to JWC, 3, [4] May 1841, *Carlyle Letters* 13: 123-24, 126.
- ¹³ HM to RWE, 8 August 1841, *CL* 2: 88-91; HM to JWC, 4 and [17] July [1841], (first) NLS MS 2883, f. 94 and (second) *CL* 2: 86-88.
- ¹⁴ TC to JWC, 8 [6] July 1841 and JWC to TC [6 July 1841], *Carlyle Letters* 2: 168-69 and 169-72.
- ¹⁵ HM to JWC, 4 and [17] July [1841], NLS MS 2883, f. 94 and *CL* 2:86-88.
- ¹⁶ TC to Milnes, 19 July 1841, *Carlyle Letters* 13: 191-94.
- ¹⁷ HM to Nassau Senior, 31 March [1841], *CL* 2; 80-81; HM to Henry Hart Milman, 23 July [1841], *CL* 2: 85-86.
- ¹⁸ *Auto.* 2: 168-69 (Martineau had consulted Inglis's work on the Channel Islands for two *Illustrations of Taxation*); Samuel Laing, *Journal of a Residence in Norway, during the years 1834, 1835, & 1836; made with a View to Inquire into the Moral and Political Economy of that Country, and the Condition of its Inhabitants* (London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, and Longman, 1836), Laing later asked Martineau how long she had lived in Norway); Henry David Inglis, *A Personal Narrative of a Journey through Norway, Part of Sweden and the Islands and States of Denmark* (Edinburgh: Constable, 1829); for Inglis, see chap. 7, note 53.
- ¹⁹ HM to RWE, 8 August 1841, *CL* 2: 88-91; the later English edition of *Essays: by R.W. Emerson* (Boston: J. Munroe, 1841) included a preface by Carlyle of 11 August 1841 calling the essays "the soliloquy of a true soul" (London: J. Fraser, 1841) xi.
- ²⁰ HM to FW, Friday night [late August 1841], *HM/FW* 38-40 (Knight blamed the high duty on paper and other taxes for his failure to make a profit on the *Penny Cyclopaedia* ["Note to Chapter

XV," *Passages* 2: 331-36] but was rescued by his creditors: see HM to William Harness, 4 August [1841], *CL* 2: 88).

²¹ JWC to TC, [5 September 1841]; TC to Thomas Story Spedding, 12 August 1841; TC to Margaret A. Carlyle, [17 September 1841]; JWC to Helen Welsh, (11 October 1841), *Carlyle Letters* 13: 243-45, 212-14, 254-55 and 273-74.

²² HM to JM, 6 September 1841, *HM/FL* 490-91; HM to George Combe, 24 September 1841, *CL* 2: 96-97; George Combe, *Notes on the United States of North America, during a Phrenological Visit in 1838-9-40* (Edinburgh: Maclachlan, Stewart, et al [in London], 1841); Combe lectured on phrenology in New York City, Albany, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and elsewhere and travelled to Kentucky, Ohio [Cincinnati] and Washington, D.C., measuring heads including those of native Americans and of a group of Africans from the ship *Amistad* captured off Long Island in 1839; he visited schools, prisons, institutions for the insane and for the blind, deaf and dumb; he mentions Martineau when differing with her about Edward Everett or when an informant corrected her version of a Quaker marriage.

²³ Greenhow 15.

²⁴ *Auto.* 3: 238 (see HM to James, 5 October 1841, *HM/FL* 491); HM to [Elizabeth Ann Bostock], 27 October [1841], *CL* 2: 99-100 (HM's first extant letter to Bostock); for Bostock's later affiliation with Reid, see Rosemary Ashton, *Victorian Bloomsbury*.

²⁵ HM to Anne (Mrs. Leonard) Horner, 10 November 1841, *CL* 2: 100; Charles Lyell's wife was the Horners' niece Mary (Lyell's *Elements of Geology* had appeared in 1838; he was studying the geology of the New World and was to lecture at the Lowell Institute in Boston to large groups of men and women from "every station in society, . . . all well dressed and observing the utmost decorum;" but he disapproved of Americans' treatment of northern blacks: Charles Lyell, *Travels in North America; with Geological Observations on the United States, Canada, and Nova Scotia* [London: John Murray, 1845] 1: 108); *The Crofton Boys* [*Playfellow*] (London: Charles Knight, 1841).