

Chapter 35

***Daily News* Obituarist and Reviewer (1853)**

On 25 November, Martineau submitted a new kind of article to the *Daily News*, explaining to Hunt:

I wrote this on Miss Berry after tea last night, - I hope you can put it in . . . not only because her death is the most remarkable one of the sort (for Rogers did not begin early with literature) that can now happen, but because I think this notice will certainly carry D.N. where it is not likely to go otherwise.

She could not "put *all* about these 3 old ladies" (Mary Berry, her sister, Agnes, and their friend Lady Charlotte Lindsay) like their "astonishing paint (red & white) & their swearing," which were "fashions of the last century" that would not be understood now. "The sayings . . . attributed to Miss Berry were things said to myself," she assured Hunt. (Martineau's sharp, but genial obituary was the first of a distinguished series of forty-six, her tribute to Henry Clay in the *Daily News* of 13 July 1852 having already appeared as a leader.)

"Who is this abominable fellow 'G,' who does just what Disraeli did?" What a wretch Disraeli was! It was "a bitter shame to be governed by him & Malmesbury," she sneered, scoffing at Derby and warning against Palmerston. "I won't deluge you with articles," she promised, but "I could not help doing Miss Berry." Hunt should do justice to the "Militia & the Defence subject, - & soon," she advised. Her French news, sent through "a safe official channel," was very impressive. Next, she sent Hunt a letter "from a dearly-loved cousin" about "Col' Radice . . . a Piedmontese refugee of 1822, - a member of the Frankfort Diet in 1848," who would probably call at Hunt's office.¹

Martineau's practical letters to Hunt belied the "domestic griefs" awaiting her at The Knoll. Her "dear servant Jane" - persuaded by Martineau's talks on the prospects for single women in Australia - had "resolved to emigrate [and] was to sail in November." At Cork, Martineau had received the news that her other beloved servant, Martha, was to marry the Master of the Ragged School at Bristol - her former "coadjutor in the Norfolk Workhouse School."²

Stepping briskly into the role of wedding planner, by 16 October Martineau had dashed off the first of several notes to Rev. Philip Pearsall Carpenter (youngest son of Lant Carpenter and now Presbyterian minister at Warrington). The chapel "just at the foot of my rock" was registered for marriages, she assured him, the registrar being "our respectable parish clerk." Could Carpenter and his sister be her guests "for M^r A's marriage?" She had two spare rooms; the schoolroom of the chapel served as her lecture room in winter, and on the worst nights she could get there in two minutes. Andrews ("M^r A," Martha's fiancé) suggested Wednesday, 22 December, for the wedding. If the Carpenters couldn't come, the registrar could marry the couple in the chapel in the morning, and they could take the midday train and be in Warrington by evening. Next she would write to Carpenter's sister Mary.

A few days later Martineau added that "good M^r Field," manager of the Kendall Savings Bank, had offered to go with Martha the last week in November to register her intended marriage. The parish clerk, a self-styled "pillar of the church," said they only needed to ask *him* in time for use of the chapel. Martineau also wanted to invite Andrews's sister to The Knoll if it

wouldn't spoil the tête-à-tête he and Martha "really must have without interruption," and Miss Andrews could share Martha's room. Pleased that Carpenter and his sister were coming for the wedding, Martineau begged him to give a temperance lecture at Ambleside. The town was the worst *she had* seen except in the slave states, and its teetotalers had no funds to hire a lecturer. Nearly all the men and many women, even of the upper ranks, drank, and drunkenness flourished "in the midst of the extremest religious cant." Carpenter might use the National School house, being admitted as other dissenters had been, although the "great man here" (Martineau's "enemy," the incumbent) would have him thrown out of the window if he came for any other reason than to give a temperance lecture. At Kendall, where she had gone yesterday with Martha to register her marriage (Field evidently having reneged), the registrar made *Martineau* do his work, making Martha laugh. "Indeed," she went on gaily, "the getting married seems such an easy affair that I have half a mind to try it myself." Andrews would stay "at Fulcher's cottage, - Martha's brother wishing to show this attention." Was Carpenter "a vegetarian [so she might] dig up vegetables enough?"

By mid-December, Martineau was in a flurry of arrangements for her houseguests. Having just learned that the early train was the only one on Sundays, she said Mary Carpenter must come with Andrews (as escort) or with her brother on Monday - but she was welcome to a quiet Sunday at The Knoll. Mary Arnold had invited them to see the portrait of Dr. Arnold at Fox How, Martineau accepting for Tuesday before the wedding when they could leave Martha with her fiancé. For the bride, Mary Arnold was sending a copy of Dr. A.'s "School Sermons" (preached in Rugby School chapel). To Martineau's delight, Martha's successor had brought with her from Birmingham a completely fitted-up workbasket for the bride's new home, a gift from Robert's wife and daughters.³

As well as pouring out articles for the *Daily News*, *Household Words* and her long piece for the *Westminster*, Martineau quickly caught up with correspondence. Sending a promised letter from Henry Clay to the Scottish bookseller William Finlay Watson, she trembled because it now seemed more private than she had thought. Clay was dead, however, leaving "only an aged widow, & sons who, from insanity & other causes, are not likely to be competent to take notice of . . . any thing." This letter had "a singular interest" for her, others from Clay being less significant or interesting. Moreover, Clay had lost her esteem "long ago, from his thoroughly vicious conduct on the slavery question, & other political matters." On another subject, she and her niece Susan - now at The Knoll - were "thoroughly uneasy about Dr. Brown." Prof. Nichol had been there yesterday, and had had no word.⁴

Earlier in October, Martineau had welcomed Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) to The Knoll. After staying with the Combes in Edinburgh, Evans was making her way to London. She and Martineau had met at the Bracebridges' and again the past January at John Chapman's, 142 Strand, London. After their second meeting, Evans deplored the "*vulgarity* of [Martineau's] looks and gestures" though she respected her "powers and industry" (Evans was tormented by her *own* lack of beauty). After Lombe's death in March, Martineau asked Evans to be joint trustee with Atkinson of Lombe's fund for the translation of Comte and had invited her to a future stay at The Knoll.

("The coach brought me to Miss Martineau's gate at 1/2 past 6 yesterday evening," Evans wrote to a friend on the 21st. Martineau seemed "charming in her own home;" she "came behind me, put her hands round me, and kissed me in the prettiest way . . . telling me

she was so glad she had got me there.")

Next day Atkinson came, and they "trudged about," looking at the model cottages going up for the building society and enjoying "the fine scenery of Windermere and Derwent Water." Evans's visit was a "vast pleasure," Martineau later told Chapman, the only drawbacks being the "wet roads and that she would not stay longer."

(In fact, Evans had not felt well at The Knoll and missed seeing W.R. Greg. He and Martineau remained on "very friendly terms," she told Combe, but did not often exchange visits. Astutely, Evans summed up her hostess:

Even one who went to see Miss Martineau with a prepossession against her must be won to admiration of her geniality, and energetic efforts for the good of her working neighbours. Her building society, her lectures, and her affectionate interest in the welfare of her servants, who, after being with her several years, are trying to "better themselves" by marriage and emigration, shew a practical goodness quite as rare as her talent for writing).⁵

Jane Arrowsmith had evidently departed quietly on 25 October, the day before Evans left.

While Martineau was entertaining Evans, Grace Davy had gone to the Windermere station to welcome Elizabeth Gaskell and her daughter Meta, to take them home with her. Gaskell's hectic life at Manchester [the Wedgwoods had just visited for a day] and the ending of her novel *Ruth* were troubling her. Gaskell wrote to her eldest daughter that at the Davys', they had "that delightful thing a bedroom tea while we dressed for dinner; Mrs. Arnold, Susan Arnold, Mrs Twining came to tea, & we were very lazy. [Dr Davy is from home.]"

Grace Davy took her guests to dinner at Lancrigg [her mother, Eliza Fletcher's home], and Gaskell went on: "I want to call on Mrs Wordsworth, & Miss Martineau." When Gaskell learned that Mary Carpenter was coming to The Knoll, she wrote to urge *her* to call on Grace Davy. "I don't quite understand the domestic politics of these vallies," she admitted, but, both Mrs Fletcher & Mrs Davy have thought it right to decline intercourse with Miss Martineau [except for causes of humanity], since the publication of her book. Davy would not therefore want to call on Carpenter "at Miss M's house."

However, Gaskell had seen Martineau's maid Martha Fulcher,

& a very nice-looking person she is: and her brother, Miss Martineau's gardener seems very much pleased at the prospect of her marriage. 'Jane' as perhaps you know leaves Ambleside today for Australia, to which place she is going in something of a missionary spirit, and well stocked with tracts by *both* Mrs Davy & Miss Martineau).⁶

Though Grace Davy and her mother and others declined to keep up friendships with Martineau, *her* social calendar was bursting with activities. "What a provoking woman you are," she teased Frances Ogden on 1 December, "to come on the one day when I was gone to dine with Miss Meyer!" Would the Ogdens and "M^r Davies like to come when 'Curren Bell'" was there, "probably in a few days" if her father's health permitted, but "certainly before the Carpenters" on the 20th? Philip Carpenter was to give his temperance lecture the following evening, "& on the 22^d, my pretty Martha is to be married . . . M^r P.C. officiating." "[P]lenty of cake" had been ordered, "the Arnolds & other neighbours promise[d] flowers: & we are to be 24 at the breakfast." All of which would be "too much for poor delicate 'Curren'" [indeed Brontë failed to come].

How much did the Ogdens know of the "strange proceedings" of their guest, "M^r Smith, in using our meeting [of the building society?] at your house to send a biography of me to the Biographical Magazine?" The account was crowded with errors: "Eg, I never read a line of Lardner, as far as I remember [Martineau had cited Lardner in *Eastern Life*]," and Smith called her "'a little stuggy woman,' carrying my umbrella *under my arm* (!) & W. Wells Brown, 'a tall & stately woman.'" Smith, moreover, "ought not to have put so much into the mouth of the poor coachman, - out of his own head, - about the clergy &c.," which "might hurt the poor fellow" [a fictitious? gossiping coachman hinted at the local incumbent's dissatisfaction with Martineau's schemes]. Atkinson, Evans and she had "a good laugh over it." Ellen was "nursing her children in scarlet fever," she went on to Ogden, but there was no cause for uneasiness.⁷

Despite interruptions, Martineau "opened Comte again" on 1 December, having got into the thick of the mathematical portion" before she left in July. On Christmas Day, she finished "the first of the six volumes," comprising mathematics, astronomy and physics. Her working method was "simple enough," she claimed airily. As she went along, she studied Comte's subjects "in the evenings, for the most part," reviving what she knew and adding "much more." Then she "set up the volume on a little desk, glanced over a page or a paragraph [proving how fast and effectively she read] and set down its meaning in the briefest and simplest way" she could. Working four or five days a week, she aimed at twenty-five to thirty - and once did forty-eight pages in a day. Her readable English version she hoped "would put a stop to the mischievous, though ludicrous, mistakes about Comte's doctrine and work." Comte had never said, for example, that theology and the popular interest in it were at an end, but believed it could be replaced by "a true Science of Human Nature" ("blunders" in regard to Comte's ideas seemed to titillate Martineau).⁸

In December, besides a half dozen leaders and a letter signed "A. Z." for the *Daily News*, Martineau penned "The Deaf Playmate's Story" for the Christmas issue of *Household Words*. At Ambleside, she also wrote to her neighbour Miss Clay about "Miss Dodd," a "highly qualified person; - aged above thirty," staying at Lady Frankland Russell's and looking for a position as governess.⁹

Martha's wedding seemed to banish Martineau's usual end-of-the-year gloom. Martha became a guest "in the sitting-rooms" for a few days at The Knoll and Mary Carpenter served as her bridesmaid in the chapel. In her autobiography, Martineau recorded (a bit smugly) that Martha

had worked hard at her wedding clothes during my absence, that she might be free for my service after my return: and now, after instructing her young successor, she dressed herself well, and dined with us, conversing freely, and . . . making a good dinner, while watching that every body was well served.

On the evening of the temperance lecture, Martineau and Mary Carpenter stayed home to "set out the long table" for the wedding party, "dressed the flowers [and] put on the cold dishes; covered up the whole, and shut up the cat." The following morning Martha presented Martineau with "a pretty cap of her own making" and helped her to dress for the chapel. After the ceremony, the party of twenty-four sat down in the kitchen for a "capital breakfast" accompanied by speeches and good cheer. Later when the new maids had "dried their sympathetic tears and removed the tables," and given away delicacies usually served to Martineau's neighbours at Christmas, *she* sat down with "a bursting headache, to write the

story to the bride's family, and the Carpenters' and my own."¹⁰

Within days, Martineau turned to Philip Carpenter for advice concerning a "desperate" local case of alcoholism. Marking her letter "(Confidential)," she reminded him of two cottages at Rydal belonging to the Wordsworths that they had walked past before Martha's wedding, where a man had been found hanging in his closet the day before he was to leave. Mary Wordsworth had forgiven the man much rent, but as executrix she had no option but to dismiss him as a tenant - and he and his wife both drank. Jane Forster took the widow, a daughter of their respected postmistress, as cook, thinking a country house in Yorkshire safe for her. Though beer had been served at the servants' dinner before Agnes (the widow) came, that was stopped, and for about three years Jane Forster had kept her eye on Agnes. But when the family were away last Christmas, Forster returned to his mill to find Agnes had been "drunk beyond expression from the time they left," the other servants revealing that she had often asked people to buy her spirits. The Forsters could not keep Agnes, who was now in abject poverty and begging to be saved from drink. She was "about 50, in good health, & an excellent cook, honest (in spite of the vice) . . . & clean, active, & very affectionate; - wanting only power of will, - as to w^h, indeed, she seems a sort of idiot." Did Carpenter know of a reformatory where Agnes could be maintained for her work? Jane Forster had come "last ev^s for help or counsel" and had agreed that Martineau should consult Carpenter.

A week later, Martineau thanked Carpenter for the "Red Lodge idea" (the reformatory for girls to be opened in Bristol by Mary Carpenter, where Agnes presumably could work). Agnes was with her brother, Martineau reported, as her mother lived over the post office, with five public houses nearby.

"[S]omehow," she went on, it was Carpenter's doing "that there were slippers [promised] for me on the Xmas tree." She longed to see them and would be grateful if he forwarded them by rail. Next she retailed "a story about an Occupation road, & how D^r Davy & another rich man can behave." A lane "(in w^h 2 children were once drowned)" had been left in a "washed-down condition" on dark nights, "because M^r Wilson did not choose to afford 'facilities'," as foot passengers damaged his property, while Davy "alone" used it as a cart road. Now "M^{rs} Arnold & I have done it," she triumphed smugly, "the good workmen *refusing profit*" (for repairing the lane).¹¹

Receiving Carpenter's "delightful parcel" of slippers, Martineau did not believe he had "worked them" himself - but who else in Warrington could have made them for her house? Next time he must bring a friend to The Knoll, "or the 2 pairs of slippers will quarrel for your favour." His addressing letters to her as "n^r Kendal" delayed them a post, she cautioned, Ambleside being a post town. Now she would give his volume "all attention." W.R. Greg's *Creed of Christendom* seemed interesting but weak, with a conceited title and style. But she liked Greg's brother Samuel's letter in the *Christian Reformer* on the falsity of his argument about belief.¹²

Suitably, Martineau had just exchanged letters with the Anglican Rev. Graves on their differing beliefs. "We must enjoy *most* our intercourse with those who are wholly of our way of thinking," she granted, "but if we drew off from all others, our country & society would cease to be even civilised." Now they understood each other, she would give herself the pleasure of inquiring for Graves and his wife whenever she went to Bowness, and they must make any use of The Knoll, "on occasion of visits to Ambleside."¹³

In late January and early February, the *Daily News* published book reviews by Martineau of a collection of essays by Greg, of Richard Cobden's "Letters" and (crucially) of Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*. "Currer Bell's" third novel was "crowded with beauties," Martineau decreed, but the quantity of "subjective misery" was a drawback "of which we were anxious before." Like Balzac's female characters (a pejorative comparison) "Currer Bell's . . . in all their thoughts and lives, are full of one thing, or are regarded by the reader in the light of that one thought - love." Worse, the heroine seemed "to have entertained a double love," or to leave the reader with that impression.¹⁴

Early in February, Martineau may have begun to ask friends to listen to her translation of Comte. On the eleventh, she told Frances Ogden she had "waited on the third reading with Miss Meyer (yesterday)" to see if her friend still approved (she did). "[N]ext Sunday," would be their last reading, and then she would send "the final Mathematical section to Prof' Nichol" if Lakefield [i.e., the Ogdens] and *she* agreed with Miss Meyer about it. "[A]t or after Easter," she hoped "to go to press with the first volume." On "Sunday week, - the 20th," she would come to the Ogdens' in a car to stay "till Tuesday morning," there being "no D.N. on Sunday evening," nor "London letters on Monday." Frances Ogden and Davies (who also offered himself as a scribe) were rendering a great service, but they must "speak out exactly" what they thought without "scruples or compliments" to ensure that this work "of very great importance . . . be done as well as possible."

"Of 'Ruth' when we meet," she ended. "With much that is beautiful, there is much that is disgusting & a good deal that is poor" (Gaskell's sympathetic portrayal of a "fallen" woman had begun to raise critical hackles; Bell's Library in London, for example, quickly withdrew the novel as "unsuitable for family reading").¹⁵

A few days later, Martineau told Carpenter that the "liquor law" had not come - she was writing to Mr. Bishop for it. However, she had permission to work on Carpenter's "sister's great subject" and to redeem her promise to Andrews "at that breakfast table w^h I dreamed of for long after." In her *Daily News* leaders of 22 February and 11 April, Martineau duly reported on the government's awareness of ragged schools, industrial feeding schools and reformatories, but noted that more governmental aid for education was needed. On 15 March, she praised "Maine Law" [prohibition], the "abolition of drunkenness" by vote in a self-governing nation even in a semi-barbarous state where wild lumberers, Irish and Indians were to be seen on town streets. Carpenter's news of a brother's wedding reminded her of Martha's sunny prospects. It was "cheering & charming" to see people again marrying "young, instead of waiting till 30." James's daughter Isabella was to marry "an excellent fellow" - and there were other engagements.¹⁶

Notes

¹ HM to Hunt, 25 November [1852] and "Saturday," *CL* 3: 252 and BUL 498; "MISS BERRY--A BEQUEST FROM THE LAST CENTURY.," *DN*, 29 November 1852: 7, cols, 1-2 (rptd. "MISS BERRY.," *BS*: 293-98 and Appen. A, *Auto*. 1); Malmesbury, foreign secretary in Derby's cabinet formed in February 1852; by "G," Martineau must mean Gladstone, who succeeded Disraeli as chancellor of the exchequer in Aberdeen's cabinet of December 1852, Palmerston becoming Home Secretary.

² *Auto*. 2: 407-408 (the 'domestic griefs' must have caused Martineau to skip a stay at the

“Cheshire farm”); Jane Arrowsmith and Martha Fulcher, Martineau’s servants.

³ HM to Philip Pearsall Carpenter [henceforth PPC], 16, 20 October and 24 November [1852], HMC MS H. Martineau 1 fols. 30-31 and 32-33 and CL 3: 251; for Thomas Arnold’s portrait see chap. 33, note 56; Thomas Arnold, *Christian Life, Its Hopes, Its Fears, and Its Close. Sermons, Preached mostly in the chapel of Rugby School* (London: B. Fellowes, 1842); HM to Mary Carpenter, Tuesday night [14 December? 1852], CL 3: 254; Martha's successor Caroline Jones served as Martineau's faithful servant until 1874.

⁴ HM to William Finlay Watson, 18 October [1852], CL 3: 243; W.F. Watson, 52 Princes Street (listed under Booksellers and Stationers, *Post-Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory 1846-7* 146, col. 2); Clay’s support for the American Colonization Society and his waffling on the annexation of Texas no doubt offended Martineau; Brown had been ailing at Portobello in July and by January was living in London.

⁵ George Eliot to Sara Sophia Hennell, [21 January 1852]; George Eliot to Mrs. Charles Bray, [30 March 1852]; George Eliot to George Combe, 29 October 1852, *The George Eliot Letters*, Haight 2: 4-6, 17-18 and 8: 64; Gordon S. Haight, *George Eliot. A Biography* (London: Oxford UP, 1968) 102, 123-24; Martineau was to mention Evans's visit only briefly in her autobiography, no doubt owing to disapproval of the liaison with Lewes (for false rumors of a "message" Evans sent Martineau after she and Lewes went to the continent, see *George Eliot Letters* 8: 123-24 and 128).

⁶ Elizabeth Gaskell to Marianne Gaskell, [October 1852], Elizabeth Gaskell to Mary Carpenter, 25 October [1852], *The Letters of Mrs. Gaskell* 203-204 and 206-207.

⁷ HM to Frances Ogden, 1 December [1852], Armitt Trust, Ambleside ALMS 367/12 (partly pbd. CL 3: 253); Theophilus Davies, tutor to the Ogdens' son; "Harriet Martineau," *Lives of the Illustrious. (The Biographical Magazine.)* (London: J. Passmore Edwards, 1852) 156-63 (Vol. 1 lists twenty-eight names from Napoleon to Disraeli, including Martineau and Margaret Fuller); HM to William Wells Brown [escaped slave and abolitionist who came to Ambleside with the Crafts], 14 March [1851], CL 3: 190-91; Martineau measured “5 ft 4 1/2 in.”.

⁸ *Auto. 2: 389-96; The Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte, freely translated and condensed by Harriet Martineau* (London: John Chapman, 1853).

⁹ See Appen., HM/DN; "The Deaf Playmate's Story," *A Round of Stories By the Christmas Tree [Household Words Christmas Number 1852]*, 6: 27-30 (Martineau's thinly veiled autobiographical tale using a boy narrator pleased Dickens); HM to Miss Clay, 4 December [1852], HM/FL 209-10 (a Rev. J. Clay lived at Miller Bridge, Ambleside); Martineau later sent "Miss Dodd" a copy of her guide to the Lake District as a “memorial of our trips” (HM to Miss Dodd, n.d. [Sunday night], HM/FL 223); Dodd may have stayed at The Knoll again in December 1855 (see HM to FW, 19 December [1855], HM/FW 139).

¹⁰ *Auto. 2: 408-409.*

¹¹ HM to PPC, 3 January and Sunday evening [9 January] 1853, HM/FL 210-11 and CL 3: 259-60; on 10 October 1854, Mary Carpenter took possession of a house in Park Row, Bristol, to set up the Red Lodge Reformatory for Girls (see Ruby J. Saywell, *Mary Carpenter of Bristol* (Bristol: Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1964) 8; sadly, Agnes's case was to prove worse than Martineau knew; Carpenter's industrial school at Warrington made slippers out of old carpets; possibly John Wilson, Esq., solicitor, Cross Brow: see *Guide to Windermere* (1854), Directory, 28.

¹² HM to PPC, 16 January [1853], *HM/FL* 212; Carpenter's "volume" must have been *Selections from the Psalms, and other Sacred Poems, Arranged for Chanting: with Responsive Services, and Supplementary Hymns* (London: Simpkin, Marshall; Manchester: T. Forrest; Bristol: H. C. Evans; Warrington: W. Laverock, 1848); W. R. Greg, *The Creed of Christendom; its Foundations and Superstructure* (London: John Chapman, 1851); S. Greg, *A Word for Christianity. A Letter to the Author of the "Creed of Christendom". . . . Reprinted from the "Christian Reformer"* (London: E. T. Whitfield, 1852) [pamphlet].

¹³ HM to Graves, 12 January [1853], *CL* 3: 262.

¹⁴ "LITERATURE. *Essays on Political and Social Science. Contributed chiefly to the 'Edinburgh Review.'* By WM. R. GREG, [London: Longmans, 1853]," *DN*, 27 January 1853: 2, cols. 1-2 [calling Greg one of Empson's "dogmatic Whigs"], rptd. *HM/DN* 57-62 (for Empson, see *Auto.* 1: 211-15); "MR. COBDEN AND THE WARS WITH FRANCE [rev. of *1793 and 1853, in Three Letters* (London: James Ridgway, 1853)], a pamphlet on Wellington, England's former belligerency and the need for present reconciliation, *DN*, 2 February 1853: 5, cols. 3-5; "LITERATURE. *Villette.* By CURRER BELL [London: Smith, Elder; 1853]," *DN*, 3 February 1853: 2, col. 1 (Martineau's remarks stunned Brontë, who demurred at returning to The Knoll); for the *Daily News* from 1853 to 1865, Martineau reviewed a total of thirty-three books and four issues of the *Westminster Review*; see Appen., *HM/DN*.

¹⁵ HM to Frances Ogden, 11 February [1853], *CL* 3: 265 (Lakefield, the Ogdens' home); in a review of *Ruth* in the *Athenaeum* (15 January 1853: 76-78), Henry Fothergill Chorley pointed to "an error of the tale as a piece of teaching"; see Jenny Uglow, *Elizabeth Gaskell. A Habit of Stories* (London: Faber and Faber, 1993) 338.

¹⁶ HM to PPC, 17 February [1853], *CL* 3: 266; the wedding must have been of Russell Lant Carpenter, next eldest son of Lant Carpenter; for ragged schools, reformatories and "Maine Law," see Appen., *HM/DN*.