

Roxbury April 17th 1851.

Dear Anne,

It seems to me a very long time since I saw, or have heard from, you. Strongly tucked up at your quiet home, with your books, & your "things," around you, I verily believe you care not a fig how the world wags, except what is embraced in antislavery. But you have a pretty large field for observation in street department alone, & somewhat exciting at the present time. The enemies of antislavery, in overwhelming numbers, are rushing into the fight, & success attends them. Just or unjust, right or wrong, constitutional or unconstitutional, they are determined to execute the fugitive slave law in all its rigor & deformity. Sewell, Phillips, & their associates, may make what resistance they can, but it will avail nothing - power & numbers are against them. The people generally are horrified at the thought of overthrowing the government by destroying the constitution, & they will have no respect for, or sympathy with, those who avow that to be their object. And here is illustrated the impolicy, the suicidal character, of the course of our friends in raising the cry of disunion. Had it not been for that self-destructive step, antislavery would ere this, have controlled nearly all or quite all, the free states. But that measure choked off thousands who were with us, & has been an effectual bar against our increase.

Nobody objects to altering & amending the constitution; but to throw all into chaos by the total destruction of the political fabric few there be but recoil from it as frightened. No course can succeed unless when it shall have been presented, & time given for reflection & consideration, it commends itself to the reason & conscience of the community. The doctrine of disunion will never so commend itself. Some few may take that ground but there will be no considerable increase, on the contrary, the party will grow beautifully less. The cry of disunion may be raised, & kept going till doomsday; but things will run on just as they are.

I should think that our friends would pause & consider where they are, & with whom they are cooperating - even with the most rabid slaveholders. Dr. Beecher, at a little party of his society, once asked us what would our enemies like that we should do? Having answered that said he, be assured that your true course is in the opposite direction, acting in concert with slaveholders is to my mind prima facie evidence that our friends have run off the track.

But my objection to the disunion doctrine is, that it is not a remedy for slavery, is not an abolition measure. But enough -

I am still vegetating in Roxbury, boarding with a Mrs. Ball. My two sons are with me. I recently went to Nyork & found Harry quite unwell & took him with me up
A. Farnsworth.