

Utica - Tuesday, noon.

Dear Wife:

Feb. 17. 1857

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Here I am, on my way home-ward. At Syracuse, I was glad to get a letter from Wendy, informing me about home affairs. To-day, I have received a letter from you, and dear Fanny, and my be- loved friend H. C. Wright - a trinity in whom I believe, and for whom I could lay down my life. I was delighted to hear from you all, and, though troubled a little about her cough and feverish symptoms, I felt somewhat relieved about Fanny, on reading your letter. Still carefully watch her symptoms, and see that she does not unnecessarily expose herself. How much I love that child - how dear she is to my soul! Not simply because she is ours, but because I see in her a most affectionate and generous spirit, and the most promising elements of a noble character. And my dear Franky - is he not also a part of my existence - a child beyond his years, and combining

the most excellent traits? Do I not love
you, all - wife and children dear - beyond
the power of utterance? Heaven keep you
all, and enable ^{me} soon to embrace you un-
der our own roof.

Our meetings were a failure in
Syracuse, (as at Rochester,) as to numbers,
but they were deeply interesting to those who
attended, nevertheless. Gerrit Smith was
present at some of them, and some sharp
collisions occurred between us in the de-
bate, of an unpleasant nature. I was
made ^{sad} by some of the developments of his
mind and nature on that occasion. His mor-
al philosophy is shambling, and he is as
slippery as an eel in discussion. However,
notwithstanding his personal popularity in
that region, his commanding personal pres-
ence, and his oracular manner, he
gained nothing, but lost much, by the
encounter with us. Douglass was present
at the meetings, but wisely and fortunately
remained dumb throughout. I did not
and would not speak to him. Stephen
S. Foster was unexpectedly present, to advo-
cate his Utopian doctrine about forming

a new anti-slavery political party; but he made no converts, but was as one beating the air. He spoke ably and effectively, however, on the relations of the church and clergy to slavery. Mr. May presided over our deliberations, and seems now to be prepared to adopt our Disunion views. To adopt and enforce them, I apprehend, would cost him his pulpit in Syracuse, and I fear there are breakers ahead for him, for attending these Disunion Conventions.

I staid all the time at Mr. Savage's, and was much comfortably accommodated in all things. He and his wife, though formerly disbelievers in immortality, are now Spiritualists, and have striking manifestations frequently. I was at several sittings of the circles, and saw and heard many interesting things, all confirming my faith in spiritual agency. But as this is a disagreeable subject to your mind, I will add no more.

We arrived here yesterday (Monday) forenoon, and commenced our meetings at once, under no favorable circumstances. We held three sessions yesterday - have just completed the fourth - and are to have another this afternoon and evening, to complete the series. Mr. May and Mr. Pillsbury were

advertised to be with us, but neither has
come, and neither is now expected; conse-
quently, the labor of speaking has devolved
upon Powell, Remond and myself. This
morning, Powell left us for the Hudson
Convention - so that Remond and myself
have to do all the talking - the laboring our
being in my hands. I am very weary and
exhausted, as you may suppose, for my soul
enters warmly into my work, yet I have
no cold, and am in good health. I am
stopping at Bagg's hotel, not knowing where
to go when I come; but, since, two or three
persons have invited me home, among them
the Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal
Church! I have concluded not to change
my quarters, and shall leave in the morn-
ing for Albany, where I hope again to hear
from you. On Thursday evening, Remond
and myself will speak in Troy - then will
come the three days' meetings in Albany -
and on Monday evening next, I am to
be at Springfield, with Parker Pillsbury,
to address the people - and I trust on
Tuesday evening, at tea-time, shall be
once more, where I ^{am} ever most & happy to
be, by your side. Love to all the children,
Henry, and Mary-Anne, and dear Mrs. Otis.
Ever yours,
W. L. G.