

the Saturday.  
B. Duke probably not reach home



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Wilmington, Del., June 8, 1868.

Dear Wife:

I sent you one hastily written letter from Longwood, and tried hard to find time to send you another before leaving; but the protracted length of our meetings, ~~and~~ the crowd of people to take by the hand, and the "Testimonies" that devolved on me to draw up, prevented me. The anniversary sessions closed on Saturday, at 5 P. M. They were all attended by a larger number than could be accommodated in the meeting-house, densely packed as was every foot of room. Robert Purvis was early on hand, ready to have a set-to on the slightest pretence; and that pretence he found in some very candid remarks made by Mr. McKim respecting the comparative importance of the ballot and the educational movement under the auspices of the Freedmen's Commission. He vociferated, ranted,



and showed himself to be in a volcanic state of mind, reflecting severely upon what Mr. McKim had said, and upon those who had withdrawn from the Anti-Slavery Society - fulsomely eulogizing Lucretia Mott, Mary Grew, Edward M. Davis, and Wendell Phillips. In following him in the discussion, I took no notice of his personalities; but, expressing my concurrence with the views presented by Mr. McKim, I said it seemed to me that no one could reasonably take exception to them, and that a person inclined to do so must evidently have come to the meeting in the spirit of controversy. This remark roused Purvis to the utmost pitch of wrath. He again took the platform, and poured out upon my head all the virals of his vituperation, with eyes flashing fire and voice raised to its highest pitch - accusing me of being to the Anti-Slavery cause what Benedict Arnold was to the Revolutionary struggle and Judas Iscariot was to Jesus, and also ill-mannered and insulting, &c., &c. I took no notice of his scandalous imputations; but he was pro-



nounced by Mr. Johnson, as chairman, to be flagrantly out of order in the use of such language; from which decision he took an appeal to the house, and was pronounced disorderly by an overwhelming vote. He sneeringly remarked that, being a colored man, he could expect no better treatment! and sat down in a towering rage. He spoke several times afterwards, evincing the same bitter spirit; but you shall know all on my return. Anna Dickinson spoke about thirty minutes in condemnation of the Republican party, after the style of Phillips; but it was an absurd and rambling talk, and produced no effect. I made a rejoinder in defence of the party, and closed the discussion to the satisfaction of the meeting. Purvis did not come near me.

Yesterday, (Sunday,) we had <sup>one</sup> ~~two~~ meeting only, which was quite large, addresses being made by Rev. Henry Blanchard, a Universalist minister from Brooklyn, and by myself. Samuel J. May was with us Friday, and a portion of Saturday, and spoke very acceptably, notwithstanding the loss of his upper teeth. He was not looking well, however.



Mr. McKim returned to New York on Saturday, where I hope to meet him and Wendell to-morrow afternoon, and go with them to Orange. I came here last evening to see my dear, noble, venerated friend Thomas Garrett, who has been seriously unwell, and in the course of the summer will in all probability see "the last of earth." He is very cheerful, and very glad to see <sup>me</sup>. I am expecting every moment R. D. Webb, Miss Estlin, and bro. Henry Anthony, (who has been my bed-fellow at the Coxes, and enjoyed his visit greatly,) in the stage-coach. Miss Estlin will go on her way to Baltimore and Washington, whether Richard goes with her or not. Bro. Henry will probably keep me company to New York. This afternoon we shall go to Philadelphia, and probably spend the night at Roadside.

I was very glad to get a line from Frank yesterday, announcing that all is going on well at home. Shall hope to see Harry in New York to-morrow. I trust he and Fanny are well rested. I am very hoarse from a cold. Love to the children  
W. L. G.