

Salem (Ohio) Aug. 5th 1855

Dear Friends,

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By this time, you may like to know something of our wanderings since we left your hospitable home, and of our present condition. We, certainly, feel inclined to write to you, and have so felt for some time past, though we have not gratified the inclination. After leaving Boston, we spent a few days with our friends in Plainfield, Brooklyn, and on Staten Island, among whom we heard and answered many inquiries respecting ourselves. We arrived in Philadelphia on the 17th of July, where we remained about a week, during which time occurred the interesting case of the rescue of the slaves whom Wheeler made free, by bringing them into Pennsylvania. The characteristic conduct of Judge Kane excites, as you will suppose, our burning indignation, and it really required an effort, on our part, to leave Philadelphia, at a time so full of interest and importance to the anti-slavery cause, and when the presence and exertions of abolitionists were unusually

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demanded. But the temperature of ^{the} atmosphere, and the condition of our health impelled us to leave, & we came hither about two weeks since. Judge Kane's decision, in Williamson's case, which we received, a few days since, has certainly not abated the ardor of our indignation. Its disregard of truth and justice, & its paltry evasions and subterfuges surpass even what we expected from Judge Kane. We are not without hope that the whole affair will result in good to the anti-slavery cause, by exciting a feeling of resistance against invasions of the Federal Government upon State Rights. We shall see whether Pennsylvania has spirit enough to resent the insult which has been thus offered her, or, whether she will tamely submit to have her laws trampled under the feet of her own citizens holding United States' offices.

We hope (and we are using our influence to that effect) that our Ex. Com. will faithfully discharge ~~the~~ duty towards this Judge, who has so long disgraced Philadelphia, and that they will not cease their efforts until his name is as odious in Pennsylvania as it deserves to be. His deeds, with appropriate comments & rebukes, will, we trust, be placarded about our city. There is one

feature in this case, which is cheering. The feeling manifested by the populace, even including a portion of the police, was in sympathy with the freed slaves. This would not have been the case in Philadelphia, ten or fifteen years ago. Thus we see that not in vain have abolitionists labored, even on that stony soil.

Here, we find ourselves in a thoroughly anti-slavery atmosphere. Salem, we are told, has the honor to be a place especially feared and hated by the South, as one from which it is useless to attempt the recovery of a fugitive slave. The abolitionists, here, are looking forward to their approaching Annual Meeting. They are disappointed in their hope of having the presence and aid of several friends from other parts of the country—Mr. Garrison, Wendell Phillips, & Lucy Stone Blackwell. They are still expecting Stephen Foster. It will be interesting to us to attend a Western anti-slavery meeting, as we have never had an opportunity to do so. We shall probably attend this one, if our health permits. At present, the strength of neither of us is Herculean, but we hope for invigoration from pure air, & the rest and quiet which we are enjoying. Benjamin & Elizabeth Jones,

whose guests we are, are very pleasantly located, about a mile, or rather less, perhaps, from the centre of the town of Salem. The fields and woods around, present wide and beautiful prospects to our view, and as it has rained, here, nearly every day, for two months past, there is no immediate danger of their losing the freshness and deep green hue of their foliage.

Our thoughts often return to your pleasant home, with delightful recollections of our visit there, and our earnest wishes go forth for the happiness of all its inmates.

Mr. & Mrs. Jones send you the assurance of their kind regards.

A letter from you will, at any time, be most welcome. We expect to remain here, during the present month.

With much respect & affection,

Your friends,
Margaret & Mary.

Burling Grew

Mr. & Mrs. Garrison.

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