

Aunt Mary W
Mar. 5.

Leicester, March 5, 1853.

My dear Cousin & friend;

I received your letter in Boston, three days since. I was glad to get a letter from you again, and to learn encouraging news of your wife. I hope she may experience relief from her change of medicine, though I have not much faith myself in opium, beyond its power of temporary relief. Time and good nursing will do, very often, what no doctors or drugs can do. So I trust it will prove in her case. -

I came from Boston, for a few days' visit at home, on Thursday v. m. - I am happy to tell you that Father is getting on, considering his time of life, remarkably well. He rides out nearly every pleasant day; and twice, on good days, when the walking has been good, he has walked out. His left arm is still somewhat stiff, - the hand quite numb, owing clearly to the long interruption of a full & natural circulation. But even this seems to be gradually getting better; and in every other respect, he is doing well. The rest of the family are well. Mother had one ill-turn this winter, owing to a sudden & heavy cold; but quickly recovered from it. Father's injury made him of course very dependent on her, and he seemed (very naturally) to prefer her help to any one's else; but she has got along remarkably well with that additional care and labour, and has found a good deal of time besides for other people and their wants & sufferings. Abby is at home, and in about her usual health - which is never robust. Fred. & his new wife live at Harrison Square, Dorchester.

They are well. So are John, his wife, & family. I am very sorry to say my Sister Mary is far from well. She ~~has~~ is very subject to a slight hacking cough; which, though it may leave her for some days & weeks, recurs again, till she has come to think it will never entirely leave her, till she parts with the body. Last spring she was affected by it, - but care & watchfulness, & a summer in the country, appeared to break it up completely, and we were fain to believe she was quite rid of it. But the first chills of the autumn brought it back, and she has not been well the whole winter. She had, a few weeks since, an opportunity to go, with some friends, to Savannah and beyond. I was in hope she would accept their invitation, though I don't ~~quite~~ like this going away from home, of sick people, better than you do; - but she could not make up her own mind to it. She is not confined to the house, except occasionally; but she seems to lose strength, and is in a poor way, - I am extremely sorry to say it. Mary is a very good girl - or woman; she is somewhat diffident of herself; but she has a large ~~good~~ share of good judgment and good common sense, and is very conscientious. Some recent circumstances have brought out more fully, than even I had known before, these qualities in her. I believe Mary is both loved and esteemed by all who know her; not perhaps a very wide circle; but it is such things that testify to one's personal good qualities.

As to the letter you enclosed, it has been seen & read by several of our names, & heard of by others, - some of whom are a kind of walking family-record. No one of them has ever heard of such a person as William J. May. It seems to me that Mr. Pierce very much over-rates the value, & character, of the revelations. According to your request, I return the letter.

About a month since - more indeed - it was the day after our Annual Meeting in January - the Exec. Com^{tee} of the Amⁿ. A. S. Socy. voted to hold the Annual Meetg. in the City of New York, or Brooklyn, if a place could be had. This point is not yet settled - greatly to the discredit of those in New York, who have the case in hand, I cannot but think. The last news (and I have written twice, in the hope to expedite matters) was, that there was a prospect of our having Metropolitan Hall. If we ^{do not} get it, or any other good place in N. Y., and if we get no place in Brooklyn (which the Com^{tee} think is about the same thing as N. Y., for our purpose), - then, all eyes will turn to Syracuse. There was a vote to that effect. If we go to Syracuse, the meeting will probably be the week after the N. Y. anniversary. But, as things now stand, it is probable the meeting will be in Brooklyn, or N. Y. - Garrison is firmly set against going to N. Y. - probably will not go himself, even if the meeting be there. To myself, it would be far more agreeable to have the meeting at Syracuse; but

I am convinced, ^{that the fact of} a successful meeting at New York would stir the land more than half a dozen anywhere else; not in making more converts, perhaps, but for its moral effect upon the nation at large. It will be a hard matter, indeed, to get such a meeting; but I think it behoves us to try.

Mr. Wallcut says that Mr. Loguen's name is on the subscription books, and that the paper has been sent to him. If he has not the numbers for January, he cannot now get them - the issue being exhausted. There has been, for months, an uncommon demand for the Liberator.

Horace Mann has been foolish enough to try to make a quarrel with Phillips. Between us, he wrote a most insulting ^{about Phillips} letter, & most discreditable to himself, for publication in the Lib. He however sent it to Theodore Parker, with permission to amend; and a large number of fiery & bitter expressions were mollified. We don't talk about this, - for I would far rather build up Horace Mann, than pull him down. He has however a most unfortunate temper. Please do not mention this.

My family are at present very well. We are in the midst of a furious North East Snow storm - the heaviest fall of snow of the entire winter.

With love to all, I am, Very truly Yours,
Saml. May