

Dear Fanny! - Dear Fanny! with his daughter,
and brother, and mother, and queen niece -
I had let for his wife.

Roxbury, March 30, 1877.

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My dear Fanny:

We have experienced the same dismal "spell of weather," which, by your letter of yesterday, you have had in New York; but it only partly counterbalances the fifty days, without a flake of snow or a drop of rain, preceding it. It was, however, quite unfortunate for Lucy and yourself, in regard to outdoor exercise and enjoyment; though, under such circumstances, I would rather be at the Windsor Hotel than in the Park at Orange. You must have had a pleasant time together, nevertheless; and it is gratifying to hear that Lucy is quite comfortable in mind and body. It will be something of a risk that she will run, should she conclude to cross the great deep; and I wish, with you, that she had some female companion, like Ellie, to accompany her. Should we

(Lucy, Frank and myself) all cross over in the same steamer with the Haydocks, we should find in the latter the kindest and most agreeable friends. But, as for myself, I am vacillating from day to day about the voyage, according to the state of my feelings; one day concluding to abandon the idea altogether because of my bodily weakness, and another ^{day} entertaining the thought favorably, being in better spirits. Great as would be the disappointment to Frank, if we do not go, he would not wish me to consider that fact as weighing anything against my own best convictions. Indeed, the dear boy, with his characteristic self-abnegation, thinks only of my welfare and advantage; and believing that the voyage will do more for my recuperation (in connection with the pleasant greetings on the other side of the water) than anything else, he cherishes the hope that I may feel encouraged to take it.

I have reason to think that it is becoming generally known among my friends in England and Scotland that I am contemplating seeing them face to face during the coming summer; and they will doubtless be on the qui vive for my coming. I have already received an urgent and highly complimentary letter, signed by Mrs. Josephine C. Butler and several highly respectable gentlemen of Liverpool, interested in the repeal of the atrocious Contagious Diseases Acts, in which they strongly express the hope that I will prolong my stay abroad, so as to be present at the Geneva Convention toward the last of September, adding— "We feel that your presence, and the knowledge of your character and life's labors, will be an immense strength to our friends who will be assembled there from all lands," &c. I have written, in reply, that I shall be obliged to forego the privilege.

I have just returned from the funeral of John T. Sargent. The spacious parlors were filled with a choice assemblage of friends, and well-merited tributes to his memory were paid by James Freeman, Edw. Clarke, Wendell Phillips, ~~and~~ John Weiss, ^{and} Dr. Bartol, - Samuel Longfellow giving the benediction. Mrs. Sargent sent me a note, inviting me to be present; but as she did not request me to participate in the services, I remained silent, though I would like to have borne my testimony with the other speakers.

It will gladden you all when Harry returns; and then you may be able to decide when you will all make a visit to Rockledge.

Tell Helen and Oswald that grandpa will certainly reply to their letters.

Miss Southwick is having her adopted daughter, Carrie, spend a day or two with us.

Your loving Father.