

Boston, Friday, Sept. 21, 1838.

My dear Helen:

18

I have not forgotten, that I have a loving and beloved wife in Providence, and also two very charming little boys. But, as you may suppose, my time has been passingly occupied with business. To begin with the beginning. We (that is, Wm. M. G., sister, and myself) arrived in season, on Monday evening, to take tea with the inmates at Hayward Place, and received, of course, a very cordial welcome. Every thing looked so natural, it scarcely seemed as if I had been absent from the city at all. Strange, that, while in less than three months, a whole empire may be ravaged, not a platter can be disturbed upon the shelf of a private dwelling. I found at home, (for it still seems like home,) Mr. and Mrs. Babcock, bro. Johnson and wife, bro. St. Clair and wife, and young Oliver, from Baltimore - all well. Next morning, attended the Peace Convention, not knowing what to anticipate as to its complexion or numbers, and hardly attempting to imagine what would be the result of its deliberations. [I ought to have said, that we attended bro. May's lecture at the Chapel, the evening of our arrival. It was delivered in the large hall, but there were very few present, and they were nearly all abolitionists. It was a good lecture.] A respectable number of delegates were in attendance. Hon. Sidney Willard, of Cambridge, was elected President, and E. L. Capron and Amasa Walker Vice Pres. Then the roll of members was about being made out, I rose and suggested, that, as mistakes often occur in procuring signatures, each individual should write his or her name on a slip of paper, &c.; thus meeting the vexed "woman question" at the very outset. There was a smile on the countenances of many abolition friends, while others in the convention looked very grave. Several of the clergy were present, but no one rose to object. Of course, women became members, and were thus entitled to speak and vote. A business committee was then appointed, upon which Abby Kelley and a Miss Fisson were placed. Mrs. Chapman was added to another committee. In the course of the forenoon, Rev. Mr. Beckwith was called to order by Abby K. Endurance now passed its bounds on the part of the women -

contemners, and accordingly several persons (clergymen and laymen) requested their names to be erased from the roll of the Convention, because women were to be allowed to participate in the proceedings! — They were gratified in their request.

In the afternoon, bro. Wright opened the discussion, by offering a resolution, declaring that no man, no government, has a right to take the life of man, on any pretext, according to the gospel of Christ. He made a very able argument, and was replied to by a Rev. Mr. Powers of Scituate, but in a feeble manner. In the evening, Dr. Follen made a long, and ingenious speech against the resolution, and contended that a man had a right to defend himself by violence. Bro. Wright spoke in reply, and was catechised, while upon the stand, pretty freely. He answered all objections very readily. Several others also addressed the meeting, very briefly, which was then adjourned. The discussion was continued with great animation the next forenoon. Rev. Mr. Gannett made a speech against the resolution, and moved its indefinite postponement. I replied to him in a manner that grieved him sorely. The resolution was adopted by a large majority. In the afternoon, a committee of nine was appointed to draw up a Constitution and a Declaration of Sentiments, of which I was chairman. I first wrote the Constitution, radical in all things, and presented it without delay. It created much discussion, which lasted during the evening, but was adopted by a decisive majority. Yesterday forenoon was occupied in the consideration and adoption of sundry important resolutions; but I absented myself to write the Declaration. In the afternoon, it was reported to the Convention, and never was a more "fanatical" or "disorganizing" instrument penned by man. It swept the whole surface of society, and upturned almost every existing institution on earth. Of course, it produced a deep and lively sensation, and a very long and critical debate; and, to my astonishment, was adopted by those present, by a vote of more than 5 to 1. It was ordered to be engrossed upon parchment, and the signatures of those who approved it are to be appended to it. It will make a

transcendentalists, not only in this country, but, in time, throughout the world. All who voted for it were abolitionists. Edmund Quincy, Wendell Phillips, William Ladd, A. St. Clair, and S. J. May, declined voting either way, though almost ready to swallow it entire. Bro. May acted very inconsistently, got frightened, confused, and did some harm. After the adjournment yesterday afternoon, we formed a society, calling it the "New-England Non-Resistance Society," and electing Effingham L. Capron to be its President, myself the Corresponding, and Mrs. Chapman the Recording Secretary. Mrs. Southwick and Anna Weston are upon the Executive Committee. In the course of the discussions, bro. George spoke several times with much earnestness, and to great effect.

By this procedure, your husband will have subjected himself afresh to the scorn, hatred and persecution of an ungodly world; but my trust is in the God of Jacob. I know that the sentiments of the Declaration are of God, and must prevail.

Now, a word about house-keeping. It follows, that I have had no time to hunt up a house. Lucy and Mrs. Johnson have examined several houses, but they are not suitable; and they are of opinion that no such house as I need can probably be obtained in the city at this time. Hearing that bro. Phelps wished to rent the house he occupies, this morning bro. George and myself went and examined it thoroughly. It is far different from what I anticipated. We liked it exceedingly. It is precisely what we want, in all respects. You know he hires all the furniture, which cost the owner not less than a thousand dollars. He pays \$400 a year, and taxes, but says, if I will take it for one year, I may have it for \$300; so that I can have a house neatly and completely furnished from the parlor to the attic, and go into it forthwith, at the same price I should have to pay for an ordinary house alone. There are not less than five good sleeping apartments. We need nothing, but to go in and take possession. Mrs. Bird

will be an excellent neighbor, on many accounts. The court
is kept perfectly neat, and every thing is pleasant and
agreeable to the eye and taste, except the house at the
entrance of the court. Mrs. Phelps says it is as quiet there
as in the country. Being so retired, it will suit sister Anna.
There is a good cellar, a back yard which is just the thing
for George Thompson and Frederick to play in - and, in fact, every
convenience that we could reasonably desire.

Mrs. Helen E. Garrison,

Providence, R. I.

{ Ever since Tuesday, bro. George and myself have been en-
gaged the hospitality of our friends, the Southwicks. They want you to stop with
them, when you come to R., until you get a house. I am not certain whether we
can^{not} go into bro. Phelps's house, until the 1st of Oct. But you had better hurry soon.

Now, my dear, what say you? I told bro. P. I would write to you be-
fore coming to a decision, and should probably have a reply from you
by Monday. If we do not take up with this offer, I see no chance of our
getting a house for some time. After I hear from you, I will specify a day, or
rather will you? be coming to Boston, for I long to have you and the babes with
me. Bro. G. leaves in the morning for Waltham and Lowell. Love to all in O.
Your ever loving husband,
W. L. Garrison.