

Oberlin, Aug. 28, 1847.

My Dear Wife:

63 Though I have received no intelligence from you since your letter of the 8th inst., I withdraw for a few moments from the pressure of company, before leaving this place, in order to give you a very brief sketch (which I should be glad to make a very full one, if time would permit) of the meetings we have held, ~~in this place,~~ in furtherance of the anti-slavery cause.

You know that from the commencement of the Institution in <sup>Oberlin,</sup> ~~this~~ I took a lively interest in its welfare, particularly on account of its springing up in a wilderness, only thirteen years since, through the indomitable and sublime spirit of freedom, by which the seceding students of Lane Seminary were attracted. When Messrs. Keep and Daves went over to England, a few years since, to obtain pecuniary aid in its behalf, from the friends of a freedom-giving Christianity, I commended them to the confidence and liberality of all British abolitionists; and while in that country with them in 1840, I did what I could to facilitate their mission. Oberlin has done much for the relief of the flying fugitives from the southern prison-house, multitudes of whom have found it a refuge from their pursuers, and been fed, clad, sheltered, comforted, and kindly assisted on their way out of this horrible land to Canada. It has also promoted the cause of emancipation in various ways, and its church refuses to be connected with any slaveholding or pro-slavery church by religious fellowship, though it is said to be involved in ecclesiastical and political relations, which impair the strength of its testimony, and diminish the power of its example. From these, if they exist, it is to be hoped it will be wholly extricated, ere long, as light increases, and duty is made manifest. So thoroughly has the poison of slavery circulated through every vein and artery of this nation, that it infects every part of the body politic, whether religiously or politically considered.

The desire that I had long cherished to visit Oberlin was gratified on Thursday last. In company with Douglass, Foster, Walker, and the indefatigable General Agent of the Western Anti-Slavery Society, Samuel Brooke, I arrived in season to attend the exercises of the graduating class in theology. The number of persons present was immense — not less than four thousand. The meeting-house is as spacious as the Broadway Tabernacle in New-York, but much better arranged. Two of the graduates took occasion, in their addresses, to denounce "the fanaticism of Come-outerism and Disunionism," and to make a thrust at those, who, in the guise of anti-slavery, temperance, &c. are endeavoring to promote "infidelity"! Prof. Finney, in his address to the graduates, gave them some very good advice — telling them that denouncing Come-outerism, on the one hand, or talking about the importance of preserving harmony and union in the church, <sup>on the other,</sup> would avail them nothing. ~~They~~ must go heartily into all the reforms of the age, and be "anti-devil all over" — and if they were not ready to do this, he advised them to go to the workshop, the farm, or any where else, rather than into the ministry. This was talking very plainly — but if those young men should attempt to carry his advice into practice, where could they hope to find congregations and salaries?

Yesterday, at 10 o'clock, we began our meetings in the church — nearly three thousand persons in attendance. Another was held in the afternoon, another in the evening, — and this forenoon we have had another long session. Douglass and myself have done nearly all the talking, on our side, friend Foster saying but little. The principal topics of discussion have been come-outerism from the Church and the State. Pres. Mahan entered into the debate in favor of the U. S. Constitution as an anti-slavery instrument, and, consequently, of the Liberty party. He was perfectly respectful, and submitted to our interrogations with good temper and courtesy. As a Dis-

putant, he is adroit and plausible, but neither vigorous nor profound. I shall say nothing about my visit here, for the public eye, until my return. That impression we made at Oberlin, I cannot say; but I was abundantly satisfied as to the apparent effect. I think our visit was an important one, and very timely without. Douglass and I have been hospitably entertained by Hamilton Hill, the Treasurer of the Institution, an English gentleman, who formerly resided in London, and is well acquainted with George Thompson and other anti-slavery friends. He is a very worthy man, and his lady is an amiable woman. They have a family of nine children. James Monroe and his wife are boarding in their family. I did not know before that James was married. His wife is a delicate looking young woman. He looks very slender, and I think will fall, ere long, a victim to pulmonary consumption. He inquired very particularly after you and all your household, and desired to be warmly remembered. He is now connected with the Faculty. We dined yesterday with Prof. Hudson, and were invited to dine with Pres. Mahan to-day, but could not afford the time. Prof. Morgan called to see us, but my old friend James A. Thome has given us "the go-by" - why, I do not know. Among others with whom I have become acquainted is Miss Lucy Stone, who has just graduated, and yesterday left for her home in Brookfield, Mass. She is a very superior young woman, and has a soul as free as the air, and is preparing to go forth as a lecturer, particularly in vindication of the rights of woman. Her course here has been very firm and independent, and she has caused no small uneasiness to the spirit of sectarianism in the Institution. - But I must throw down my pen, as the carriage is at the door, to take us to Richfield, where we are to have a large meeting to-day under the Oberlin tent, which is capable of holding four thousand persons.

Salem, Sunday night, Sept. 5, 1847.

Here I am, under the roof of <sup>of</sup> Benj. S. and E. Jones, with a company below stairs singing a variety of songs and hymns - the Bowles, from Austenbury - while I am trying to do, what I have in vain sought to do, ~~and~~ since I was at Oberlin - and that is, to finish this letter.

Our meetings at Richfield were eminently successful - five thousand present, and the weather superb. We held six meetings in all. Stopped with Dea. Ellsworth, a come-outer. From thence we went to Medina, and held two meetings in the court-house, which was filled with an intelligent audience. The effect produced good. - We next went to Massillon, and held three meetings in the Tremont Hall, to a respectable and deeply interested assembly. Stopped with R. H. Folger, a talented lawyer, and good abolitionist, and a relation of Lucretia Mott. Next, we went to Leesburg, the residence of J. W. Walker - a long and tedious ride. Stopped on the night over night at a tavern in Zoar, a place owned by an association of German communists, and highly improved. We held several meetings at Leesburg - attendance small, but much interest manifested on the part of those present. A Methodist priest wished to know whether I believed in the inspiration of the Bible. This led to a rich scene. Stopped with Mr. Millisack, an old subscriber to the Liberator, who has a beautiful situation. On the way from Leesburg to this place, stopped for the night at a miserable tavern in Augusta, and arrived here yesterday morning, and had the happiness to obtain a letter from you, giving me the assurance of all being well at home. Of course, I devoured every word of it greedily. We have held four immense meetings here - two yesterday, and two today - five thousand persons on the ground. Our friends are in the best possible spirits. The tide of anti-slavery is rising daily. Every thing looks encouraging. This afternoon, while a vast concourse was assembled in the tent, just as I had concluded my speech, a thunder storm broke upon us, and the rain poured down in torrents, giving us all a pretty thorough baptism - but the people would not disperse, and we looked the storm out of countenance, & covered up gloriously. Our dear friends, Jones and Lucretia Mott, are here - Lucretia has spoken twice from our platform, and will go with us to other places. To-morrow, we leave for New Lisbon - on Tuesday, and Wednesday, we must be at Warren - on Thursday and Friday, at Ravenna - on Saturday and Sunday, at Cleveland - and then farewell to Ohio! My health is good, but I am exceedingly fatigued out. Write to me at Syracuse. Love to every body. W. L. G.