

New-York, May 7, 1838.

My dear Wife—

9 I must write a few lines to you, either in the midst of the debates of the convention, or else be wholly silent, which latter alternative would not be so agreeable to you. First of all, you will feel most anxious about the state of my health. Let me say, then, that I am none the worse for my visit—perhaps a little better. The excitement of our meetings has not ~~excited~~<sup>affected</sup> my poor brain half as much as I apprehended it would; but then, you must understand, that I have as yet taken no part in the debates, except in uttering a few sentences. In my letter of Friday, I wrote that I had no abiding place pointed out to me, during my stay here. Since then, I have been under the roof of our ever hospitable friend Thomas Fowdell, where are also abiding, friends H. C. Wright and Wm. Adams of Pawtucket. Mrs. Fowdell is, as usual, pleasant and smiling. To-morrow morning, I shall endeavor to be at the steam-boat landing, to welcome a portion of the American women who are soon to do the nation some service in the city of brotherly love.

This forenoon, I have been "as busy as a bee" in writing letters of introduction (seven in number) to friends in Paris and England, for James Mott's son-in-law, E. M. Davis, to send by the great steam-ship which sails at 2 o'clock for London, this day. I intend to see that transatlantic wander start on her journey across the Atlantic.

The debates in our meetings have been quite spirited on several topics. Alvan Stewart came pretty near carrying his point, in opposition to Judge Jay, respecting an amendment of our Constitution. I am glad, on the whole, he did not succeed, for a variety of reasons. The vote was a very close one—the leading abolitionists being about equally divided in opinion. With that exception, I believe all our resolutions have been adopted with great unanimity.

Sectarianism has received another hearty blow at the hands of the delegates—particularly with reference to any new organization. Our New-Ipswich friend, Mr. Lee, has not opened his lips, nor any one on his side of the house. So far, therefore, "all's well."

Monday evening.

I have just returned from a large meeting of the colored friends in Zion's Church, very many of whom were induced to attend by knowing that I would be present. The meeting was addressed by Beulah Green, Alvan Stewart, Rev. Mr. Cross, — Charles W. Denison, and myself. It was an interesting occasion. The manner in which these dear colored friends throng around me is very affecting to my feelings. Their expressions of attachment and gratitude are of the strongest kind. O what a reward for the very little I have done on their behalf!

Tuesday Morning.

I went down in good season this morning, to the Battery, to welcome Mary and her companions on their arrival. Bros. Johnson, Fuller, Chase and Adams went with me. We had to wait about an hour for the arrival of the boat, but had a most delightful walk and very animated conversation during this time. Our friends arrived a few minutes past 7 — all safe and in good spirits — and were soon transmitted to their several quarters. I had seen Rebecca Spring, (who, by the way, sends her best regards to you,) and made arrangements with her for accommodating Mary — but, it seems, the Tappans had already anticipated me, and so she went to their house. Mrs. Johnson was in the company.

Speaking of the manifest regard which our colored friends cherish for me, it is pleasing to add, that, notwithstanding I am now known to entertain peculiar religious sentiments, hostile to all church organizations, &c. &c. yet I have been most kindly treated by all classes, ministers as well as laymen, among our white delegates. — There is no evidence of coldness on the part of a single individual, but all take me by the hand with apparent cordiality.

Tuesday, 4 o'clock.

Our great meeting was held this forenoon in the Tabernacle, and continued for more than four hours. The audience was a noble one, and the effect of the speeches most excellent. Prayer was made by Rev. Timothy Merritt of Lynn; a portion of Scripture was read by Rev. E. M. P. Wells; Bro. Stanton read a portion of the Annual Report, which I moved to print making a few remarks. The first speech was made by Mr. Birney; the second by Edmund Quincy; the third

by Dr. Mc Burne Smith, a colored young friend; the fourth by Gerrit Smith; and the fifth by Abram Stewart. These were all capital. Lewis Tappan read several interesting letters, one from John Quincy Adams, and another from Edward Beecher. Every body seemed to be delighted with the meeting. I presume it was the largest that will be held in this city during the present week.

As soon as I got into the cabin of the steam-boat, Mary handed me your affectionate letter, which I read with a father's and a husband's interest and love. My dear, sweet babe! to be thus afflicted so soon after coming into this state of being - and through the instrumentality of his own brother! It almost tempts me to return home instantly, and not to go to Philadelphia; for I shall be filled with apprehensions, if I stay. But, should he grow in any degree worse, let me know of it without delay; and by all means, in that case, ~~recall~~ recall in Dr. Childreth, and take his advice. I need not enjoin upon you to watch over him as for his life, for there is more danger that you will be over-anxious, than that you will be ever slightly negligent. Your affections for husband and children are sincere and strong - your chief danger lies here - that you prize them all too highly - so that, if any of them should be taken from you, you will find it hard to be resigned to the will of heaven. On this point, be on your guard.

Separation from you, dear wife, even for so short a time, gives leaden wings to the hours. I would prefer not to be absent, were it not that I ought not to be selfish as to consult my own feelings alone, and that I may be in some degree made useful by coming here. Gladly shall I return to your embrace, and to the alluring company of my dear prattling babes. If William should grow as worse, it is probable that you will not see me till a week from next Saturday. It is uncertain whether I shall return by the way of Brooklyn. I expect bro. George will be here to-morrow or on Thursday, doing up speakers for the New-Haven meeting. He left here before I arrived - consequently I did not see him, as you suppose in your letter. He told friend Foursdale, confidentially, that he had made something like two or three thousand dollars recently, by the sale of mulberry trees.

Tell Lucy I shall gratefully appreciate all her kindnesses during my absence.

As you enjoined it upon me, by sending me another letter if I obey you, I have committed your letter to the flames - so, be sure to write to me, without delay, directing your letter to Philadelphia. Love to all at home.

With love unceasing, ever yours,  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Ms. Helen G. Garrison,  
Boston.

Please deliver immediately.

Wm