

Roxbury, Dec. 4, 1873.

Dear Fanny:

Forty years ago, to-day, I was attending the National Anti-Slavery Convention in Philadelphia, which issued its famous "Declaration of Sentiments," and formed the American A. S. Society. The occasion brings up many stirring memories; and, had I been well, in all probability we should have had a meeting in P. of such of "the Old Guard" as still survive. I was then in my 29th, and am now in my 69th year; then, unmarried and unengaged; now, a husband, father, and grandpapa. But what a change has been wrought in the condition and destiny of the colored population of the United States! What a revolution has taken place in the feelings and sentiments of the American people in regard to that fearfully wronged race! So much for a bold, uncompromising, persistent enforcement of the truth!

I am glad you are having such an enjoyable time in Heidelberg. What a pity it is, however, that at the social coffee parties given by the ladies, no topic of interest to themselves, or of reform in any of its multitudinous phases, is ever introduced for conversation or discussion. At least, I infer as much from what you say, of their stiffness and lack of attractiveness. Can't you set the ball in motion? or are you ^{not} sufficiently familiar with the German language to be able to "hold your own"?

I congratulate you and the Pitmans that you can enjoy each other's society in American fashion. I am sure they will long and gratefully remember the attentions bestowed upon them by Harry and yourself. Give them my affectionate regards and best wishes.

It is most gratifying to hear of the improvement of Harry's health. As for the dear children, my heart goes out to them continually. Your loving Father