

Brooklyn, August 18, 1836.

Dear bro. Henry:

54


Your long and interesting letter was received and read by us all with delight, and demands our united acknowledgments. Do not be apprehensive lest there may be some complaint, because your letters are directed and addressed chiefly to me. To whomsoever sent, in the family, they are always regarded as common property, being read by all as most acceptable. The best news you can send us relates to the improvement of your health; and we are rendered truly happy to find, by your last epistle, that you are gradually getting better. It is more than probable that there will be alternate changes, either favorable or unfavorable, from week to week; but these are common in almost every disorder — so you must not be discouraged, if on some days you do not feel so well as on others. Even when we are free from positive sickness, you know it is common for us to experience, almost continually, fresh mutations of bodily feelings — yesterday strong and lively, to-day stupid and feeble — now, full of enterprise and activity — now, disposed to apathy and inaction. This, for example, is one of my torpid, unproductive days, although every thing is fair and bright in creation. I am ashamed of myself, nevertheless.

The resignation to your lot, which is manifested in your letter, is truly commendable, and betokens a humble and filial spirit towards "our Father who is in heaven," and whose grace is able to sustain us under every disappointment and trial. May his loving-kindness be with you continually, mitigating every pain, and soothing every sorrow.

The news of bro. Wild's arrival in Providence seemed almost "too good to be true" — but, after reading your account of an interview with him, I bid adieu to my skepticism. You see what reliance I place upon your veracity! — But, don't plume yourself too much on the fact of your having ^{had} the first peep at him — I shall probably have the last, as bro. Fulleigh informs me Wild will visit Brooklyn on his return to New-York. — I am somewhat apprehensive, however, that he will be persuaded to return via Providence instead of our village, as he will doubtless have many urgent entreaties to do so — so, that if he should comply with them, you will have clearly the advantage over me. However, I rely a good deal upon his independence, and therefore mean to hold myself in readiness to give him a generous reception.

It seems, by the information he gave you, that the Am. Soc. will have no difficulty in procuring individuals both able and willing to perform a mission to the West-Indies. Thome would, I think, do admirably well — but our friend Walker is not exactly the man.

The formation of an anti-slavery society in Hayti is indeed a cheering event: but I shall be greatly surprised, if, as soon as the fact is published, it do not alarm our southern adversaries, and subject us to the charge of having entered into a "conspiracy" with the Haytiens, to stir up negro rebellion in the United States! — "The plot thickens," they will say.

Bro. May leaves for Boston, via Worcester, in the morning. He desires me to say to you, that he regrets exceedingly he has been baffled in his original intention of going today via Providence, as he has a yearning desire to see you; but, he has had incessant calls upon his time, and a multitude of duties to perform. He hopes to be able to return through Providence, in the course of a fortnight, and desires me to send you his sympathy and warmest wishes for your speedy recovery. It is his intention not to engage in an agency again, but to accept of a call (on account of his family) which he has had to be settled over a Unitarian congregation in Scotland.  His I communicate sub rosa. I am very sorry he has come to this determination, on many accounts. He says he will make special inquiries about your missing clock. You ask me, if I do not need mine. No. Truly, you might as well look for strawberries in January, as for letters from Knapp at any season of the year. Not a line does he write to me, although I have besought him to answer some special inquiries.

A rare occurrence took place yesterday. Father consented to let me drive in a chaise down to our friend Hinckley's at Plainfield. We saw Mr. Hinckley, the elder, Albert, his sister, and mother, who gave us a very cordial reception. Poor Albert is in a miserable state of health, is subject to epileptic fits, and is more or less bewildered by a strange and increasing confusion in his head. He is necessitated to abjure study, and keep very quiet.

After staying there two or three hours, we then visited our es-
timable friend Dr. Green, whose beautiful residence seemed to delight
Fanny very much. It is needless to say, that our reception was very
gracious by the whole family. Particular and kind inquiries were made
respecting you. Our visit was a charming one, and no accident happened.

Mr. Henry C. Benson,

Providence,

R. I.

My remarks upon the sanctity of the Sabbath, in late
numbers of the Liberator, have subjected me already to much censure,
as I anticipated - but truth need never be ashamed. You will see by
the next paper, probably, that I take my leave of the subject, so far as
the Lib. is concerned. With increasing affection, I remain,
Yours, faithfully, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.