

Boston, Sept. 24, 1843.

Dear bro. George:

119

On taking leave of you, on Tuesday morning, we continued our stage-coaching to Wilbraham, which place we reached one hour and a quarter before the arrival of the cars; so that we had ample time to rest, with our little ones. We were very fortunate in not being crowded, having had only one inside passenger in addition to our own company, and the distance was travelled in a very pleasant manner, without any of us experiencing any special fatigue. On taking the cars, I left my suitcase at the Wilbraham depot, (having so many other things to look after,) but was fortunate enough to recover it on Thursday, at Worcester, on my return from Connecticut. Helen and I parted with Anne, and Angelina, and the boys, at Worcester, with no little anxiety of mind on account of the last named, especially Charlie, who from that hour was doomed to cease obtaining his living by tugging away at his mother's breast, and henceforth to eat as do children of a larger growth.

We arrived at Greenville on Tuesday evening, and received a very cordial welcome from Augusta Reed and Louis Humphrey—(I am not sure that the latter name is correct.) After giving them such information as they desired respecting the "Community," and talking over sundry matters pertaining to our anti-slavery enterprise, we retired to rest, not having been able to ascertain whether Dr. Sweet was at home, or absent. Soon after breakfast, the next morning, I took Helen and Augusta into a carry-all, and drove to Franklin, about 10 miles from Norwich. On arriving at the summit of an elevated piece of ground, on which stood a meeting-house, a parsonage house, and one or two others, I accosted a man who was mowing near his house, and asked him whether he could tell me where Dr. Sweet lived. "I am the squire," was his reply.

"Then you are the man for me." So, after first taking a survey of the mighty prospect to be seen from such a glorious location, we drove up to the Doctor's door; and, putting aside his scythe, he proceeded to look into our case without delay. As soon as he saw Helen's arm, he pronounced it (without touching it) to be a dislocation of the elbow, and said that Dr. Hudson was entirely correct in his judgment of it, and that Dr. Hall had utterly misapprehended the case, for there had been no fracture. He also said that if he could have had the management of it at the time of the accident, he would not have asked for more than one minute to set the arm; but now it would prove a difficult matter, in consequence of the length of time that had elapsed, and the mal-treatment of the case. The dislocated bone ~~was~~ was surrounded with a bony substance that had been formed by an effort of nature to accommodate itself to the injury, the removal of which would require some time, by absorption. He should not think of attempting to set the bone under ten days or a fortnight, during which time the arm must be bathed three times a day in as hot water as could be borne, and covered with a liniment of his own preparation, in order to soften the parts, and relax the tendons, ligaments, &c. Even then, a good deal of pain would be unavoidable in setting the bone, which, after being put in its proper place, would probably require his care a fortnight longer, before she could use her arm. He stated that he had ^{had} three or four similar cases within a few months, and there was then a young lad at his house, who had arrived the day before, and whose case was almost precisely similar to Helen's. On being asked if he thought he could effect a permanent cure in her case, he replied that he had never yet failed doing so in any instances. On hearing him say that it would require a month to mend the arm, Helen began to shed tears,

at the thought of being so long separated from her children and myself; and I also felt somewhat cast down, not that I thought the time unreasonably long, but because I deeply sympathized with Helen, and knew not how, at such a crisis, I could either remain with or be absent from her. As the Dr.'s inspection would not be necessary for the first fortnight, and it would be quite as expensive to board in that vicinity as the railroad fare from Norwich to Boston, and back again, would amount to, we concluded to come directly to Boston, and accept of the hospitality of our kind friends, the Southwicks; and we accordingly took the afternoon train of cars for Worcester, at which place we stopped over night, (at the Temperance Hotel,) and on Thursday morning took the cars for this city. Our friends have given us a warm and sympathetic reception, though some of them probably think that we were very foolish to think of going so far again to have H's arm set, ^{especially by a "quack"} when the great Dr. Warren is so near at hand; but, from what I saw and heard of Dr. Sweet, I have more confidence in his judgment, knowledge and skill, in mending dislocations and fractures, than in all the surgeons of Boston put together. Should our dear mother not speedily recover from her injury, I would earnestly propose her going to see Dr. Sweet. It is sad to think that Dr. Hall so long grossly misapprehended H's case, to the infliction of so much needless suffering on her, ~~and~~ and well might to the permanent loss of her right arm. On ascertaining the facts in the case, and how great has been his blunder, I should not think he would feel as if he could keep the money, I paid over to him. Here I shall communicate to him as soon as the arm is mended, and he may then follow his own sense of justice. Here our friends think he should rather pay damages than exact fees. We shall probably leave for Norwich and Franklin a week from to-morrow - (Monday.)

On leaving us at Worcester, the remainder of our company arrived in Boston, without having experienced any trouble or thin way, in reference to the children, neither of whom cried or whimpered during the whole journey. Charlie was as merry as a grig, all the way, and never was happier since the day of his birth. He has been weaned without any difficulty, and has a good appetite, and looks as hearty as ever. Wendell also enjoys himself very much, and is in excellent health. Angelina will probably remain with us until our return from Norwich, though she is not well qualified to take the responsibility of the children during our absence. Perhaps we may conclude to take the children with us, and discharge her from further services.

Single.

George W. Benson

Northampton,

Mass.

It is the custom of this week, we shall have a note to you a few days, in which you will find a list of names, &c. The whole week Mr. W. is to return, & know as soon as we get to Newburyport. We hope to have the health and good behaviour of the boys and girls to be affectionately remembered by all the members of the community.

Since my arrival, I have been almost constantly occupied in "hunting up" a house in which to live - and, truly, as there are at present four or five hundred to let, and a large portion of these entirely new ones, it is a somewhat difficult matter to make a selection among so many. I think, however, that we shall take a house in Pine-street, near Washington-st.; at the South end, (about a quarter of a mile this side of Mr. Loring's,) which is wholly new, and has never been occupied, and is very neat, beautiful, and comfortable, having eleven sleeping rooms, two parlors, and two kitchens - being made to accommodate two families. The rent is \$350, and a lease must be taken for three years. The house is one of a long and beautiful block, and is quiet as well as centrally located. Tell mother and Sarah, that we have already selected the rooms for them to occupy, if they will take up their abode with us during the winter. We calculate that Oliver Johnson and his wife will take some rooms with us. That your rent will be only about \$250. They are still absent in Vermont, in consequence of illness of Oliver's father, who was in a dying state at the last accounts. Yours affectionately,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison