

Documents

HOME LETTERS OF GEORGE W. JULIAN, 1850-1851

Foreword

By GRACE JULIAN CLARKE

On December 10th, 1849, George W. Julian, Free Soiler, and newly elected Member of Congress from the fourth congressional district of Indiana, sometimes called the Burnt District,¹ set out from his home in Centerville for Washington, accompanied by his wife, Anne Elizabeth (Finch) Julian. The journey occupied nine days, and was by carriage to Cincinnati (Mr. Julian's brother, Jacob Burnet Julian, accompanying them thus far), thence by steamboat to Pittsburgh, and from there over the mountains by stage.² On arriving in the capital city, they went directly to the United States Hotel, finding quarters later at the boarding house of Mrs. Spriggs on the north side of the Public Grounds facing the Capitol, where Joshua R. Giddings and Charles Allen, Representatives from Ohio and Massachusetts, respectively, were already established. With these two men of the same political faith, Julian was intimately associated during the ensuing two years. Although born in the preceding century and therefore considerably older than himself, they seem to have felt an unusual interest in the younger man from the Hoosier state who was the sole representative from his state of the growing Free Soil movement that was destined to play havoc with both the Whig and Democratic parties within the ensuing decade. Julian always looked back upon this association with grateful appreciation. With Giddings the tie was destined to be a close one. Of Charles Allen, it is sufficient here to mention the estimate of him by Senator George F. Hoar of Massachusetts

¹ The fourth district, or "Burnt District," at this time, included four counties—Fayette, Henry, Union and Wayne. Though the terms of members of the national House legally began on March 4, 1849, Indiana did not elect the members of the thirty-first Congress till August of that year. The same situation prevailed two years later when the Congressional elections in Indiana were held in August, 1851, and not in 1850. Democrats combined with Free Soilers to elect George W. Julian over the Whig candidate, Samuel W. Parker, in 1849. See *Indiana Magazine of History*, XXVII (June, 1931), 119-124, for an article, "The Burnt District," by Grace Julian Clarke; and *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XI (December, 1924), 319-331 for a paper, "Antislavery Tendencies of the Democratic Party in the Northwest from the Election of Taylor to the Crisis of 1850," by William O. Lynch.

² Mrs. Julian died eleven years later. Mr. Julian's second wife was Laura A. Giddings (the mother of Grace Julian Clarke), younger daughter of Joshua R. Giddings, a child of ten years in 1849. See footnote 84, below, for matter relative to trips to and from Washington.

who called him the ablest man, intellectually, he had ever known, "not excepting Daniel Webster."³

Congress had convened more than two weeks earlier, Mr. Julian's presence having been delayed by a serious illness caused from over-work in the campaign. He had suffered several hemorrhages of the lungs for which physicians had "cupped" him "in fifty-seven places" and applied croton oil copiously. In spite of this heroic treatment and the exhausting journey he was able to take his seat in the House on the very day of his arrival. He was then thirty-two years of age, while Mrs. Julian was twenty-two. They had left a three-years-old son at home with his grandmother.

About three weeks later, Mrs. Julian went with a friend, Miss Sarah Pope, on a visit to the home of the latter in the vicinity of Boston. There she remained till the middle of February when she rejoined her husband in Washington, returning to Centerville early in June. Congress did not adjourn till the last of September, having sat almost ten months. This was the first session of the memorable thirty-first Congress, which passed the famous Compromise measures. Those which were concessions to slaveholders were opposed by the few Free Soil members with as much force as they could muster, but of course vainly. It was in this Congress that Clay, Webster and Calhoun appeared together for the last time, while among the new members of the Senate were William H. Seward of New York and Salmon P. Chase of Ohio.

The letters that follow were written to Mrs. Julian during her New England visit and after her return to Centerville. Their only interest lies in the side-lights they cast on the life of the time. They contain few references to public affairs, probably because Mr. Julian was sending weekly letters dealing with the political situation to *The Indiana True Democrat*, published by Rawson Vaile at Centerville.

Washington, Jan. 9, 1850

I this morning received your letter and am gratified that you got along so safely and pleasantly on your journey.

The day after you left a beautiful card came inviting you to attend the Washington Assemblies, or balls in other words. So now if you wish

³ George F. Hoar, *Autobiography of Seventy Years* (New York, 1908), II, 408. Allen left the Whig party at the time of the nomination of Taylor in 1848. He was fifty-three years of age in 1850. Giddings was also a Whig leader who turned Free Soiler. He was fifty-five years old in 1850.

to dance, come back. We are still engaged in organizing the House, balloting for clerk at present, a tedious business.

The day before yesterday Mrs. Underwood sent her sweet little boy to the House to inquire how I was and if I had heard from you. He said his mother said that if I got sick and wanted anything, to let her know and she would attend to it. Yesterday Mr. and Mrs. Underwood⁴ sent their cards and I am going over there after adjournment.

My kind regards to Miss Sally Pope and tell her I shall expect *both* of my daughters to write me occasionally! Her special regards were delivered over to Mr. Giddings this morning, who seemed pleased to hear from his young Free Soil friend.

Don't fail to go to Boston, Quincy, and if practicable to Plymouth. Be sure to attend the old Federal Street church in Boston and see the large portraits of Channing,⁵ Buckminster,⁶ &c. When you decide on the time of your visit to Boston write me immediately.
6 o'clock.

I went to Mr. Underwood's and found them as usual, very kind, and send you their good wishes. They are much attached to Sarah.⁷

I was very lonely after you left, but am growing a little accustomed to the state of single blessedness. Don't fail to write promptly and often.

Jan. 17, 1850

I am much pleased with the account you give of the Pope family and do not think you need apologise as to your descriptive powers. I have now more curiosity than ever to visit their hospitable Yankee home and judge for myself of New England life. Give my kind regards to my friend Sally and also to her father and that venerable grandmother who wished to be remembered in your letter. I will each day send a document to Mr. Pope and through him to you all.

The organization of the House is still uncompleted. We are now balloting for door-keeper, a dreary business. There are no strange things to report. There is to be a ball tonight at Jackson Hall. Last night I attended the lecture at the Smithsonian Institution. The large and beautiful room was filled to a perfect jam and it holds a thousand persons. The lecture, by Rev. George W. Bethune of Philadelphia,⁸ on Holland, was able and eloquent and I mean to attend these gatherings regularly.

A few days ago I wrote to Uncle Frederick⁹ and stated that you would write to them from New England, so you must be sure and de-

⁴ These were the grandparents of Dr. Robert Underwood Johnson, poet, editor, and Ambassador to Italy, and of Hon. Henry U. Johnson of Richmond who many years later represented the fourth Indiana district in Congress (1891-1899).

⁵ William Ellery Channing, 1780-1842, Famous Unitarian divine, pastor of the Federal Street church, Boston.

⁶ Joseph Stevens Buckminster (1784-1812), brilliant young Unitarian minister of Brattle Street church, Boston.

⁷ Miss Sarah Pope had been a guest in the Underwood home while in Washington.

⁸ George W. Bethune, noted pulpit orator of the Dutch Reformed Church. A staunch Democrat, opposed alike to slavery and abolitionism. Published the first American edition of Walton's *Complete Angler*, but anonymously, because of public feeling against the propriety of such a book by a clergyman.

⁹ Frederick Hoover, son of Andrew and brother of Mr. Julian's mother, Rebecca Hoover Julian.

fend me against the charge of prevarication. Since writing I have a letter from him enclosing a pamphlet from Lucretia Mott.¹⁰ By the way, as you have left my bed and board and Congress is not doing much, I have a notion one of these days to go to Philadelphia to see the said Lucretia and other great persons and things in that city. But I will advise you definitely later.

Mr. Giddings and the rest of us have pleasant times, particularly at table. I hear his kind and mellow voice every day in answer to a knock at his door, saying "K-e-m!" We are together a great deal and I walk with him and the Judge [Allen] daily.

Your letters are excellent, and you know I never flatter. You leave out and mis-spell a word occasionally, but the grammar and language are very good.

Jan. 19, 1850

I am truly pleased to hear of your many enjoyments and rare sports, but a little afraid you will get to be too gay, considering that you are the wife of the sober and priestly personage who embodies the dignity and wisdom of the "Burnt District" in Congress!

I will inform Mr. Giddings at once of the time you expect to be in Boston and the place at which you will stop, so that he may write to such persons as he may see fit. I hope you will have a rich harvest of pleasure and profit in your visit there. Judge Allen is now at his home in Worcester and will be there for a week or two. I presume you will see him. I will inform Mr. Bigelow of your interview with his sister which will please him. Write often, and when you reach Boston don't fail to advise me of your movements, the sights you see, &c.

Later—Mr. Giddings has written to Dr. Bowditch and Mr. Palfrey¹¹ about your visit to Boston and I presume they or their ladies will call on you.

I should like to see you with your new merino dress on: I know you look pretty. In fact, I would rather see you than not, any time, but I would not hurry you away from your pleasures.

Feb. 2, 1850

Your letter from Lowell of date Jan. 30th is just received and I am delighted to hear of your continued pleasure in your visits to interesting places, and yet I can hardly help feeling a little envious when I think how much you are getting ahead of me. I long to see you and to hear all about your adventures in detail, and regret that you could not have told me a *little* more about them in your letter. You have not told me what you think of my proposal to meet you in Philadelphia either. On last Sunday I wrote a line to Mrs. Mott to find out if she would be at home during this month and suggesting that I might meet you there on your

¹⁰ Antislavery and woman's suffrage leader. Minister in the Society of Friends.

¹¹ Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, noted physician and abolitionist of Massachusetts. The death of his son in the Civil War led him to write "A Brief Plea for an Ambulance System for the Army of the United States," and the feeling aroused by this publication led the Government to establish an Ambulance unit trained to care for the wounded. John G. Palfrey, Unitarian minister, was the author of *A History of New England*, anti-slavery Whig Member of Congress, 1847-1849, and mess-mate of Giddings at this time.

return. I have received a very pretty answer cordially inviting us to her home, and I *think* I shall carry out the plan unless something very important should be before Congress at the time you set for coming.¹² I have a nice letter from Mrs. Vaile¹³ in which she complains of not having had a line from either you or Sarah since you left Centerville. I think she has cause for complaint. Mr. Vaile has been quite sick, but was mending. I also enclose a line from Cy¹⁴, being my latest advice from home. I am getting very anxious to see our dear little Channing.¹⁵ I have bought him a beautiful gift which I will send by the first opportunity.

I have recently formed some interesting acquaintances from Massachusetts. Have also been introduced to Mrs. Judge McLean, a most lovely woman, and have had a visit from the Judge himself.¹⁶

Last night I attended the President's Levee and was impressed with the splendor of the gay throng that promenaded through the halls, all in the richest and most gaudy attire. I saw many very fine, or finely dressed, ladies, but very few handsome ones. I want you to come back and go with me: I know that you would outshine them all. Besides, gentlemen, as mere onlookers, can't enjoy these gatherings much. I saw Mrs. Southworth in the crowd. I thought her homely when I first saw her, but have changed my mind.¹⁷

Mrs. Mott writes that the secretary of their antislavery society, a Mr. McKim, was introduced to you in Boston. Among my new Massachusetts friends is a Mr. J. N. Buffum of Lynn, now here on business, an intelligent, pleasant and decidedly antislavery man. He says his wife Ruth will call on you in Lynn, and I have promised to visit him when I go East.

I wonder when you mean to come back to Washington, if ever. It will soon be six weeks since you departed. I think I will give up the Philadelphia trip. Judge Allen tells me that you will have no opportunity to get any refreshments till you reach Philadelphia and that you must take some cakes with you on the cars.

I am going to try to keep you here with me till the adjournment. What say you to this? Can you stand it so long without seeing Channing? Write immediately and tell me when you will be here, so that I may meet you at the depot.

Feb. 14, 1850

I have just received three letters from you and one from Sally, and am feeling a little disappointed, for instead of seeing you about this time,

¹² James and Lucretia Mott had been among the first guests entertained in the newly completed Julian home in Centerville a year or so before this time.

¹³ Wife of Rawson Vaile, editor of *The Indiana True Democrat*.

¹⁴ Cyrus Finch, brother of Mrs. Julian.

¹⁵ The son left at home in Centerville.

¹⁶ John McLean of Ohio, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Appointed to the bench by President Jackson. Dissented in Dred Scott case. Moderate antislavery leader, and often considered as a presidential candidate by an element of one party or another.

¹⁷ Emma D. E. N. Southworth, author of *Retribution*, *The Deserted Wife* and other popular novels, some of which first appeared in *The National Era*, an antislavery newspaper published in Washington by Dr. Gamaliel Bailey.

as I have been led to expect, you say you will not start for another week. So I must submit, but I hope you will not have to delay your return any longer than the time now fixed.

As to my being jealous, I can hardly say whether I am or not. I rather think I am, a *little*. Your long absence, your infrequent letters while in Boston, your being so perfectly happy as you confess without me, and what Sally has written as well as what she has *not* written,—all these circumstances go to wake up the “green-eyed monster” in me *some!* One of the thoughts which this monster has suggested is that if I were out of the way you could soon fall in love with some fellow of a more jovial disposition and more prepossessing manners, and perhaps love him better than you do me. You don’t write such letters as you did when I was at Indianapolis in the Legislature before Channing was born. The fact is, I want you back here, away from that Yankee country and those gallant widowers and bachelors. Comparisons are said to be odious and I am afraid of them. I saw Mrs. Southworth again yesterday and if you don’t come back soon you may hear of my being over head and ears in love with her! So come and let us make up our mutual jealousies by some amicable “compromise” of our case. The truth is, I should like to see you “right smart”!

As you will probably be here so soon I think I will not write again. My kind regards to all the Pope household. I have given your and Sally’s love to Father Giddings who sends his in return.

[Mrs. Julian arrived in Washington according to the expectation of her husband as indicated in the last letter where she remained for some three months. She visited points of interest and listened with her husband to some of the great Senate speeches on the Compromise policy. She also attended numerous lectures, concerts, and Presidential “levees”, as the White House receptions were then called. Her girlish beauty and gay spirits made her a welcome addition to any circle, and Mr. Giddings and Judge Allen were among her special admirers. Early in June the longing to see the child from whom she had been separated almost six months became too strong to resist and she set out for Centerville under the protection of one of the local merchants who was in the East on business, the route chosen being by way of Niagara Falls. Mr. Julian accompanied her as far as Philadelphia in order to make the proposed visit to James and Lucretia Mott. On his return to Washington he wrote another series of letters to his wife.]

Monday, June 10, 1850

I arrived here at eight o’clock this morning, finding our boarders at breakfast. I felt quite solitary, particularly on entering our room. I was very sorry after you left Philadelphia that you could not have re-

mained a day or so longer. I spent that evening at Daniel Neel's delightfully and know you would have enjoyed it much. Dr. Elder, a glorious fellow whom I wish you might have met, and Charles Wright, (formerly of Indiana and a son of Peter Wright) and his wife took tea with us, Mrs. Neel and I leading the way to the dining-room. The Neel home is adorned with rare paintings and statuary, and they are great lovers of music. I learned from them and others that it is very common among the Hicksite Quakers to have a piano and also regular dancing parties among the young and newly married. How different is such Quakerism from that to which we have been accustomed!

On Sunday I heard Wm. H. Furness¹⁸ preach and dined by special invitation with Thomas Cavender, Dr. Elder being another guest. After a parting visit with our good friends James and Lucretia I took my carpet-sack and left their hospitable home.

What a joyful time I anticipate for you on reaching Centerville! I am eager to hear all about it. I have many letters in praise of my maiden speech¹⁹, one of them from Charles Sumner which I will send you after replying to it. He mentions meeting you in Boston. Tell me how you got along with Channing's toys.

You will be greatly edified with the pedigree in *The Huntress* which I herewith send you. How do you like my "soft carnation bloom" and your "de Medici model"? Do not fail to tell me about Channing, how much he has grown, in what respects he has changed, how plainly he can talk, &c, &c.

June 15, 1850

I am just thinking what a happy time you will have tonight on arriving in Centerville. Perhaps you got there last night. Why did you not write me from New York as I requested, and from Niagara?

I enclose Mr. Sumner's letter and the one I received before you left from Dr. Palfrey. I also send one from Mr. Tappan²⁰ which gives me great satisfaction. I have sent you *The Freeman* containing my speech, *The National Era*, *The Visitor* and *The Olive Branch*.²¹

I saw "Grace Greenwood" yesterday with Mrs. Bailey²² in the

¹⁸ For many years minister of the First Unitarian church in Philadelphia, and father of the well-known Shakespearean scholar.

¹⁹ Mr. Julian's first speech in Congress which dealt with the "Slavery Question," was delivered on May 14, 1850. Mrs. Julian heard it from the gallery of the House.

²⁰ Whether this was Lewis Tappan, a merchant of Northampton, Mass. or his brother Arthur is not known. Both were ardent antislavery advocates who more than once suffered personal violence on account of their reform labors. Arthur Tappan one of the founders of Oberlin College, endowed Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, and was the first president of the American Antislavery Society to which he contributed \$1,000 a month for many years.

²¹ *The Huntress* was a Washington publication edited for twenty-five years by Mrs. Ann Royal. *The Saturday Visitor* was edited by Mrs. Jane G. Swisshelm, at Pittsburg. In 1857 Mrs. Swisshelm removed to St. Cloud, Minn., where she became the editor of *The St. Cloud Republican*, an organ of the new Republican party.

²² "Grace Greenwood" was the pen name of Miss Sarah Jane Clarke, who in 1853 became the wife of Leander K. Lippincott of Philadelphia. She wrote poems and several volumes of travel sketches. Her first newspaper work was for the *New York Mirror*. In 1850 she was Washington correspondent for the *New York Tribune* and other papers. She was an early advocate of suffrage for women. Keenly interested in the antislavery movement, she identified herself with the little Free Soil coterie that met at Dr. Bailey's home about which she wrote interesting reminiscences many years later. She died in 1904, her later years having been spent chiefly in Italy where her daughter was engaged in musical studies. Mr. Julian kept up an occasional correspondence with her until his death in 1899. The Mrs. Bailey was the wife of Dr. Gamaliel Bailey, editor of the *National Era*.

gallery. I think she lives when at home at New Brighton, near Pittsburgh. She is not handsome, as you would suppose from her pretty name. I was introduced the other day to Charles Francis Adams who mentioned you pleasantly.

I am now at the table in our room, pausing every now and then to listen to Uncle Sam's music in front of the Capitol. I am lonely. I long to see you and Channing, and have strange forebodings about you both. You are much missed by our boarders here who speak of you every day.

Write to me ever so often!

June 21, 1850

Yours of the 16th came last night, greatly relieving my mind, for I expected to hear sooner. I shall take much pleasure in reading your "magnificent descriptions" of your journey and the full account of your reception at home which you promise.

I was *afraid* Centerville would seem dull to you. You know I have always had a fear that we should never again be satisfied with the former monotony of our village life. It may however turn out otherwise. After you have again become accustomed to the old ways you may feel differently, but the symptoms are unfavorable at present.

The weather here is oppressively hot and the other day I went down on the Avenue and ordered a summer sack-coat and pantaloons. My new shoes are made, and with the new suit will enable me to cut quite a figure among the folks on the Hill!

Give my love to the family and regards to enquiring friends, and do not let Channing forget me.

June 26, 1850

I have not written for several days because I have been so miserable and feared to alarm you. But I am better and have resumed my game of ten-pins with Giddings and Allen.

Congress still budes along at its snail's speed. We have done nothing this week, but shall take hold of the California business in earnest next week I think. I have no expectation of an early adjournment except through the prevalence of cholera which again threatens, and I should of course prefer to stay all summer rather than adjourn on such terms. Many members seem to think we shall not get away before October. What a gloomy prospect! And you in your little lonely town of Centerville!

I still receive letters from my district commending my speech and describing its goodly effects upon friend and foe. I am really growing so used to being praised that I don't mind it much! It is copied into some half dozen papers and I frank copies of the new edition every day to individuals who send for it. I have partially converted my North Carolina relatives and am sending a quantity to them for distribution.

Your Uncle Fabius²³ is here and we spent last Sunday together very

²³ Fabius M. Finch, brother of Mrs. Julian's father, an Indianapolis lawyer and judge.

pleasantly. The weather continues exceedingly warm, but I have my new coat and pantaloons, also a pair of new shoes, so that I am more comfortably dressed.

Miss Bremer²⁴ is in town and today I noticed her in the gallery of the House with Anne C. Lynch, one of the prominent female magazine writers. I called with Giddings and Allen at Dr. Bailey's Sunday evening and found "Grace Greenwood" there. Do you know her real name? It is Sarah Jane Clarke. Judge Allen did not, and addressed her as "Miss Greenwood."

I return greetings of Mr. and Miss Newman²⁵ and inquiring friends. Love to all the family. Have no word from Vaile for some time.

July 6, 1850

The thermometer has stood in the neighborhood of 96 for some ten days and people are seen here and there with umbrellas and fans, seeking shady spots and drinking ice-water while the perspiration oozes out. But I am encouraged by hearing that the hottest weather here occurs in June and July and that August is always comparatively cool.

I hardly think it worth while to get a new light vest, as you suggest: it is too warm to wear *any* vest now, and as to a new stock, I have lately, on Mr. Giddings' advice, invested in some neck-ribbons, which are cooler. I see the cholera has appeared at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Columbus and Cincinnati, but the general impression seems to be that it will not become epidemic.

The Free Soilers attended a party the other evening at the home of Mr. Bigelow where we had a gay time, but stayed too late and I foolishly partook too freely of raspberries and ice-cream. I meet Mr. and Mrs. Tuck²⁶ frequently and we have pleasant chats. I spent the Fourth quietly in my room as I was not well and thought it best to keep cool and away from crowds. Foote²⁷ was our orator, but I had no desire to hear him. I understand that the Centervillians were to be feasted on an oration by that standing Fourth of July orator John B. Stitt.²⁸ O, how I did *not* want to hear it! After dark I went with Giddings and Allen to the Capitol grounds to see the fireworks which however were not remarkable. Great crowds of the gaiety and fashion of the city were assembled there, of all ages and both sexes, and it looked like a general frolic. I was introduced to Mrs. Durkee, who has just come to town, a sprightly and intelligent little woman whom I am sure you would like.²⁹

I have recently received letters from Uncle

²⁴ Fredericka Bremer, Swedish novelist, who was on a visit to this country.

²⁵ John S. Newman, first cousin of Mr. Julian. Centerville lawyer, judge, banker and R. R. President.

²⁶ Amos Tuck, a Free Soiler and Representative in Congress from New Hampshire, 1847-1853.

²⁷ Henry S. Foote, Senator from Mississippi, 1847-1852, afterwards Governor of the state, and later a member of the Confederate Congress.

²⁸ A Centerville lawyer, partner of Charles H. Test. Published the *Wayne County Record*, 1841-1848.

²⁹ Wife of Charles Durkee, a Free Soiler, who was a Representative from Vermont, and later a U. S. Senator from that State.

Henry and Uncle David [Hoover] giving a somewhat gloomy picture of politics in old Wayne. Tell me everything you hear along this line.

Later—Your most welcome letter has just come, greatly cheering me. But I value too much your own health to encourage you to take the long journey to this place alone under present conditions. The cholera is now along the Ohio and will probably soon be at Sandusky, Buffalo and along the northern route. If you could come *soon*, in company with some one to care for you, it might do. I am not thinking of the “dimes”, for I long to have you and Channing with me. Do you know of anyone coming this way? Perhaps some of the Centreville merchants may be coming. Look into the matter and by the time I write again there may be some developments as to adjournment. I am much interested in what you say of our little boy. Has he learned his letters perfectly, or anything beyond that? It is time he should learn to spell a little. How do his clothes fit him?³⁰

July 9, 1850

Both Houses adjourned today about half past one o'clock in consequence of a report that the President is dying.³¹ I have just heard that he is a little better, but it is not at all probable that he will survive the night. His disease in the beginning was something very much like cholera, which has been followed by fever and a sudden prostration of all his faculties. But you will have heard of his death and attendant circumstances long before this will reach you. It will produce a great sensation in the present state of affairs. The balance of this week will be pretty much occupied with the funeral services, the ceremonies of inducting the new President, &c, &c.

It is not quite so hot for the past two or three days. As yesterday was resolution day I hoped something would be done on the subject of adjourning, but nobody seems to think about it any more. So I must give it up. And I suppose I must give you up too since there seems to be no way of your getting here without too great peril to yourself. I am too lonely here at Mrs. Spriggs and have a notion to follow Giddings and Allen to Lamb's, as they urge me to do. I know I should feel more at home there, but should be sorry to leave Mrs. Spriggs. What do you think about it?

I walked down on the Avenue [Pennsylvania] last evening after dark and was considerably startled as I passed along the south side about opposite Gadsby's by the sight of a lot of coffins leaning up against a building,—those hideous looking metallic ones; but glancing above the door I saw the sign “Undertakers” which explained the matter. These coffins have been placed here since the sickly season set in. What an exhibition of hardware!

I learned this morning from my friend Brainerd that the wicked Jezebel who figures so largely in Mrs. Southworth's tale and whose history she briefly narrated to us the night we visited her, committed

³⁰ Channing was only four years of age at this time.

³¹ General Zachary Taylor was elected President in 1848 on the Whig ticket. He died on July 9, the day this letter was written.

suicide the other day by drowning. I mention this because, having read the story, it will interest you.

I fear I have been writing too despondingly, but you know how easily I become discouraged and will, I hope, make allowances. I do not wish you to be troubled about me: I am getting along fairly well, all things considered. You don't give up the white vest, it seems. Let me tell you, it is too warm here for vests of *any* kind, and in common with many others I dispense with the article altogether. I believe I shall therefore brave the peril of disobeying orders in this case unless you present some arguments in your favor that I don't think of.

—I have just heard that the President is better and that hopes are entertained of his recovery.

July 13, 1850

In consequence of the excessive dust and a slight indisposition I did not join in the procession today nor attend the funeral at the Presidential mansion. I was really not able. I took my position at my window here at Mrs. Spriggs' and had a good view of the immense throng that formed the procession and filled the streets and sidewalks on either side. The military under command of General Scott made a fine appearance, and as the train moved slowly along the bells of the city tolled and minute-guns were fired, adding to the impressiveness of the occasion. The coffin was not one of the new-fashioned metallic ones, or if it was there was an outer one of the ordinary shape enclosing it. It appeared to be covered with black crape or muslin and was placed on the top of a peculiarly constructed chariot, high up from the ground and drawn by eight white horses, each horse being held at the mouth by a darkie. Old Whitey followed next, as fine-looking a horse as I ever saw.—But I need not tell you anything further about the ceremonies, as the papers will give all details in due season.

As to the Old General, I have a good deal of respect for him. He did not hesitate to antagonize the South by his action on California. Considering his southern position he did well, and the Free Soilers have given him due credit. In fancy I see his iron-grey hair and smiling benevolent face as he appeared the night you and I attended our first levee, and notwithstanding the harsh things I have said about him I believe he meant to do his duty as he said.

Your Fourth of July was about as I anticipated. Your reply to the Colonization folks was exactly right. The idea of collecting money on such a day for such a scheme is abominable, and I am astonished that the Centerville people would encourage such a piece of business. They ought to have remembered the declaration of John Quincy Adams that the Colonization scheme is a project of the slaveholders to strengthen and perpetuate American slavery.

I shall seek an opportunity, since you wish it, to become acquainted with Miss Bremer and will also try to follow your advice to mingle more in society. It would probably be good for me, but I have spent too much of my life, my "glorious youthful prime", in the solitude to which I was driven by my timid nature, my cowardly fear of man and women.

I have done much to conquer nature and to neutralize the effects of an education which made no effort to save me from my besetting sin; but I can never hope to be the man I might have been with proper early education. Let us remember these things in "training up in the way he should go" *our* little scion, whom we may thus save from a world of suffering and self-conflict and at the same time help to give him the full stature of manhood for which he may be fitted by natural endowments.

I have seen Holloway's opinion of my speech, but it troubles me not at all.³²

Mrs. Spriggs sends you greetings. I am sorry to leave here, but have concluded to go to Mr. Lamb's the first of next week, to be with my cronies, Giddings and Allen.

July 19, 1850

I have your "very long letter" accompanied by one from Cy, and have today received the enclosed letter from Sally Pope which will please you. Were it not for the expense I would accept the invitation and spend a week or so in New England. I know of no other opportunity I shall have for such a trip unless I should happen to be returned to Congress a second time. Being very tired of staying here, and not very well, it would be a real relief and I should return greatly refreshed. Give me your advice and suggestions on receipt of this. Judge Allen is going home soon for a visit, and urges me to accompany him.

Congress is wagging along as usual, with no sign of an adjournment. I was again at Dr. Bailey's last evening, with Allen and Giddings. We found Chase, Hale,³³ "Grace Greenwood" and a number of others there and had a spirited talk. I have not yet been introduced to Miss Bremer and probably shall not be, as I am informed she leaves tomorrow.

The weather here has turned cooler since the late remarkable storm which lasted more than twenty-four hours, and I learn from all quarters that the cholera is abating. I no longer fear its coming here and probably our worst trouble will be the dreadful billious diseases which set in about the first of August.

But I must conclude. . . . There seems nothing interesting to write about. We *have* nothing but politics, politics, politics. You wished me to come to Washington, and having left me when I most wanted you it seems to me you ought to give me something better than "scraps" to live on. Think of this, and of how I must feel to be so far and so long away from you and our boy. Give me good long letters and I will *try* to reciprocate.

³² D. P. Holloway was editor of the *Richmond Palladium*, leading Whig organ of Wayne County.

³³ Salmon P. Chase was the newly elected Senator from Ohio. He was a Free Soiler, but was elected by the Democrats of the Ohio Legislature with the aid of two independent Free Soilers. No Whig voted for him and no Free Soiler who had been a Whig. He was later Governor of Ohio and Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln. He was appointed Chief Justice of the United States by Lincoln after resigning from the Treasury Department. John P. Hale was a Senator from New Hampshire. In 1852, he and Julian were the candidates of the Free Soil party for President and Vice President.

July 26, 1850

It is a week today since I heard from you and then only a few lines promising a "long letter" in a day or so. Surely you can find time to write a few lines every few days. Congress is a perfect bore and life a drag, so that I really *need* to hear from you and Channing often as a solace.

Hon. Daniel P. King, a Whig member of Congress from Massachusetts fifty years of age, died recently at his home as I have just learned. He was sick when he left here, of the prevailing diarrhea, but reached home, when he became worse. Several other members are sick. Mr. Hackett³⁴ has the consumption and it is said will never get well. We are all wretchedly tired of staying here, but see no prospect of getting away. A day of adjournment may be fixed next week after the final vote on Clay's Compromise. I keep hoping to get a sight through to the other side of this interminable session.

August 3, 1850

When this letter reaches you it will be two months since we separated, and it seems to me sometimes as if we are becoming strangers. "When shall *we three* meet again?" When shall I return to that dull old town that I was so eager to get away from and that now seems to me so precious? The Omnibus³⁵ being now dead, both Houses stand where they did at the beginning of the session. Nothing yet done and unless we should break up in a row within a few weeks it is impossible to form any conjecture as to when an adjournment will take place.

The Speaker³⁶ has placed me on the Committee of Accounts in the place of Hon. D. P. King, deceased. Outside of politics I have no "uncos" to tell you and I know you would not be interested in such political gossip as I might write you. I called this morning at Mrs. Spriggs' but saw none of the boarders. She has two new ones and says they are getting along about as usual.

I am anxious to hear from the election in Wayne [County]. I fear Vaile and Elder will be beaten; they do not write and I learn that they are discouraged. I hope Vaile will give me the earliest news as to the result.³⁷ Should I be a candidate again much will depend on the elections in the district the present season.

Have you given up the Richmond visit? I hope you are there by this time and enjoying yourself. Try to go to see our relatives in the country above town.

³⁴ Thomas C. Hackett, a Democratic Member of Congress from Georgia who died the following year.

³⁵ The measure proposed by Henry Clay to save the Union by Compromise was called the Omnibus Bill. It failed of enactment as a single bill, but later passed as a series of five separate acts.

³⁶ Howell Cobb, a Democrat of Georgia, was elected Speaker near the end of December, 1849, after a long period of balloting and much excitement.

³⁷ Rawson Valle, editor of *The Indiana True Democrat*, was the Free Soil candidate for auditor of Wayne County, and James Elder was running for the state senate, against Holloway. Elder was at that time editor of *The Jeffersonian*, a Democratic newspaper of Richmond. Holloway was the editor of the *Palladium*.

Aug. 6, 1850

Your "long letter" which I had almost despaired of has finally come into port and interests me much. I am sorry to learn of your and Channing's illness, but glad you are about again. I shall feel uneasy till I hear again, for I have no doubt you are in more danger of cholera there than I am here.

You speak of your dread of letter writing. You should shake it off at once, for the more you yield to it the more you will dislike to write. You have now got your hand in and the only way to succeed is to persevere. Habit will make it all easy. Am sorry you feel so lonely and as if you had few friends. We *want* but few intimates, and besides, Centreville is not the whole county or district, in which we have any quantity of the right sort. Moreover, we shall always have as many as we want *there*. For my part I am attached to the soil on which I was born and at present have no desire to leave it. I would rather remain there than go anywhere else. I know of no better country than the West, and that particular part of it where our lot has been cast.

You make out a pretty plausible case in favor of my being reconciled to remain here a while longer. I am willing provided I can have health. I feel sad to hear that Channing is so unmanageable and doesn't seem to care a snap for me: this makes me long more than ever to go home and help mould his developing character. Watch over him, keep him child-like and innocent, and don't allow him to be influenced by bad associations.⁸⁸

The weather is again excessively warm. Our market is full of fruits of all kinds, melons, &c, and I find it a great cross to keep hands off. Hardly anybody else does so and in the course of about a week, if I should feel pretty well and the weather should turn cooler, I mean to begin.

No effort was made yesterday to fix a time of adjournment, but there is a good deal of talk about a recess of a month or six weeks beginning about the first of September. That would bring me home to you in a few weeks and the return here would be in pleasant weather. Should I come back to Washington by the Northern route I could easily visit Boston from New York on my way here. I must either do that or stop a few days as I go home this fall. Tomorrow I will send my weekly political deliverance to Vaile's paper.

Dr. Prichett has certainly been unlucky. I hope he will yet realize some gold and return safe and sound to Centreville.⁸⁹

From what you say I must have scolded you rather too much for not writing. I knew nothing of your illness and could not account for the delay. As the cholera is among you, or likely to be, I want you to write every day, or every *other* day, if only a line or two, for awhile, so that I may know how you are.

⁸⁸ This little boy was born in April, 1846, and was therefore at this time four years and about four months old!

⁸⁹ Dr. John Prichett was a well known and highly esteemed physician of Centreville who joined the seekers after gold in California.

August 9, 1850

When you last wrote the cholera was thought to be in Centerville, Channing was not well, and Mr. Vaile quite sick. I expected to hear again in a day or so and have been very anxious.

Bright⁴⁰ has received a dispatch stating that Holloway and the Whig candidates for the Legislature are all elected. This is bad news, but I feared it. The Democrats and Free Soilers have not managed as well as they did last year.⁴¹ I think they have failed by not having the right sort of men on the stump. I suppose Vaile and all the rest are beaten. What an uncertain game is politics!

I have no news. Judge Allen started home today. The weather is very hot, Congress is doing nothing, and I see no prospect of an adjournment. What a torment to be confined here when we could so much better adjourn and reconvene in October.

August 14, 1850

I was sadly disappointed by the political news from Wayne (county). The news is bad also from Union, which saved me last year, but not so bad from Fayette and Henry. All things considered, the prospect ahead for us looks squally. Everything may come right by another year, but I have not much hope of it, and the more I look forward to the uncertain future the more thankful I am for the past, which has gone to record and cannot be recalled. I am truly sorry for Vaile who has labored faithfully in the good cause and deserved a better fate. Aside from the small vote he received, he *needs* the office for which he was defeated, and is fitted for it.

I am much pleased with what you say about our Channing. His question, "Is he like he been?" has edified me greatly and has given me a better idea of him than anything else you could have written.

And are you getting popular! I wish I *were* with you to hear the "thousand things" you have to tell me. I will bring your new calling cards when I come.

But I have told you no news from this quarter, and there is not much to tell. Little "Jackie" came to see how I was the other day and to invite me to tea with them. I went, and had such a supper as a Congressman seldom sees here. We had music and a pleasant time. They are now looking for their folks from Indiana.⁴² The cholera is still raging at the Ferry [Harper's Ferry] and one case has occurred here. It is at Baltimore. *Do* write oftener!

August 17, 1850

This must be brief, as there is little to report. Mrs. Underwood and

⁴⁰ Jesse D. Bright was one of the Senators from Indiana. He was a Democrat as was James Whitcomb his colleague. D. P. Holloway, the Whig editor of the *Palladium* defeated James Elder, the Democratic editor of *The Jeffersonian* for the State Senate.

⁴¹ The Democrats and Free Soilers of the first congressional district fused in 1849 to elect Julian. In 1850, there was fusion again between these parties in Wayne County in relation to the county ticket, but this time the Whigs won. Vaile, editor of the *Free Soil* paper at Centerville, was beaten in his race for county auditor.

⁴² Mr. Julian dined with the Underwood family. "Jackie" was "the sweet little boy" referred to in the letter of Jan. 9, 1850.

her son Tom, fresh from Indiana, called to see me last evening, and I shall return their call today or tomorrow. They had no important items of news to communicate.

Mrs. Southworth's new novel, "The Deserted Wife", is now for sale at the bookstores, and I will send you a copy this afternoon when I go down town. Mrs. S. has been absent from the city for several weeks. I called last evening at Mrs. Wells' boarding-house to see General Booth and had a pleasant talk with him and his lady and with Linn Boyd and his new wife.⁴³ I find that Boyd is a first cousin to the Boyds on Greensfork whom I have known so long. Mrs. Boyd is very agreeable.

The tug of war comes on in our House next week on the bills recently passed by the Senate, that is, the Texas boundary bill, the California bill and the territorial bills. When this struggle is over, which will probably be during the week, I can tell you something about an adjournment. I long to be at home with you and Channing, mingling among friends, eating fruit, free from care and the tiresome din of politics.

August 21, 1850

Yours of the 16th was received last evening. I find you are as hopeful as ever about our political prospects and anxious for me to be a candidate again. I see that my friends wish me to run, but it is too soon yet to make a decision.

I am glad to hear that Vaile is entirely well again. Is he much discouraged, and do you talk politics with him? Do you see any of my uncles of late? I spent last Sunday evening very pleasantly at Mr. Underwood's.

The weather here is disagreeably cold and damp. Judge Allen writes from his home in Worcester [Massachusetts] that he is in his office writing all day with a fire in his stove. Father Giddings sends his regards. He is my only chum in Judge Allen's absence.

I called at Mrs. Spriggs' last night and found that poor Cole⁴⁴ had been telegraphed that his wife is dangerously ill and had left in great trouble.

August 25, 1850

As to adjournment I am going to say no more about it till I see some reasonable prospect of it. Many members are for staying here for weeks to come, some for six weeks, other till the first of November or even December. So I shall flatter myself with no more delusive hopes.

Judge Allen has just returned from home greatly refreshed and improved in health. Mr. Giddings talks of going in a week or two. Several members have been at home nearly all summer, among them Tuck who

⁴³ Walter Booth was a Free Soil Representative from Connecticut in the thirty-first Congress and a member of the Committee on Public Expenditures of which Andrew Johnson of Tennessee was chairman. Linn Boyd was a Democratic Representative from Kentucky and at this time chairman of the Committee on Territories. Afterwards he was Speaker of the House during the thirty-third Congress.

⁴⁴ Orsamus Cole was a Democratic Representative from Wisconsin.

has just returned without his family, and Governor Cleveland.⁴⁵ I could do so, but it would not seem to me right and I shall try to be patient.

Jacob's letters are not very Whiggish.⁴⁶ Whenever you hear anything from Hampden⁴⁷ write me of it. I notice that a great deal of fatal sickness has prevailed along the route and that the emigrants already arrived in California are so numerous that gold digging is a poor business. Hampden should follow Meredith's example and go at once into a printing office.⁴⁸

I hope you will lay away the *National Eras* which I send, as I shall want to refer to them hereafter. I send you a little book lately received which was accompanied by a map on which appears the autograph of "Grace Greenwood."

I think the House will very soon take up the important slavery bills from the Senate, and it will be an exciting time.

Sept. 4, 1850

I have again been sick, but am now on the up-grade and hope soon to be able to pitch horseshoes with Giddings and Allen. We have each bought two of the blacksmith, having grown tired of nine-pins. We pitch on the green near Mrs. Lamb's where we used to hold our foot-races last spring.

Today I went to see Wm. L. Chaplin in the city jail. He is one of the finest men in New York and is confined on a charge of enticing away the slaves of Toombs and Stephens of Georgia.⁴⁹ You have have no doubt seen in the papers accounts of the matter. He is said to be engaged to be married to a Miss Gilmore, one of the proprietors of the Glen Haven Water Cure establishment in New York. She was here recently to see him and I became acquainted with her.

I have nothing new to report. Great excitement prevails in Congress, the scene of interest being transferred from the Senate to the House. For the past two days the lobbies and galleries have been much crowded. The Texas Boundary bill failed to pass to a third reading today and the slaveholders and Doughfaces look blue.

I met Mr. Brainard yesterday and he says that Mrs. Southworth is at Shannondale in Virginia, employing the summer in reading, writing, riding on horseback, &c. He corresponds with her and says she will return here soon. Before I leave for home I will either call on her or send her a note with your album requesting her autograph.

"The Swedish Nightingale" [Jenny Lind] has arrived in New York

⁴⁵ Chauncey F. Cleveland was a democratic Representative from Connecticut. 1849-1853.

⁴⁶ Jacob Burnet Julian, the older brother already referred to.

⁴⁷ Hampden G. Finch, brother of Mrs. Julian who had joined the gold seekers in the overland journey to California.

⁴⁸ The *Indiana True Democrat* of June 26, 1850, mentions a letter from S. C. Meredith who reported that he was clearing \$75.00 per week at the printing business in California. He advised all would-be gold seekers to remain at home. Meredith was the grandfather of Meredith Nicholson.

⁴⁹ Robert Toombs and Alexander H. Stephens, Whig members of the House from Georgia.

and is creating great commotion. I hope to hear her there on my way home unless she should visit Washington, which she probably will during the fall or winter.

Have heard from our friend Cole and am glad to report that his wife is likely to recover. I think I informed you in a previous letter that Tuck's wife and children are at their home in New Hampshire. I occasionally have pleasant chats with little Mrs. Durkee. Dr. Bailey's family are visiting in Massachusetts, so I do not go there at present.

You do wrong in neglecting to write to Sally Pope. But *don't* neglect *me*, lest I become frantic with nostalgia. Especially when I am sick I need to hear from you and home. How pleasant it would be if I could be with you this approaching pretty fall weather, reading and visiting friends together. You don't know how I long for liberty again on the "free soil" of old Wayne!

Sept. 7.

I am writing in the House. We have just passed the California Bill.⁵⁰ The Texas Boundary Bill went through yesterday, and there is a general disposition to get through with the business and adjourn, certainly by the last of the month.

Sept. 9.

I take pleasure in informing you that the House has this day agreed to adjourn three weeks hence and the Senate has sent in its concurrence. So now you can guess when you will see me. But there is much work ahead of us and we shall be compelled to hold night sessions.

Intense excitement prevailed last week over the action respecting the slave bills. I never saw anything equal to it. I have noticed the matter at some length in my letter to Vaile which you will see in his paper. On Saturday night 100 guns were fired in honor of the great Southern triumph and the whole city was in an uproar of glorification. Stands were erected in various parts of the city and large crowds assembled to hear the speaking.⁵¹ The impression here seems to be that the Free Soilers and their principles are dead and buried and that no more "agitation" will ever be heard of. We shall see.

I want your opinion about my going to New England. I shall return by the Northern route and when I am in New York I can go across to Boston in a few hours' ride at a few dollars' expense. It will delay my return home three or four days, but it will be my only opportunity of going there during my term of service in pleasant weather. I am in a hurry to get home however and am not eager about this trip.

⁵⁰ This measure, admitting California as a free State, received the support of the Free Soilers. They also voted for the bill abolishing the slave trade in the District of Columbia the following week.

⁵¹ The Senate had then passed four of the five Compromise measures, the House three of them. The last, abolishing the slave trade in the District of Columbia, passed the Senate Sept. 16 and the House on the day following. Those who celebrated, included both Whigs and Democrats, northerners and southerners, who felt that the Union was being saved.

Sep. 14.

The Fugitive Slave Bill passed our House day before yesterday.⁵² Giddings has gone home and members are leaving every day. I *may* leave here a little before the session closes, but shall probably remain till the end. In about three weeks at the latest I shall be "over the hills and far away".

Sep. 19, 1850.

I have decided to pay my respects to some features of the Compromise in another speech on which I am now busy. It is very doubtful though about my getting the floor.

On the strength of your advice I believe I will go to New England. I shall have to miss West Point, which I regret. I will also take your advice as to my baggage. Is it not too late for a *white* vest? All your suggestions seem well conceived and will be duly followed. Somehow I dread this New England venture as the time approaches, and wish I had a good excuse for giving it up. If I go, and get my hand in, I shall probably stay a week, sightseeing.

I enclose a letter from Charles Francis Adams as a specimen of the neatness and taste of an educated Yankee.

Two Turks with red turbans on their heads and heavy mustachios have just entered the Hall. One of them is the agent of his government, sent here on public business. Members are rushing from their seats to gaze at them.

Sep. 26.

I got the floor yesterday, but occupied only a short time: it was too late in the session and would have outraged the feelings of the House to have taken up an hour when we are so hurried to get through. You will see it in the *Globe* and probably in Vaile's paper later. It will no doubt make trouble between me and the Democrats, but after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Bill I was determined to say what I thought.⁵³

Sunday night, Baltimore,

Sep. 29, 1850

Judge Allen and I have come thus far tonight on our way. We shall rest here till morning, having lost much sleep for the past few nights and having been up last night till a quarter past four in the morning. I feel considerably used up but greatly relieved to think I am forty miles from Washington, that wondrous city which ten months ago I was so eager to see.

I had no idea I had so many things to look after just before start-

⁵² Three Democrats in the Indiana delegation voted with Julian against the Fugitive Slave Bill: Graham N. Fitch, Andrew J. Harlan and John L. Robinson. Since the election of Taylor, many Northern Democrats had shown strong anti-slavery sentiments. See paper by William O. Lynch referred to in note 1.

⁵³ Julian had been elected through a fusion of Free Soilers and Democrats in 1849. By this time he felt that Democrats might accept the Compromise, in which case fusion in 1851 might become impossible.

ing. Am bringing with me only one trunk. Your quilt is in it. I have a new hat, a new pair of boots, a stock and a nice vest. Have two sets of engraved cards, with your plate. I am more than anxious to see you and Channing, and were it not for my trip North I would be with you very soon. Expect to reach home in about ten days.

Boston, Tuesday night
October 1, 1850

I spent last night in New York and arrived here at 5 this evening, passing through New Haven, Hartford, Springfield, Worcester and the picturesque country intervening. I am at the Adams House. I have some letters of introduction to Charles Sumner Esq. and others, but am tired and dusty and shall see nobody till morning. Boston is "some." Jenny [Lind] is here, holding forth tonight. She will also sing on Thursday and Saturday and I shall probably hear her. I expect to spend three or four days in this city and vicinity and then go to Worcester to spend a day with the Judge [Allen]. Will then go to Spencer for one night with the Popes and put out the next morning for "home, sweet home".

Boston, Sunday night, Oct. 6, 1850

I have been to Quincy, Lowell, Nashua, Salem and Lynn. Have just returned from the last named place where I last night addressed a large audience on the subject of Slavery. It was a complete surprise to me to find myself advertised to speak there along with Wendell Phillips and Charles S. Burleigh.⁵⁴ On Thursday I spoke at the Free Soil State convention here in Boston. I heard "Jenny" too, and dined in Quincy with Mr. Adams [Charles Francis]. But there is too much to tell about my various experiences for a letter, and I am almost worn out with constant travel and excitement. So I must reserve the rest till I see you. Will leave for the West on Wednesday. Oh, how I long to be at home where it is quiet and see the glad smiling faces of my loved ones.

I sometimes think I am a great fool to be spending my time so far from home after an absence of ten long months. It is strange that a sensible man with human feelings should do so and I wonder now that I could have endured my long absence.

[For six weeks, Representative Julian enjoyed the quiet of home and the society of relatives and friends. Nearly all of his callers wished to hear further about his experiences of the past ten months, and thus the subjects that had engaged his attention were kept constantly in mind. On returning to Washington for the short session of 1850-1851, more home letters were written.]

⁵⁴ Wendell Phillips was already famous as an abolition orator. Burleigh was an anti-slavery man and an advocate of suffrage for women.

Washington, December 1, 1850
Sunday evening

I arrived here last night at 8 o'clock, bruised and fatigued beyond all former experience. I passed over the mountains in the night, and such jolting you can hardly imagine. I can scarcely get up or down and shall probably be a pretty respectable cripple for a week or more, but am thankful to be safely at the end of my trip. I am at Mr. Colbert's boarding house quite near the Capitol, with Giddings and Allen until we engage permanent quarters. The Public Grounds look most delightful and so does the whole city. I am captivated with its appearance from the Capitol,—its fine public buildings, broad streets and "magnificent distances." Centreville seems to me more insignificant than ever and you don't know how I shall pity you if you should have to remain there all winter.

Dec. 4, 1850

Was very busy yesterday moving and fixing up. Am in a comfortable room at Mrs. Rice's on the Hill, the house Mrs. Clements kept last summer with whom Tuck and others boarded. Giddings, Allen, Durkee, Robinson and Cable⁵⁵ are the others of our mess. Robinson's wife is with him. Mrs. Durkee did not come. But few members brought their wives. Stevens⁵⁶ and Dunham⁵⁷ are keeping Mrs. Spriggs' old place. I am very sorry to inform you that our friend Wood of Ohio is dead.⁵⁸ He died in Fort Wayne, our State, a few days before Congress met. He was a good fellow.

I have sent you several papers and will send others. Suppose we both preserve scraps during the winter and when I return we will form our book.

I have heard nothing from you since I left home and have a notion to begin scolding again. I am of course anxious to know how you and Channing get along in that "dark and doleful" town of Centreville. All my thoughts turn homewards.

I had you and our boy with me how happy we should all be! If you do not go to Indianapolis for part of the winter I shall repent not bringing you along, as I so wanted to.

In my former letters I forgot to mention that in balloting for seats I was among the very first called and so got one of the best seats in the House. Giddings and Allen send their good wishes. Do not fail to write

⁵⁵ John L. Robinson of Rushville was a Democratic Representative from Indiana, 1847-1853. Joseph Cable, an Ohio Democrat, served in this and the succeeding Congress.

⁵⁶ Thaddeus Stevens, a Whig from Pennsylvania, was then serving his first term in Congress.

⁵⁷ Cyrus L. Dunham, a Democrat from Salem, Indiana, served in the national House from 1849 to 1855. Other evidence indicates that Stevens and Dunham did not live at the Spriggs' place. Mr. Julian seems to have been misinformed in regard to this matter.

⁵⁸ Amos E. Wood was a Democrat who had represented the Sanduskey, Ohio, district.

often. Write "lots" about Channing. Tell him I send him "a drove of horses" and that you will give them to him for me.

Fillmore goes the whole figure for the Fugitive Slave Law in his message. Poor Whiggery! What shall it do to be saved?

Dec. 9, 1850

There is little to report. Have not seen the Underwoods since the day after my arrival. I mean to call there this evening. Judge Allen and I called to see Mr. Lamb and found another family in his old house. Mr. Lamb has received an appointment in the Customhouse in California under T. B. King, our collector there. The Judge and I have rented a pew in the Unitarian Church and on Sunday we had the honor of worshipping with the President who has also taken a pew there, being a member of the church. A number of distinguished ministers from New England are to preach in turn for us during the session. Miss Lynch⁵⁹ attends that church and by the way I must get her autograph for you.

One of the papers I take during the session is *The Literary World*, a weekly of unusual interest and ability, which I will send on to you, and perhaps if we like it we will take it longer. You might lend it to Isaac⁶⁰ after you have read it. I will also mail to you *The Living Age*, which he as well as you will enjoy. I wish the numbers all preserved, as I intend to continue it and have them bound.

Politically, I know of nothing new except a speech today in Committee of the Whole by Mr. Giddings, called forth by the final portion of the President's Message commending the late Compromise. Mr. Giddings again called attention to the fact that the Free Soilers have no slightest disposition to interfere with Slavery in the States where it exists: they would leave it where the Constitution leaves it, but they do not propose to turn out and help Southern slaveholders capture their runaways. The speech was not treated with the respect it deserved and I believe there is a more proscriptive and intolerant feeling towards the Free Soilers than ever before. They are determined to keep down "agitation," but they will fail in their purpose.

I received last night from the Secretary of our Indiana State [Whig] Convention resolutions endorsing the Compromise measures of the last session. It seems that Rariden⁶¹ brought the subject before the convention and they had a warm time over the discussion. The nomination⁶² evidently lies between Newman, Parker, Smith and Holloway. There is danger of so many and such serious divisions among the Whigs as to

⁵⁹ Miss Anne C. Lynch, the magazine writer, mentioned above in Julian's letter of June 26, 1850.

⁶⁰ Isaac Hoover Julian, Mr. Julian's younger brother. He afterwards edited various newspapers in Wayne County and later in Texas. See sketch of his life in *Indiana Magazine of History*, XXVIII, (March, 1932), 9-20.

⁶¹ James Rariden was an Indiana lawyer, who had been a Whig Representative in Congress from the fourth or "Burnt" district from 1837 to 1841.

⁶² Julian was no longer speaking of the state convention, but had shifted to his own congressional district. John S. Newman, Samuel W. Parker (defeated by Julian in 1849), Caleb B. Smith and D. P. Holloway were all seeking the Whig nomination in the district. Julian was hopeful that Democrats would again fuse with Free Soilers in the district. He saw the possibility that the Democrats might run a candidate of their own, and even dreamed of a combination of antislavery Whigs and antislavery Democrats with Free Soilers in an attempt to defeat a candidate backed by Hunker (pro-slavery) Whigs and Democrats.

encourage the Democrats to set up a man of their own. It *may* be that the Hunkers of both the old parties will unite against me in favor of some Fugitive Slave Law man, in which event the honest men of all parties will rally to me against that law. Time will determine, but at present I am hopeful, although the delegation here are hostile and will do all they can against me.⁶³ If I can have my health a combined attack will only commend me to the people.

Dec. 19, 1850

For several days I have heard nothing but talk about the "divine Jenny" who is to leave this morning, I hear. She was in our gallery yesterday and such a hubbub in the Hall I have never seen. No mortal is so idolized. Giddings and Durkee went to hear her last night and were of course enchanted, as I was [when] in Boston. It will gratify you to know that I sent one of the pages with your album to Willard's [Hotel] and obtained her autograph as follows: "In kind remembrance of Jenny Lind. Washington, December, 1850."

Yesterday soon after the House met I was called to the door by Will Woods⁶⁴. I was surprised of course to see him. He heard "Jenny" last night and agrees with others as to her singing, but declares she is homely. I believe he is here on some patent business.

I forgot to tell you that when I last called on the Underwoods I met Tom's wife who is very pleasant and who spoke of seeing you in Wayne County when she was there. I hope you and Channing are getting along all right and that you are planning a visit to Indianapolis.

There is little of interest here. I live almost entirely in my room when not attending the sessions or taking my daily walks with the Judge.

Dec. 22, 1850

Your long wished-for letter dated Dec. 19 came last evening. I am pleased with what you say about politics and "the quiet joys of home." It will be fortunate if our political experience shall have the effect of making us more contented with private life than we might otherwise have been. The tone of your letter, your disposition to jest with untoward circumstances, pleases me. You have more philosophy under trials generally than I have. So Channing talks about me! I wish I had him here to *tousle* with! It is strange that you have not received any papers yet, for I have sent a number, some of real interest. I have not seen Stitt's puff of Ob.⁶⁵ and wish you would send me the paper.

The weather is cold here, but my health is excellent. I walk with the Judge about four miles every day, and eat *some*.

I am glad to hear that Mother has gone to housekeeping and that

⁶³ The Indiana delegation in the lower House of Congress then consisted of: Nathaniel Albertson of Greenville, William J. Brown of Indianapolis, C. L. Dunham of Salem, Graham N. Fitch of Logansport, Willis A. Gorman of Bloomington, Andrew J. Harlan of Marion, Joseph E. McDonald of Crawfordsville, John L. Robinson of Rushville, all Democrats; Edward W. McGaughey of Rockville, a Whig; and George W. Julian, a Free Soiler.

⁶⁴ W. L. Woods was a citizen of Centerville. He was clerk of the Committee on Public Lands during Mr. Julian's chairmanship of that committee in the sixties.

⁶⁵ "Ob" was a nickname for Oliver P. Morton of Centerville, afterwards War Governor of Indiana and later United States Senator.

Isaac is with her. Have been attending some interesting lectures at the Smithsonian Institute and yesterday was at the Navy Yard in company with Giddings, Allen and Will Woods who is now boarding at our house. Mr. and Mrs. Underwood and Mrs. U. Jr. called on me a few evenings ago and we discussed many things, some of the talk being devoted to Centerville.

I have bought "Mary Barton" and sent it on today. I think you will be pleased with it: it has made quite a hit in the Old World as well as in this country, and I presume you have seen notices of it. The author is the wife of a Unitarian clergyman in England, but I forget the name.⁶⁶

Mr. Dawson, the owner of our boarding-house, died here this morning very suddenly of apoplexy.

It is considered very probable that Charles Sumner will be elected shortly to the U. S. Senate. It may be that Giddings will be [elected] from Ohio, though this is more uncertain.

Dec. 31, 1850

This is the last message of affection from me that will hail you from the first half of the 19th century! Where shall you and I be fifty years hence? If I had time I would "moralize like a death's head." I do feel sad when I think of the flight of time.

Have not yet had time to go to the jeweller's about your bracelets. Will get Miss Bremer's new work⁶⁷ and mail to you when I go down on the Avenue.

I went with Judge Allen last Friday evening to the Levee. The President is very affable and promenades with the company in the East room. So does his lady, likewise the daughter, who is not handsome.

As to the prospect of my re-election to Congress I get rather discouraging news from political friends at home. Owing to divisions among the Whigs however I am myself not without hope, but my resolution is, and let it be a "joint resolution" with us, that if I am to be retired we will not only make a virtue of necessity, but do it cheerfully.

"A Happy New Year!"

Jan. 2, 1851

According to promise I must give you a history of my doings on the first day of the new-born year. In company with Giddings and Durkee I first called at Dr. Bailey's where we refreshed ourselves with coffee, cakes, raisins, lemonade &c. The doctor has moved on to E St. and purchased one of the finest houses there. He is evidently getting to be one of the city's aristocracy. A beautiful life-size portrait of "Grace Greenwood" hangs in a gilt frame above his mantel. We next called to see Senator Benton,⁶⁸ who happened not to be at home, but his lady and daughter received us and we were treated to apple-toddy, egg-nog, &c.

⁶⁶ Mrs. Elizabeth C. Gaskell, friend of Charlotte Bronte, whose life she afterwards wrote. Her most famous work was *Cranford*.

⁶⁷ Probably *Neighbors* which had just appeared in a fifth edition.

⁶⁸ Thomas H. Benton of Missouri was serving his last term in the U. S. Senate of which he had been a member for thirty years. His daughter married Col. John C. Fremont, first candidate of the Republican party for President.

They are horribly homely and not interesting. We then went to the President's where we found a much greater jam than a year ago. With difficulty we passed through the different rooms, shaking hands with the President, Henry Clay and others. General Scott was there in full military dress and made a fine appearance, attracting more attention than any one else except Clay. I returned home tired enough. But when Mrs. Underwood called and invited Will Woods and me to take tea with them I sallied forth again. We were feasted to all sorts of music, the whole family joining either with instruments or voices, and the exercises were concluded by the appearance of Harriet and Jack⁶⁹ disguised in the most hideous false faces, who sang and danced. It was a lively evening and I returned home at nine o'clock. Mrs. Underwood informed me that Mary Barker was married about two weeks ago to a Mr. Keys of Baltimore, wealthy and respectable.

I was at the book-store today and bought Miss Martineau's "Household Education" which I will mail to you tomorrow.

Jan. 6, 1851

Last evening I called at Mr. Cushman's to see Miss Loring of Boston, but she had gone to church. She has just come to town bringing a letter of introduction to me from Dr. Stone, one of my special friends there. I called again today and accompanied her and Miss Cushman to the Capitol, showing them sundry little attentions. I am to conduct them this evening to the Institute to hear the lectures. I *fear* I shall be under the necessity of taking them to the Levee next Friday (of course at some expense), but as Dr. Stone was exceedingly kind to me when I was in Boston I must do what I can to show my appreciation.

I raised quite an excitement in the House today by presenting a petition from the Yearly Meeting of Antislavery Friends in Indiana praying the repeal of the Fugitive Slave law. I succeeded in having it read and in getting the yeas and nays on receiving it. Of course there was a hubbub and I was denounced for stirring up "agitation." Our own delegation is down on me.

I will send you a *Globe*⁷⁰ containing the proceedings.

I believe I have not told you that I have been for some time preparing a speech on the Public Lands. I am nearly through with it and will soon try to get the floor if we can get up the bill before us on the subject.⁷¹

Jan. 9, 1851

Yours of Jan. 2 came to hand in due time, but I don't think you receive nearly all my letters as I write of many things you never men-

⁶⁹ Children of the Underwoods.

⁷⁰ The *Congressional Globe* is meant.

⁷¹ The bill was introduced on January 23 by Andrew Johnson of Tennessee from the Committee on Agriculture. Mr. Julian got the floor six days later, largely through Mr. Johnson's friendly help. They had talked over the subject during the previous session.

tion. There is great irregularity in the mails so far as my correspondence with Jacob [Julian] is concerned.

We had another fuss in the House on Tuesday as you will see by the *Globe* I send you, arising from a motion made by me to correct the journal of the previous day. The *Union* and *Republic* are giving me *jesse* for stirring up "agitation" and trying to destroy the Union. My doings will doubtless strengthen the efforts of the hunkers of both the old parties to put me down. I see you expect to drive around with me in canvassing the district next summer, but I think the prospect much better for quitting politics entirely. I mean to take the straightforward course without regard to consequences.

I have twice accompanied Miss Loring and Miss Cushman to the Institute lectures and am to go with them to the Levee tomorrow evening. I received two cards today from Mr. Webster,⁷² one of them being sent, I suppose, in the belief that you were here. I therefore send it to you. I have also received the accompanying regulations of the Dancing Academy which you may like to look over.

Jan. 11, 1851

I have nothing to write today but some account of my feats in gallantry and wonderful adventures last evening. I am taking your advice about going into company and avoiding the "mopes," and if you will hold your breath now and promise not to be jealous I will proceed.

At 8 o'clock Mr. Durkee and myself by previous arrangement got into the hack of Senator Foote's brother and drove to Mr. Cushman's, Mr. Durkee taking charge of Miss Cushman and I of Miss Loring. We had a pleasant chat on the way to the Presidential mansion and when we reached there we took the number of Master Foote's hack and went in. After our ladies had arranged their toilets we marched into the reception room, the way being led by a Mr. Thayer and Miss Brown who also went from Mr. Cushman's. The President saluted us very cordially. He knew me and after I had introduced Miss Loring he observed that he was "glad to see the East and West united." We then passed on to where Miss Fillmore [the President's daughter] was standing and I bowed to her and introduced Miss Loring. She appears very affable and graceful. We next went into the East Room where we saw the most brilliant gathering I have ever seen at a levee. The evening was mild and beautiful and everybody seemed to be there and very happy. We soon met General Houston and had considerable chat with the old fellow who is very bland and polite.⁷³ Passing round on the promenade (promenad they call it here) we presently saw General Scott talking with Mr. McLanahan who introduced us to the old General who chatted with us a short time. He is two or three inches taller than I am, and has a very stern look but with an expression of benevolence mingled with it.

⁷² Daniel Webster was now Secretary of State, having accepted the first place in the Cabinet after Fillmore became President.

⁷³ Sam Houston was then a United States Senator from Texas.

I liked him decidedly.⁷⁴ We met and conversed with divers others of less note in the East room which after awhile became too warm, and we took up our march in the large hall where it was cooler. "Grace Greenwood" was just leaving the hall in company with Dr. Bailey, but bowed gracefully, and a half hour later left the promenade to cross the room to where we were standing. She then had the arm of William D. Gallagher of Cincinnati. She has just arrived in the city, having been detained in Philadelphia by illness. There is always an expression of sadness in her countenance even when engaged in sprightly conversation. There is a lurking sarcasm too in the curl of her lip. I wish you could see her. Well, we enjoyed the evening as everybody seemed to till after ten and after bowing to the President and his daughter we left for our hack. The darkeys rushed round us crying "Hack, sir!" "Hack, gentlemen" &c, but our man Foote did not appear. Durkee told one of them we wanted Foote. He raised the cry "Foote!" "Foote!" and just then the Senator [Foote] came along, creating a roar of laughter. Our Foote at length drove up and we reached home in safety; and so ends my long yarn.

Later. At the close of the above Dr. Bailey sent up his card and on going to the parlor I found his errand was to invite all of us Free Soilers to his home Saturday night for talk and a cup of coffee. The invitation is for *every* Saturday night of the session.

Tom Thumb is in town creating some excitement. I saw his little ponies today, about as large as large dogs, hitched to his little hack which is about the size of the little wagons children are hauled in. He has an out-rider about his size and he sits inside. This may interest Channing.

Jan. 15, 1851

I did not enjoy the party at Dr. Bailey's: it was too formal, and I do not like so much standing around and eating. Durkee and I called earlier in the evening to see our friends at Mr. Cushman's and were there introduced to a number of pleasant folks. Mr. Cushman teaches a school of young ladies in an apartment of his own house and they were all in the parlor in the most frolicsome mood. Some of them are handsome, and all seem intelligent. I bade Miss Loring good-bye, as she leaves tomorrow for her home, but it would not do for me to report what she told me some of the ladies at the levee said about me. So I will keep that: it might make you vain, or peradventure it would make you think *me* so! I expect to call on Mrs. Woolley some day this week; but perhaps you will think it about time to slacken my social pace a little. Giddings and Allen are both scolding and threatening to write you on the subject. They make much sport of the gallantry of Durkee and myself.

I am awaiting with great anxiety the result of the Massachusetts election for Senator. I fear the coalition between the Democrats and

⁷⁴ General Winfield Scott, then 65 years of age, was to be the Whig candidate for the Presidency the following year. James X. McLanahan was then a Representative in Congress from Pennsylvania.

Free Soilers will break up and Sumner be defeated. Much depends upon this in other States. I am also anxious to know who is chosen judge at home.

A gentleman is now here entertaining folks with Shakespeare readings and I mean to hear him tomorrow night. We are having the most delightful weather imaginable for some weeks past, no rain or mud, mild balmy atmosphere and clear moonlight nights. I begin to think this is about the pleasantest climate in the United States and one of the most desirable places to live.

Jan. 18, 1851

After visiting several jewellers I yesterday succeeded in getting your bracelets and hope they will please you. The lockets are plain and have only "A. E. J." on them, there being no room for more. If these are not just what you wanted we shall have to try to get some one more skilled in "small matters" to help us out next time.

Mr. Durkee and I called last night on Mrs. Southworth and talked till bed-time. I left your album for her autograph. We discussed religion, slavery, politics generally, phrenology, the Rochester knockings, &c, and I was more charmed than ever with her conversational gifts. When I get home I will tell you as much as I can remember of her thoughts and words. Her "Shannondale" is now at the book-stores.

I went to hear the Shakespeare readings, but was not particularly impressed.

Jan. 22, 1851

We had a glorious time at Dr. Bailey's last Saturday night, the most rollicking time I have known in Washington. There were a good many present, most of whom left about ten o'clock, those who remained being Root, Preston King, Bingham, Chase and myself, also "Grace Greenwood," a niece of Mr. Chase and another lady, both of whose names I have forgotten, and Mrs. Bailey.⁷⁵ The first exercise was fortune telling, which I shall not attempt to describe but will tell you all about it when I come home. Then commenced blind-folding one another and trying to blow out the candle after turning around three times at a certain distance from it. . . . I have not laughed so much in months. I find that "Grace Greenwood" considers Wendell Phillips far superior to Sumner. I was pleased when she told me that Mr. Phillips is warmly my friend.

At the Circus the other night in the old Theatre, the floor fell several feet, everybody being badly frightened and some bruised, but nobody killed. I had planned to go, but went instead to see "Whipple's Dissolving Panoramic Views," on 7th Street, a very splendid sight.

A Miss Curtis from Lowell, Mass. is now at our house, corresponding for several newspapers. She sits next me at table and we have consider-

⁷⁵ Joseph M. Root, a Free Soiler, was a member of the House from Ohio. Preston King was a "Barnburner" Democrat of New York who joined the Free Soilers with Van Buren in 1848. He was elected to the House in that year. K. S. Bingham was a Democratic member of the House from Michigan.

able talk. She says that the Woman's Rights folks think a good deal of me because they judge from Mrs. Swisshelm's article⁷⁸ that I am a favorite with my own wife!

Jacob writes me that Morton is *not* elected judge and that Elliott is. Poor Ob! He must feel blue enough.

Jan. 27, 1851

A letter from Uncle Henry Hoover gives a gloomy picture of our Free Soil prospects. Things look unpromising, but I do not rely implicitly upon his judgment. If I can succeed at all next summer it will be by firmness, unanimity and *faith* on the part of the Free Soilers. Some of them are discouraged by the backward tendency of things, and this is likely to be the trouble. If they give up in despair of course they can't influence the action of the old parties. I am sorry they have not a little more pluck. Free Soil friends here are decidedly in favor of my going into the fight at all hazards, and they think that whether successful or not I will in the long run be the gainer.

On last Thursday evening Mr. Durkee and I accompanied Miss Susan Underwood, Mrs. Tom Underwood, and her sister Miss Wilson to the levee. They were the best-looking ladies there. Mrs. Underwood is creating quite a sensation at the levees and in the galleries of the House by her beauty. She is intelligent and agreeable too. There was a great crowd at the levee, but I saw nothing of special interest. They were nearly all strangers. Will Woods was there in company with his friend John Williams who is about exhibiting his Bible Panorama. He is a portrait painter and used to live in Wayne County. His panorama is said to be the finest in the world and he has sent me a ticket.

We had a pleasant time at Dr. Bailey's last evening. Among other notable personages present there was a Polish lady, Madame Iazello, who came over to this country with Gen. Ughizey, and her conversation was interesting.

I am again becoming sick of Congress and begin to feel as I did during the long dreary months of last summer. I am tired of this way of living, having a wife, a child and a home, and yet separated from them.

Feb. 1, 1851

By a good deal of adroitness and some good luck I finally succeeded in getting the floor last Tuesday on the public land question. I did not however speak till Wednesday. The speech appears in the *Globe* and will in a few days be published in pamphlet form. I think it a creditable speech, but have not time to say more at present.

The weather has turned severely cold: it seems to me I never knew it colder at home.

⁷⁸ Jane G. Swisshelm, noted Woman Suffrage advocate, edited *The Saturday Visitor* of Pittsburg. In 1857 she removed to St. Cloud, Minn., where she became the editor of the *St. Cloud Republican*, a Republican paper.

The sudden death of a member of the House yesterday, David S. Kaufman of Texas, has made quite a sensation among us. He was a young man of robust appearance who apparently had as fair a prospect of years and honors as any man in our body. He died of some heart affection.

I see by the papers that Miss Bremer⁷⁷ has been travelling in the South and has had the wool pulled over her eyes by the slaveholders. She has recently written a letter in favor of the American Colonization Society.

I send you a copy of my speech. Members have already subscribed for nine thousand copies and I presume it will be in the *Democrat* and *Jeffersonian* at home.⁷⁸

Feb. 6, 1851

I heard an interesting lecture the other night by Dr. Fiske on Mesmerism and Biology and witnessed most wonderful exhibitions about which I will tell you more hereafter.

At the hazard of making you jealous I must tell you more about Miss Curtis who boards here. It seems she is the author of "Kate in Search of a Husband," "S. S. S. Philosophy" and other works. She has handed me the latter to read and I think I will send it to you. She is corresponding for the *Tribune*, *Visitor*, and other papers, and says she is going to write you in a day or two. So you will have another Washington correspondent.

I have franked off some 2,700 copies of my land speech, and I am going to mail to you some eight or ten copies of the Congressional Globe and Appendix, for distribution after I get home, each copy consisting of four large volumes. Do not remove the wrapping, but pile them in the lumber room where they will be out of the way.

Feb. 10, 1851

On Saturday Mr. Durkee and I went with the Underwoods to the Gallery of Paintings and saw a fine exhibit. And that night we heard Professor Silliman lecture at the Institute, going later to our weekly gathering at Dr. Bailey's where we met the usual company.

I do not know enough about our new Indiana Constitution to judge of it. Sumner is not yet elected [Senator], but I still hope he will be. He came within two votes of it last Thursday.

Will Woods called to see me this morning. He seems in good spirits and thinks he will get all his patents. I can't start home till *after* the day of adjournment, say the 4th or 5th of March. I am sorry Centerville is so dull, but you need not fear that I have lost my love of the quiet of home and that I shall not be contented on my return. I am sure I shall be unless I am again involved in the strife of politics. I almost shudder

⁷⁷ The Swedish novelist mentioned as having visited Washington. See Julian's letter of June 26, 1850.

⁷⁸ *The True Democrat* was Vaile's Free Soil paper of Centerville. *The Jeffersonian* was Elder's Democratic paper of Richmond. Both had supported Julian in his race for Congress in 1849.

at the thought of this and hope for some honorable mode of deliverance. You may say to Oliver that my present calculation is to come home by Pittsburgh.

I have been getting up a little more fuss today in the House, as you may see by the papers.

Feb. 15, 1851

My cold, the worst I ever had, continues, and now the toothache has set in, so that I am even more stupid than usual. I am also destitute of news. I am pleased to hear of Channing's attention to his book and I send him the enclosed coin that I picked up the other day on the pavement. It is a new coin, composed of silver and copper and called a three-cent piece. Tell him father sent it to him for minding his book.

I am invited to a large party next Wednesday evening at Messrs King's, two wealthy members from New York who keep house on the President's square, sons of Rufus King of Revolutionary memory.⁷⁹ I have neglected to send my card around, as many others have done, or I should have had more invitations than I should have cared about. I will look to it hereafter *when you and I come to Congress again together!* I should like to go to Dr. Bailey's tonight and meet all my friends, but don't feel well enough.

Feb. 20, 1851

I attended the Kings' party and enjoyed it very much. They reside in a splendid mansion, formerly occupied by Van Buren before he was President. Gen. Scott and many distinguished characters were there and the spacious hall in which the company was received was ornamented by the finest sculptures and paintings I have seen in a private collection. One painting in particular, a beautiful woman with "golden locks," particularly attracted me, and Durkee said at once it was because it looked like you. It certainly does greatly resemble you, especially as to eyes, forehead and hair. I have observed that paintings of female beauty very generally represent the hair of my favorite color.

The supper exceeded anything I ever saw for variety, elegance and splendor. There were oysters, herrings, turtles, crabs, quails, duck, in short everything in the line of meat, as also the finest productions of the baker and confectioner. Besides, there was an abundance of champagne and other costly drinks, and I *dare* not tell you how I resisted temptation!—But enough of this.

Yesterday Dr. Howe of Boston⁸⁰ called to see me at the House, and inquired about you. Mrs. Howe is with him and they are stopping at Willard's. I called on them last evening, but they were out. I will call again today or tomorrow.

By special invitation I went to Dr. Bailey's night before last. On

⁷⁹ One of these sons of Rufus King, John A. King, was a Representative from New York, but the other, James G. King, served a district of New Jersey. Each was a Whig and each served but one term in the House, 1849-1851.

⁸⁰ Samuel Gridley Howe, in 1850, editor of the *Boston Commonwealth*, and his wife Julia Ward Howe. Mrs. Howe was already an advocate of woman's suffrage and an enemy of slavery. Later she wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

entering the room each person was handed the enclosed bill giving the program of the evening. I soon learned that "Grace Greenwood" was to be the actress and that the whole affair was to be a burlesque on modern theatrical and especially Shakespearean doings. She was inimitable and the audience was convulsed with laughter. I came home about eleven, as I was tired, leaving the company engaged in blind-man's-bluff and a new play called fox-and-geese.

Miss Curtis told me the other day that she had written you a long and mischievous letter, which I presume you have received by this time. We Free Soilers did not like her at first: she is a "doughface." But our dislike has passed away on better acquaintance. I have sent you *The Lowell American*, for which she is correspondent, in which she speaks in rather flattering terms of us "fanatics." Have confidence in yourself and you can write her a first rate letter.

Feb. 25, 1851

I send you enclosed a letter from the editor of *Young America*, the oldest land reformer in the United States. The paper he speaks of having sent has not been received, but when it comes I will send it to you. I am glad I made that speech and wish I had the means of circulating it more widely. By the way, some of my recent letters speak more hopefully of prospects at home. I don't see how I can avoid another contest, whether there is any prospect of success or not. Either Parker or Newman will be the Whig candidate [for Congress], and if I don't run there will be an end of our organization and a voluntary and cowardly surrender to the Whig hunkers. They would like that a little too well. I guess you must study politics again and be my oracle as to what is best to be done when I return.⁸¹

We are holding night sessions now and shall till the adjournment which will probably be about daylight on next Tuesday morning. I found I would not have time to call on Mrs. Southworth and have sent a page after your album.

My tooth-ache returned so violently that I went to see the dentist day before yesterday who thought he could cure it by extracting a

⁸¹ A fusion arrangement was again perfected in the Burnt District in 1851. Julian was once more the candidate of Democrats and Free Soilers, with Samuel W. Parker again the Whig candidate. This time the Whigs won. The vote of the district by counties in 1851 and 1849 was as follows:

| Fourth District Counties | 1851 | | 1849 | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Julian | Parker | Julian | Parker |
| Fayette | 681 | 972 | 892 | 938 |
| Henry | 1488 | 1439 | 1378 | 1441 |
| Union | 610 | 580 | 738 | 506 |
| Wayne | 1816 | 2111 | 1734 | 1698 |
| Totals | 4540 | 5102 | 4737 | 4583 |

The Free Soil vote for President in 1848 for the counties of the fourth district: Fayette, 86; Henry, 455; Union, 208; Wayne, 839.

neighboring tooth which was decayed. After pulling five or six times he finally succeeded in getting out *one root*, but could not get at the other. He then determined, upon further examination, that it would be best to take out the tooth which ached, and having already been sufficiently tortured I consented to inhale ether so as to avoid the pain. The drowsiness which came on however was not deep enough, and the operation was horrible. So you see I have had rough handling, but am glad it is over and have had no further trouble.

Feb. 27, 1851

Your letter to Miss Curtis I think is capital, and you have reason to feel more confidence in yourself and less solicitude as to such ventures. She was much pleased and quite amused with your observations upon my "gallantry." Enclosed is a letter just received from Miss Loring, my Boston friend who was here. The present mentioned in it is a rare one and I will pass it on to you on my return. A friend of hers brought it to me and tells me Miss Loring is engaged to be married soon.

Yesterday morning Mrs. Southworth was in the Library and sent for me to come in. She handed me your album with a beautiful sentiment of hers written in it on "Prayer." She is in poor health, and is naturally homely, yet when her face is lighted up in conversation she becomes quite handsome. She is a noble woman. She almost worships Dr. Channing, and says she was a hopeless skeptic till she read his works. All that she is she says she owes to his immortal lecture on "Self Culture." One of the pages now has your album and is carrying it around among the members and others. It will be quite a treasure if he gets all the names on my list.⁸²

I did not get to see the Howes after all, for I had not time to make a second call. There are many things to bother me as the session approaches its close. Mr. ———, brother to Mrs. ———, has requested me to carry home "a bundle" for him, and being a servant of the people of course I must do it. I am indeed glad to hear of Dr. Pritchett's safe return. Some one has sent me a copy of the *Wayne County Whig*⁸³ containing quite a favorable notice of my speech, and I am puzzled to know what it means. From letters I receive I find the speech is making me a good many friends from among my enemies.

March 3, 1851

This will be my last letter from the Metropolis, and a very short one. I am almost worn down with loss of sleep and the hurry and bustle of packing up. We shall sit all night and probably part of tomorrow to finish the appropriation bills. I never saw such crowded galleries. As the time approaches I feel very sorry to part with my dear Free Soil friends—probably to meet them no more.

I sent you a letter the other day from Charles Sumner accompanied by a copy of one recently addressed by him to the Free Soilers of his

⁸² This old album, containing the autographs of thirty famous persons is before me as I write this note, an interesting reminder of another age and another people.—G. J. C.

⁸³ A paper published in Centerville by J. B. Stitt. It was formerly the *Wayne County Record*, established in 1841 by Samuel C. Meredith.

State. The *copied* letter and accompanying notice sent by him of a new English publication you may give to Isaac [Julian], who I think will be pleased with them.

I shall not start home till the morning of the 5th. In order to avoid the jolting and danger of a trip over the mountains again by stage, I have concluded to go by the Harrisburg route, which will take me a day longer and bring me home on Tuesday the 11th.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ As stated in the "Foreword", Mr. and Mrs. Julian, when making the trip to Washington in 1849, crossed the mountains by stage. Mrs. Julian returned by the Lake route in June, 1850. Mr. Julian visited New England after the end of the session near the end of September and traveled to Centerville from Boston. He made the journey to Washington just prior to the short session of 1850-1851 by the same route as that used in 1849 taking the stage over the mountains. Beveridge says in his *Abraham Lincoln* (I, 398) that Mr. Lincoln when going to Washington in 1847, traveled from Pittsburgh "by rail to Baltimore and Washington". On reading this the question naturally arose why Mr. Julian did not also travel by train from Pittsburgh to Washington two and three years later. Investigation reveals that Mr. Beveridge was in error in his statement. It seems that trains were not operated from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh until December 10, 1852 (H. W. Schotter, *The Growth and Development of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company*, p. 35), or over the Baltimore and Ohio to the Ohio River before Christmas Eve, 1852 (Edward Hungerford, *The Story of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad*, between pp. 256-7, note below illustration). Perhaps Mr. Beveridge meant to say that Lincoln traveled from Pittsburgh to Baltimore and Washington by rail and canal or by the rail-canal route from the Ohio to Harrisburgh.