

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C., July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1850.

Dear Mrs Foy

Yours of 18<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

have come both before me.

Thanks for your sympathies,  
am glad to be able to say the  
boy has about recovered and  
has gone to his home in F. H.  
Smith. His wife was with him  
and both well hurt, but the  
boy the most serious. Well the  
Mountain so far as the House  
end of it <sup>is concerned</sup> has prevailed, and you  
know the result. The object of the  
law undoubtedly is to advance  
liberty, but its relative effect  
will be about the same as the  
Fugitive Slave law had in

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C.,

184

advancing slavery, a necessary  
step, a necessary blunder perhaps,  
in reaching the goal to which we  
are tending. It is interesting to observe  
the steps of progress, sometimes  
backward, sometimes forward,  
but the consensus of the tide, tedious,  
discouraging sometimes, but aggressive  
advancing to final triumph. It  
is a satisfaction to be an actor  
though ever so humble, in the  
drama of liberty, and as some  
one has said "Liberty is a plant of  
slow growth," we should probably  
be content if it only grows, and  
while I have but little faith in the  
utility of this bill if it becomes a law,

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C., ..... , 189 .

I do see in it a long long step  
towards the climax we must  
reach through foolishness or through  
wisdom; when it will be settled in  
favor of liberty. The time when that  
will be reached depends more on  
the foolishness of the opposition  
than on the wisdom of the ad-  
vocate: Agitation is what is now  
needed, and Judge Tansie, is  
the Apostle of the agitation, more  
than any other man or man, <sup>more</sup>  
than Congress ever; although we  
did a fair share of agitating ourselves  
for six days. With kindest regards  
to yourself and the Judge I am  
Yours very truly  
Harrison Kelly