

New Camp Hospital
Oct 14th 1864

Dear Cousin

I received a letter from you yesterday dated the 27th Ult.. and one the day before. dated 29th. Strange isnt it. I think I will answer the last one first. (which you know is according to scripture)

You commenced it in a style so unusual. that I immediately glanced at the name at the close of the letter to see if it did not come from Josey. after all. but upon seeing your name. came to the conclusion that the letter came from you. though the expression was borrowed. So I read on until I came to the sentence enclosed in parentheses in which you admit that it was borrowed. Though it would be difficult to tell which you meant was borrowed -- the highflown language or the other two letters.

But please excuse my criticism. for you know it is not my style generally. It certainly does not take our letters long to go and come. and I for one am glad of it. You are my nearest correspondent being only nine miles from New York City. Josie is the next. though she does not write so regularly as you do. I am glad Auntie Pine enjoyed her journey. I think I would enjoy a trip over the same route.

Whatever may have been my reason for not visiting your Mother. it certainly was not because I did not care to. on the contrary. I would be much pleased to see her. but did not have time to do so when I was home last. You know very well that I did not even have time to make Aunt Lottie a decent visit. I might have postponed my visit to Josie but "couldn't see it" for I had to make up my mind to have you accompany me there. and after I once get my mind made up. I do not like to change it. I shall be thankful for all the papers you may be pleased to send me. but can send none in return. as there are no papers printed in this department.

Were I at Hilton Head. or Beaufort again. (And I wish I was) I would send you the New South. or Free South. but as it is. you must make up with my "will". which I assure you is good. for the "deed."

Thank you for the invitation to visit Central Park. and especially the other. which you may be sure I shall accept and you will be sure to see me whenever you are provided circumstances will admit of it. Never mind what People say or think . about you. provided you have done nothing wrong. You certainly ought

[written at top of page 5 -- the second folio of this letter] Please address
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not to be ashamed to be seen with a cousin. and I think you are not.

Your Episcopal Minister is "quite a personage." or ought to be if he takes after Washington Irving. That piece of poetry is a good one. I have now finished my reply to your second letter (of the 27th) and will now comment upon that of the 29th, though I received it first.

So you think it takes men a good while to accomplish any thing do you? It is well for you that you put in that "saving clause." "sometimes." for I think I should have been disposed to argue the point with you if you had not. but as you did it is not necessary. for I grant you that "sometimes" it does take a good while. I have no doubt that Auntie's journey was a benefit to her health. I really hope so. I think

it will be as well for Theodore to remain at home now. that is. after he gets there. which I hope he will do soon. After one has been in the service two or three years. I think he has done his share. though if he is really anxious to do more I am willing he should. but shall not advise him to.

I hope that when you get "rich" you will enjoy yourself and will enjoy your journeyings. I think however that you may possibly take a trip to Malta Ville at least before you get rich. unless you should happen to marry some rich chap this winter. You might as well have said Jerusalem. as to have made that great long J-----, but it is all right.

Now I will close hoping you will excuse the many mistakes. I have made. I would copy. if I thought you were very particular. Oh. I almost forgot: Dont be alarmed. about my doing any thing "desperate" with my hatchet. Yours Affectionately Cousin L.M.Loper