

AB879  
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Orlando Brown papers, folder 29 [Mss. AB879]

Frankfort Aug. 2. 1856

My dear Orlando

Believing that you would feel some anxiety to hear of my safe arrival I am happy to inform you that I got home last evening safe and well. I returned by the Dunkirk & Erie route and found it more pleasant and expeditious than the N.Y. Central. I left N.Y. at 6 o'clock in the morning and reached Louisville at 5 in the evening of the next day and found all well at home and you are the subject of many affectionate inquiries from your friends in Frankfort. My dear Son the only subject on which I feel unpleasant solicitude is the state of your health. Avoid unnecessary exposure. I am not afraid of your habits, conduct or industry. I have every confidence in you. I hope you are now at your ombudsman, and are more comfortable than at the Tortoise. I will despatch the Commonwealth & Journal to be sent to you. In a few days I will write again.

Your affectionate father  
Orlando Brown

A  
B879  
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Orlando Brown papers, folder 23 [Mss. A B879]

Frankfort Ky. Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 1856

My dear Son

Your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> came safely to hand this morning and gave me heartfelt pleasure. I feel much concern about the state of your health, fearing a return of the chills from which you suffered so much before you left home and one of which you had after arriving at New Haven. I trust that hereafter you will experience little or no inconvenience as change of place is often more efficacious in eradicating that disease than medicine even when skilfully administered. For a time, however, be prudent in diet and avoid exposure to the sun or to the night air. Since my return home the weather although extremely dry has nevertheless been temperate with cool nights & mornings and no mosquitos. I am now writing with a small fire in the fire place the thermometer at 70° in the passage. I hope that the extreme heat is now over in New England & that in your comfortable lodgings and with a quiet family every thing is favorable for your perfecting yourself in such studies as are requisite for entering the Junior Class. Mr Sayre is watching the progress of his Yale boys with deep interest, considering his own reputation as largely involved in their success - should you & Gran & George all three get in, he will

talk more about it and spent more than her did our  
John, & Monbrad & Moore. I see him every day and he  
always enquires with great interest about you. He  
gratified me on yesterday by telling me that there  
can be no doubt about your entering, and also that  
one of your class mates had said to him that very  
day that you were decidedly the best scholar in the  
whole school. I looked over the list of books you have  
bought and am glad to find that they are so few in  
number. Whatever is necessary for your sensible comfort  
or for the promotion of your education feel no hesitation  
about buying. Every well regulated mind knows what  
is meant by Extravagance I wish you to avoid being  
so for many reasons - chiefly because young men who  
spend money spend time and of course neglect their  
studies - and also because owing to adverse circumstances  
money is really a scarce thing with me and I am sure  
you love me too well not to embarrass me by any  
wasteful use of what it costs me so much trouble  
to gather up. My whole indebtedness at present amounts  
to, about, as well as a rough estimate makes it, ten thousand  
dollars. I have now owing to me about fifteen thousand dol-  
lars, but the trouble is that my debts are mainly in  
Bank and have to be paid when those who owe me  
are my friends and put themselves to no trouble to  
pay me. But it will all work right in the end &  
thank God I will have enough to give you a far better  
start in the world than I had myself, and I am  
~~sure~~ sure that your industry and ambition will

always keep you in comfortable pecuniary condition. I  
have observed one thing about you my son with great pride  
you have no disposition to gamble. I have observed another  
thing with equal pleasure - you have no inclination to  
drink. On these two awful rocks thousands of young  
men shatter health, character and happiness and  
bring grief and shame to their parents. One of the follies  
of youth unfortunately you have not escaped and  
that is the use of Tobacco & co. Nothing is more injurious  
to the youthful constitution than that pernicious  
weed and as the habit when once acquired is not  
often abandoned I must content myself with urging  
you to a very moderate use of it. I cannot, da &  
tough as I am, stand more than three cigars a day  
Mr Burnley cannot stand more than one. You ought  
not to think of smoking more than this. Your young friend  
George would laugh at this - but let him laugh. He  
if I mistake not will not be a good example in  
any thing for he is prone to seek his own pleasures  
regardless of his fathers wishes. You are da enough  
to have a mind of your own and brave enough to  
have a will of your own and I know that I can  
trust implicitly to that firmness that we keep you  
from being lured into or forced into any thing  
that your own judgment does not approve. Mason  
spent several days with me since his return and  
we had talk of nothing else but you. His whole soul is  
wrapped up in your success and I hope you two  
will love one another during the whole of your lives.

The evening of my return home your Ma was attacked  
violently with Flux and has suffered very much from  
it but is now rapidly recovering. No other person is sick  
in our family or your Uncle Mason or Aunt Elizabeth.  
I am glad that you met with and like your Cousin  
Mason. When you go to New York you must find them  
all out for our Mason kin are first rate people.  
I directed the Commonwealth to be sent to you and  
will also send you the Journal as soon as I see any  
one going to Louisville by whom I can send the money and  
see your name entered on the subscription book. The  
Commonwealth will give you all the election news.  
It looks a little badly for the Americans, but the truth  
is the American voters have not been polled while  
the Democrats have voted their strength and a little  
more. I have no doubt but that this State will go  
larger for Fillmore in November.

I am glad to find that there is not one misspelt word  
in your letter be always exact in that matter  
for I assure you it is essential to a gentleman.  
You must write to me once a week if it be only to  
assure me of your health and progress. My best  
respects to Mr Wheeler, and my best remembrances  
to Clay & Burnley. I wish you would write to Mason;  
it would gratify him more than you can well  
imagine. I don't know whether you can read  
all this as I have to write with a steel pen which  
is my abomination. All at home love you and proud  
of you & send their love to you. You know that you have  
a father's love in its fullest measure Orlando Brown.

A  
B879  
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Frankfort Aug<sup>9<sup>th</sup></sup> 1856.

My dear Son,

In your letter to Mason you state that your health is good in all respects except that you have a bad cough for which you intended to consult Doctor Day. Now it is in relation to this cough that I wish to talk to you about. If I remember aright you complained of it during the Spring, and it may be in some manner the result of your colds. If so you ought to get Dr. Day to examine your lungs to see if there is any derangement there, or if you are laboring under a merely temporary affection. Stand to him what has been the general condition of your health for some time past & put him in possession of everything that a Doctor ought to know - for confidence between physician and patient is not only acred but important.

Mason was truly gratified to receive your letter - he loves you with a proud and fervent love which I hope you return in full measure. He answered your letter promptly which you know was something for me as averse to writing as you seem him to be. My letter you have

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have not answered, nor does it important  
for you to Mason answer every purpose.  
I am always solicitous about you - you  
are in my thoughts by day and long after every  
body else is at sleep at night. You have  
gone to prepare yourself for the business of life  
at the best institutions in your country. Avail  
yourself of its advantages - do not look upon  
your education as a mere adventitious  
embellishment but regard it as the great  
invigorator of your own mind and as pre-  
paring you for conflicts with men. Mr.  
Sayre tells me to say to you that he re-  
gards you as by long odds the best scholar  
from his school of the three now at Yale - that  
he has high hopes of increasing his own  
reputation through you and "that by & the  
goods you must not disappoint him". He  
says moreover that many gentlemen about  
town count upon it that you will make  
a better figure in life than your cousin  
John. This for your encouragement. At  
home we all talk about you - Blanche  
has written a letter to you and Luke  
and Bonny are both scratching away  
at what they call a letter. As they write  
slowly and with great reflection, I don't

know when you may look for them  
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I have directed the Journal of Commonwealth both to your address and hope you are now in receipt of them. From the first you will get all the political news of the state, and perhaps some and then and you may get a few scraps of home news from the last. The contest for the Presidency is waxing warmer & warmer every day, whatever the paper may say, my own opinion is that Fillmore will carry Kentucky by a handsome majority. Some body sent me a Buchanan New Haven paper for what purpose I do not know in hope it was for me to see or fling at the Faculty of the College. As your business is not with the politics of the College but with its literature I trust that we keep clear of all such questions and content yourself with getting all the good you can out of the institutions.

I expect to go on tomorrow or next day to Ohio. As your Ma's health is far from good I have persuaded her to accompany me on the trip. We have now on a visit to our dear your Cousin Henrietta Pucky and am all very much pleased with her. Mary Scott & Sally Rogers also on a visit to Mr Bullock and will probably return tomorrow. Your uncle Robert is in very bad health. He and Maria seem to get along finely together. I believe that for fear of being tiresome to you

of course you have

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I had better off just here. Write to me my son as you would write to your best friend, and write as often as you can without interfering with your studies. I was exceedingly gratified that in your letter to me and to Mason every word was properly spelled. Persons in this habit of being accurate and a little practice will make it easy. No man is well educated who does not spell and write his own language with precision.

All send their love to you - what can I send more than a father's heart?

Orlando Brown.

Orlando Brown Jr.

New Haven

Conn.

I will not start so as we ought not to expect any thing from us now at least until we get back to the city and get things in order to conduct our party of the

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Frankfort Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856.

My dear Son,

Since my return from Ohio I have had the satisfaction of hearing from you by several letters - one to Mason - one to Margaret and one to myself. These letters are a real pleasure to us all, for there is not a member of the family who is not deeply attached to you and who does not earnestly desire your success in all to which laudable ambition has a right to aspire. Indeed such is the interest you have excited in us all, that there is a general feeling of disappointment when the mail from Dr. Brown arrives without a letter for somebody. I know that you cannot write every day and I know also that you will write as often as you can, and therefore I bide my time with patience - satisfied that you will write whenever you can. On only one subject do I feel uncomfortable solicitude, and that is the state of your health. Those unfortunate chills of yours give me more concern I really believe than they do you. Doctor Phythian says that your repugnance to taking Quinine is "perfectly ridiculous" and Dr. Watson says the same thing. They both say that it is the King of Medicines for that disease and that your idea of its being more injurious than the complaint is absurd. So you

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have the opinion of ~~two~~ <sup>of two by</sup> doctors on chills and fevers without a fee. I presume Dr. W. concurs with them - so that you have nothing to do, but shut your eyes and sleep it down. I hope however that the malady is wearing out in the, to it, ungenial climate of New England.

The period is now fast approaching which is to determine whether or not you will be another star in the coronet of B. B. Sayre's fame. I do not permit myself to doubt of your entry into the junior. Mr Wheeler writes to John that there is no doubt of it, and surely he ought to know. What you are to do in the event of a failure is an event I have not bestowed much thought upon, as it will be time enough to decide when the occasion ~~occurs~~ occurs.

You have doubtless seen the account of Gratz's duel with Mr Reynolds. I have a letter from Col. Mitchell this morning who acted as his second. He says that Gratz behaved with the coolness, magnanimity, and courage of a veteran. Dr Hale who was his surgeon writes that the parties were placed a 36 feet apart the pistols held perpendicular and the word was - "are you ready" fire - one - stop. Both fired before the word one - Reynolds firing about 5-10<sup>th</sup> of a second before Gratz & striking him in the leg which drew his fire and Gratz's ball passed about one inch over Reynolds head. If R. had not got the fire Gratz would certainly have killed him. It is most fortunate for all that the affair did not terminate fatally to either. Gratz's wound is painful but not dangerous.

I hope it will be long before another affair of "honor," as it  
is most falsely called, occurs in our family.

In my late visit to Ohio I went to see my lands in that  
state and found them very valuable and rapidly  
appreciating. I did not sell any and am hesitating  
whether I will do so or not. I will not if I can collect  
my debts. Ohio is certain for Fremont and that by  
an immense majority. Indeed I am now getting to fear  
that he will be elected by the electoral vote. He  
certainly will if Buchanan can't get Pennsylvania  
or Fillmore get New York. Those two states are now  
the battle ground.

My health has not been good since I got home &  
I have had another attack of my old bowel disease  
and have not been out of the house for two days.  
Your Uncle Robert is also sick in bed. With these  
two exceptions the families are generally well.  
Your Ma has not been well either since her return  
but is gradually improving. We have now in  
our house quite a squad of young folks - Mary Scott  
& Ella, & Henrietta & Marion Ricks, Bela, Belle &  
Bonny and Teeny continuing on the team to Lutie,  
so that the house is quite gay. I have nothing  
more to write at present. You will close by  
giving you to write to me as often as you can.

Take send their love to you. My best regards  
to Mr Wheeler & George & Green.

Your affectionate father  
Orlando Brown.

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Frankfort Sept. 3. 1855

Dear Orlando

Although only a day or so  
has elapsed since I wrote to you, yet, as yours  
of the 30<sup>th</sup> has arrived, I proceed to pay that debt  
at once - thus setting you an example of promptness  
- I will now worthy your invitation.

Of course you will not expect any news  
in this, for in our quiet little town it takes  
at least a week to get up an "event." By the  
way, there was an event last Friday. Captain  
Russell and Bill Patty (both very stout men, but  
Patty much the younger) brought an old quarrel  
to a head on Main Street. Captain R. commenced  
the action by slapping Patty in the mouth with  
his open hand. This Patty returned as promptly,  
by a rousing fist-lick on the side of the Captain's  
head - staggering the Captain considerably - so much  
so that before the Captain could see straight he  
got several severe punches on the ribs - at last  
however the Captain got to see his way clear, and  
he put into Patty's breast a short hard blow that  
brought him full length to the ground - prostrating  
him so - old Entelles was himself again, and,  
if not restrained by bystanders, he would have  
soon stamped Patty to death - as it was he made  
him a beautiful specimen of "exanimus tremens."

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Both parties went to the grand five dollars  
each for the breach of the Peace and a fair old  
fashioned flat & knee battle. If I were the lawma-  
ker I would offer a premium for such primitive  
battles instead of punishing them when the parties  
were any way equal, because it would have a  
tendency to stop dueling, & knifing & pistolling on every  
trivial occasion. Several letters arrived from  
Gratz yesterday, most cheerful in their character.  
He is now able to sit up & write and expects to be  
able to ~~be~~ <sup>get</sup> out on the street in a few days. He  
contemplates a visit home very shortly. He says in one  
of his letters that ~~he~~ when he was called out to  
the Sand Bar he left a half finished letter to your  
self in his drawer which he will complete soon &  
send to you. When you get it answer it at once.  
You will find him an excellent correspondent, for  
few write as bantefall or as agreeably as he  
does. John Phythian is to be married, I think on  
Wednesday. Bob leaves the day after for his ship to  
cruise at the Brazil Station. Little Johnny Walton  
has got a Midshipman's warrant and will  
leave soon for Annapolis. Little Johnny Hendon  
has been appointed Deputy Sheriff. Thus you  
see that Sayre's boys are rising fast in the Wes-  
tern world. Sayre has just returned from a  
trip to Chicago and is as crazy about it as  
if he had just got back from Heaven. He &  
Son Coddenden talk about starting a Banking  
House there - the school to continue as usual.

They haas better let it alone. Mr Sayre looks too much  
at a dollar to make a good Banker and Doin  
has an idea that he was intended to cut a  
great figure in public life and cant bear the  
dreadful of a country house.

I have rambled along almost to the end of my  
sheet without touching upon what formed the ma-  
terial part of your. If I am correctly informed  
your examination takes place on Wednesday - too  
soon for this to reach you. I confidently hope that  
you have applied for the Junior and been suc-  
cessful. I am afraid that Colley & George, finding  
that they cant make that high a point, have been  
endeavoring to persuade you to go down with them.  
I have had a long talk with John and he  
says that you must by all means enter the  
Junior that if you go into the Sophomore you will  
regret it all the time and that the worry of the  
Bacromials will give you no time for any  
thing else. My own opinion is so decided in  
favor of the Junior that I dont think there is  
even a plausible reason for your going in  
to a lower Class. You say that you can en-  
ter the Junior certainly. If you do not it will  
occur in me deep disappointment. I do not  
wish for any body to say that you could not  
do what was done by John Brown & Mrs. Huxley  
and Eugene Moore. There are some here who  
will say it, and who will say that your pre-  
ference for the Sophomore was a lame apol-

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o<sup>g</sup>g for your mobility to get any higher. I will  
Telegraph you tomorrow to apply for the Junior - if  
you can't get in, you can't, and there's an end  
of that question - but if you can you must,  
so there is another equally positive finality.  
The reason why I don't write any more on that  
subject now is for fear that the event will  
be all over before this reaches you. If however  
you have gone into the Sophomore, apply again  
and try for the Junior. This will no doubt  
be admissible. But still my son, I fondly  
hope that your next letter will inform  
me that my most sanguine hopes have been  
realized. At home every body is well  
except myself. I am still on the sick  
list and feeble & have fallen off very  
much. All send their love to you.  
Write often, for nothing now gratifies  
me so much as a letter from you.

A affectionate Father  
Orlando Brown

Orlando Brown Jr. if you have not written to me yet -  
New Haven Orlando I think I deserve  
Connecticut better treatment than that  
Bland R.

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Frankfort Sept. 23. 1856

My dear Son

You cannot imagine what a week of anxiety I have passed through on your account. You may remember that I directed you to Telegraph me the result of your examination. None came, but in lieu of it Mr Burnly got one in the following language. "Into the Junior - G.B. Burnly". Now who was into the Junior? Not a word was said about you and the fair inference was that George spoke for himself alone. All your friends were perplexed how to construe the despatch, and the best we could do was to hope that George meant both you & himself but in the hurry of the moment and unaccustomed to Latinisms he thought that he had said enough to convey that idea. So the time moved weary along - no letter - no telegraph for me - I fearing that you were sick, or that you had been seized with a panic and failed in your examination before the Faculty, or had unfortunately been pestered with questions upon which you were not prepared. I hope never to pass such another week of suspense and distress. But on yesterday I received a letter from Mr Wheeler and that has made all joy and sunshine in our house and in my heart. You now know that our boy has not only come off as well as the best of them but that he has entered "not only satisfactorily but honorably".

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Mr. W. also says many other complimentary things which I know  
that you deserve and therefore they are the more gratifying  
to me. Beside and excepts to him my thanks for his under-  
fathable attention to your preparation for the Clap, and  
congratulate him upon the success of his efforts. I hope that  
the acquaintance thus begun will ripen into lasting friend-  
ship, and that he will stimulate you to a vigorous prosecu-  
tion of your studies during your collegiate career so that  
you will enable him to say that you passed your exami-  
nation for your diploma not only "satisfactorily but honorably".  
I wish you to make yourself a scholar - don't be satisfied  
with merely passing through College without discredit, but  
be ambitious to be well prepared on every recitation. It  
will be more pleasant and infinitely more respectable. No  
thing is more uncomfortable or more distressing than to  
attend class with the fearful apprehension that you may  
be called up when you know that you are not pre-  
pared. Your time will henceforth be easier and your  
mind relieved from anxious doubt. Each day will now  
afford ample time for its allotted work and something over.  
But I do not sit down this morning to write you  
a long letter. I only meant to say that so far you have  
come up to my profound anticipations and are entitled  
to receive an expression of my decided approval of  
your course. When your letter arrives, for which I am  
eagerly on the look out, I will write you more at length.

Our Town has been run down with "fuss at  
first" during the last week as you will have seen  
fully set forth in the Commonwealth. Several days  
have passed without any more alarms and we

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we hope that the day will pretty well over. There is at this time a perfect panic among the negroes. They break for home as of the devil was after them whenever the ten o'clock bell rings. Mrs. is almost afraid to go up town even in the day time. On monday morning a hand bill appeared signed "Many Citizens", publishing a "Black List" of about a dozen free negroes who were notified to leave Town by 6 o'clock of last evening, and that has operated like a bomb shell among them. In the list our "nigger in law" Jim Astor was notified and like a smart man he has removed the ranch leaving Lucy Back like tribe "all tears". Henry Clarke is also amongst the proscribed. What will be the end of it all I don't see. It is the Francisco movement on a small scale. Irresponsible authority is of dangerous tendency always - it may begin with doing a right thing in a wrong way, but it always ends in doing acts of unpardonable violence. "Many Citizens" is a signature that any body may assume, and what gentlemen take as a mask to day may with equal impunity be assumed by rascals to-morrow. When a country ceases to be governed by law the despotism of anarchy arises which as sure before its reign is over to assail whatever is virtuous or good. If "Many Citizens" stop at what they have done, they will have procured with judicious discrimination for they have selected for warning a most notorious pack of scoundrels. My best respects to George D Green and believe me your affectionate father  
Orlando Brown.

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Frankfort. Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> 1856.

My dear Palmar,

Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> was received  
on yesterday evening, being the first I have had from you  
for many days. Your Telegraphic Dispatch has not  
arrived even unto this day, so that I would have remained  
in doubt of the result of your examination up to last  
night if Mr Wheeler had not kindly held me in remem-  
brance. Every thing however is now as I wish it and I  
have abundant reason to be satisfied with your conduct.  
Mr Sarge is unreservedly delighted at the success of his  
boys, and declaims loudly and eloquently over their achieve-  
ments and his own wonderful skill and labor in prepa-  
ring them for them. Indeed he can hardly exaggerate  
his deserts in this particular. He received a letter  
from Green Clay thanking him for his labors on his  
behalf - the letter is beautifully written and does  
great credit to the head and heart of the writer. I  
wish you would gratify the pride and affection of  
your faithful friend and teacher by a similar  
evidence that you appreciate his efforts and are  
thankful grateful for them. He surely deserves this from  
you. He is greatly of Yachats, and further that Clay  
did not go into the Junior - he passed off to the Office  
and telegraphed him to go the Junior by all means.

I herewith send you the bond filled up as you  
desire. In one of my letters I sent you a bond and

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the certificates of moral conduct from your Sunday school  
the blank form I fear that my letter has not been received  
or you would probably have said something about it.

You have not yet said how you like your accommodations at Mrs Conis. I wish you would write me about that and many other matters as how you are pleasure with the College - the Society, the young men you meet with &c &c. You can find matter enough to fill many sheets of paper. - Always answer letters - you are indebted to Blaw and to Margaret now let a young lady have cause to complain of neglect.

We have had two or three slight frosts here, which inclines me to think that it must now be quite cold where you are. Your Ma tells me to urge you to get at once two under shirts of lambs wool (knit, if you can procure them) of not, of raw silk, and put them on at once, as she thinks that the commencement of the winter will be the most trying time upon your constitution. I hope you will attend to this suggestion.

I have written to you so often, that I am afraid you find me troublesome and will therefore endeavor to be brief.

On this day I am fifty five years of age!! To myself it is the occasion of many reflections upon the past with which it is needless to trouble you - but to you it should serve as a monitor of great importance. It shoule call your attention to the momentous truth that you must ever long take your father's

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place and that the care & properties which he has undergone will become yours. You have a sister whose infirmity will make her an object of solicitude with you as long as she & you live. You have a brother who will look up to you for advice and assistance. And Helen & Lucas & Bonnie and your step-mother will all have strong claims upon your love and good offices. You will also have much to do as a member of Society, & to bear your part in taking care of the liberties of your native land. In view of all things my son, prepare yourself for the obligations of a life burthened with responsibilities which if met as a man should meet them will bring honor to your name and blessings upon your head. And should Providence extend your life to the period to which none has now reached I trust and pray that when you look back upon your course it may meet with the approval of your own judgment sustained and fulfilled by the approving judgment of your fellow men.

Your affectionate father -  
Orlando Brown Jr.

Frankfort Oct. 22. 1855

By dear Palando

After near a month of weary expectation I have been at last gratified by the reception of a letter from you. It seems as if my small, but judicious present of a pen was taken as a hint - somewhat after the fashion in which Bruce received the spurs at the court of Edwards, understanding thence that it meant that it was time for him to be moving. I hope that hereafter there will be no such gap between the date of your letters as from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. And while on this subject let me say to you that I think you should attach great importance to your lessons on English composition and to your "Disputes." One of the reasons why you find them a "trouble and a bother" is in the novelty of the exercises, and as it is with us as in every thing else practice makes perfect you should accustom yourself to writing a little every day. Get yourself a large blank book, keep a short diary of occurrences and write in it all the amusing occurrences of your college life, the anecdotes that you hear, your private opinion of the character of your fellow students, the lessons you recite and the manner in which you acquitted yourself. This will give you great facility of expression and will soon become a pleasant recreation &

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on after life would be full of most delightful re-  
flections. Mr Jefferson's "Anecdotes" was a work of that sort  
although not commenced until after he was in publick  
life. Among other anecdotes which he has inserted in it  
there is an exceedingly pleasant one about General  
Washington and the court ceremonies, which he gives as  
the authority of your grand-father who was an eye  
witness to the scene. Here too comes in the radical course  
of classical instruction which you are now receiving. It  
delights me to hear of your pushing derivatives even  
into the ground, running the roots of Greek & Latin words  
& their extremest fibres, showing how they interlace  
and how out of them arises our own great language,  
and sifting from the compound the original words in each  
nation. This is the true way of getting into the "swell of  
English undefiled" and you will come forth with a  
power to express yourself with a force that will  
impress itself upon all. It does not please me to hand over  
but an account of your Mathematical Tutor. I hope  
however that Mr Seym' gave you such an impetus in  
the study that you will run through the minor with-  
out being retarded by an incompetent instructor. All-  
ways master every lesson. Let nothing prevent you  
from doing that. Give what time you can justly  
spare to your friends but do not by too much  
pliancy let them capsize you from your collegiate  
duties. I know that there are always boys about col-  
lege who are idle & dissipation and the whole aim of  
their lives is to make others so. You have one companion

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ion, who, from the reputation he has left here, is eminently gifted  
in those habits which lead to a fatal waste of time and  
other valuable things. Do not suffer yourself to be led astray  
by his example. If he chooses to be distinguished for his  
gay & fashionableness extravagant course, be distinguished  
yourself for your earnest preparation for making your-  
self an educated gentleman and a wise member of  
society. It requires nerve to withstand mockery and  
ridicule. Satisfy your own mind that what you de-  
serve to do is the thing you ought to do, and do it, if  
every boy around you sees proper to laugh. You will se-  
cure your own self respect and that is worth more to  
you than all the momentary ~~to~~ applause you can ever  
get by sacrificing your own judgment to the destructive ad-  
lurements by which worthless companions strive to  
make you as worthless as themselves. But I must  
stop these sage advices which the son, too often  
from his father "despises". I do not know how it  
happens that you have never received the Common-  
wealth. I have spoken to Mr Callendar twice al-  
ready on the subject and will speak to him again  
today. Except the local news you do not miss  
much. We have had many political speakers here  
of late and one from Tom Marshall which I  
think was the ablest speech I ever heard. After  
it was over he took me to his room and we  
sat there until near one o'clock at night talking  
about times past & present. He enquired very par-  
ticularly about you & spoke of you with much af-

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fection. He was ~~sitting~~ <sup>in</sup> bed. Every body here is talking about the election. Pennsylvanians & Indiana's have set us back a little but we will nevertheless make as good a fight as we can for Fillmore in November. Mr Burnley has just got home yet. I am very anxious to see him that I may know from him how you look. A sight of you would give joy to my heart.) You owe a letter to Blair & to Mason. Please write to them. Mason is really destructive at you not writing to him although he is always making excuses for you. The love he bears to you is no common love. His whole soul is wrapped up in your success. We have no news of any sort in our little town. Whatever there is I am sure you will hear from correspondents of your own age. Our family affairs go on just as they did when you were here. My own health is a little better than it was when I last wrote to you. All unite in their love to you. There is not a day that you are not the subject of conversation among us. Give my kindest remembrance to Mr Wheeler to to Cley & to Burnley and believe me to be your affectionate father —  
Orlando Brown.

Bonny is trying hard to learn to write so that she will be able to write you a letter.

A. P. S. Mr Burnley says if you wont go back to Mrs. Cone's, he  
will insist upon George's getting the College rooms & going to some private  
house. So you go back to Mrs. Cone's anyhow if you can.

Frankfort Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1856

My dear Son

I received your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst  
on yesterday, and also one, by the same mail, from  
Miss Cone. These letters I suppose have put us (Mr  
Burnley & myself) in free possession of all the ostensible  
the grounds of the difficulty between yourselves &  
the ladies as the subject of rents George's father &  
I have had a long and earnest conversation about  
the affair and I will state to you frankly, the opinions  
of both of us in relation to it. And first, it was  
a matter of surprise and regret that you had un-  
dertaken to change your lodgings at all without  
thinking it worthy of being consulted. One of the  
principal objects in my going to New Haven was  
to give you the advantage of my experience in  
locating you properly for the term of the Junior year.  
I left you, well pleased that I had succeeded in  
getting you a comfortable room among respectable  
ladies, where there would be quiet and order and  
a decent respect for the courtesies of life. Moreover  
I knew by experience that a private house was  
more favorable for study and reading than any  
room in the College could be. Young men of long  
lazy habits keep clear of private families where  
late hours, noisy & boisterous conversation, drinking,  
gambling and smoking are out of place, where they

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final time, please do not let me all return to their home  
in the isolated rooms of the College subject to no re-  
straint but an occasional visit from a Tutor and even  
those visits rendered ineffective because epis are al-  
ways on the watch to give notice of his approach. The  
idle will not take hints even if you were despon-  
to give them and you will soon find that all your  
time is taken up by them while you yourself will  
feel behind in your studies and will never improve  
yourself by general reading in which you yourself say  
that you are so deficient. Neither of you had ever com-  
plained of your accommodations or treatment at Mrs.  
Conis, nor do you now assign any reason for the change  
except that you could get good rooms in College and  
something about Mrs Conis being too far off. The latter  
excuse is simply ridiculous. Alex. Todd resides, counter  
and Lummur seven miles to school and you and George  
cant walk two or three squares of a paved city! The  
walk is necessary for healthy exercise which every  
student should be compelled to take if he wont do it  
of his own accord. Add to this, that by this ill advised move  
you have got up an issue of fact between myself and  
highly respectable ladies whose necessities compel them  
to take in boarders. When you found that your understand-  
ing and their differed as to the length of time for which  
you had engaged rooms, you ought at once and grace-  
fully to have yielded the point or made it a matter  
of amicable compromise. To have left the house as you did  
and send for your effects afterwards was violent and

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rule. Now you have our opinion. To which we add  
our advice to return to Mrs. Cone's and stay out the  
two terms and after that take rooms in College.  
If you will not do that, I will pay Mrs. Cone for  
the rent of her rooms until she is satisfied, for  
no lady shall ever have cause to complain of me  
for having stinted her in her pecuniary resources by  
~~availing~~ myself of a misunderstanding as to the terms  
of a contract. I do not remember any of the conver-  
sation to which Mrs. Cone alludes but I will not dis-  
pute what she affirms to be positively true. I was  
so pleased to get you well situated that I paid  
but little attention to the terms, and moreover having  
conversed with four or five different housekeepers I  
have no particular <sup>knowledge</sup> of anything that oc-  
curred with any one of them. I send you Mrs.  
Cone's letter, by which you will see that both  
Mr. Herrick and President Avery are inclined  
to think that she has the right of it. I will write  
to day to Mrs. Cone and say to her that I will  
submit the whole matter to President Avery and  
be guided by his decision. From the difficulties in which  
this affair has involved both you and us, we would  
advise you and George hereafter, if it would not  
trench too much upon your independence and  
superior knowledge, to complement us <sup>morements</sup> so far as to  
ask our opinions upon any contemplated. If there were  
no higher reasons, the fact that we have to bear the  
whole cost, entitles us to that much consideration.

So much for the boarding house affair.

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In your letter you say that you have not written sooner because Mr Blumy had informed me that you were in fine health which would gratify me very much "as it appear from my letters that that is my greatest solicitude". My dear son I have great solicitude about the health of your body but I have as great about the health of your mind, your morals, your manners and every thing that makes an honorable and useful gentleman. My solicitude is indeed great and incessant about every thing that concerns you. Your absence is a daily trial to me and at night I go to sleep with you as the last waking thought and my dreams are of you. Do you think that you repay all this solicitude by writing me a letter about once a month? I leave the question for your own decision.

Mason, poor fellow, your standing apologist whenever we complain of your silence, still looks for a letter from you. Is not the love of such a brother worth more than the idle gossip of College boys - can you not spare a little time to write to him and to Blaw? I know that this letter will not be agreeable to you, but I am not to blame for it as you have made it necessary. I hope that henceforth I will not have the least occasion to complain.

We are all in good health at home and send you the true, the valuable home love of all of us to you. In that love you may safely repose.

Your affectionate father.  
Orlando Brown.

Frankfort Dec. 26. 1856

My dear Son -

Our Christmas day is just over and the incidents of the occasion brought forcibly to our minds the one who was absent and for the first time in his life — spending his holiday among strangers. We all expressed the hope that you had found the means of enjoyment either with your young friends at New Haven or had gone among your relatives in N. York. The return of George Burleigh made me almost afraid that I had not telegraphed you to come with him, but upon the whole it was much the best for you to remain. George gives us most excellent accounts of himself — yourself and Green Clay — that you were all hard students and that New Haven was the meanest place for fun in the world — and, what was the most agreeable to me of all, that the professors said that you would take a very respectable appointment provided you continued to study & be as diligent as you have thus far been. To that point I would direct my efforts. George says that you & he are beginning to read. All your leisure time should be devoted to your general improvement — reading the best books carefully and practicing composition so that when you leave College you will not only be a good scholar but also an accomplished youth, well prepared for any line of life you may see proper to select.

George places the Cow controversy in such an  
unjust light that I feel persuaded that Mr. Baileys and  
I gave too much importance to the affair. It seems that  
you are both of opinion that the Yankee caught us by hitting  
on the Southern weakness - "chivalry". Well, that notion has  
made fools as good men as ourselves before to day - that's some  
comfort any how, so you youngsters may laugh at us  
as much as you please.

We eat our Christmas dinner at your Uncle's and  
both families were there in full numbers and we  
enjoyed our cheer. All hands are busy at home fixing  
up a box for you. I have heard of biscuits, cakes, pickles  
a boiled ham &c. as among the contents, so that they intend  
that you should have a real Kentucky meal when it  
arrives. Mason is with us and has almost made  
up his mind to go another year to New Orleans,  
which I think would be of great advantage to him.  
I find him to be a much better soldier than I had  
supposed. His health is firmly established. He talks  
of you at least a dozen times a day. You have  
not written him that letter yet. Please don't defer  
it any longer.

In your last letter to me you send me re-  
ference to going to New York that "you had not the  
funds." This was the first intimation I have had  
that you were near the bottom of your supply.  
In your next give me some general statement of  
what have been your expences and also how much  
is necessary for your present use and I will see what

No time in forwarding a remittance. The Congress and Parliament have long since found out that the best mode of solving the King's was to withhold the supplies, and I begin now to think that if I want to get as many letters from you as I ought to have that the want of money will certainly induce your writing for it.

You will see by the Kentucky papers that on the Louisville line there has been great excitement on the subject of Negro insurrection. The danger turns out to have been greatly exaggerated and the panic has resulted in unavoidable cruelties to the negroes - existing in many instances the exploded tortures of the middle ages and of the Inquisition. The Louisville papers of this morning contain a most malignant proclamation from Mayor Barker from which one would believe that there was a contemplated insurrection in that City - which is simply an absurdity. There is not talk or apprehension about any outbreak here although I believe the negroes are pretty much appalled at what they hear from Dover & Frankfort.

Gov. Fletcher sends his best regards to you and says that notwithstanding the talk about John Brown he has never changed his opinion but that you will beat him at the outcome yet. I hope he will prove a true prophet. Adieu with my warmest love to you. You are the very core of my heart.

Alexander Brown, Jr.  
New Haven  
Conn.

Your devoted father  
Alexander Brown

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B879  
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Frankfort Dec. 30. 1856

My dear Son.

Your letter has just this moment come to hand and by way of mailing my answer acceptable I send you a check for fifty dollars which your New Haven Bank will cash for you on presentation. I would send more now, but this season of the year brings in innumerable small bills against me which I am compelled to meet and I have not yet been able to sell that 375 acres of Land in Ohio. I wrote to you two or three days ago which I hope you have received. You now complain of not getting letters! Judge then how impatient I have often been at not hearing from you. As to Mrs. Cone's matter discuss it from your mind as I have long since done from mine. Try however and get some body to take the room this term as I fear I am too far committed to retract.

Our own Christmas would have been a happy one if you had been with us. As it is, we have passed through it in the usual way - eating, sleeping and

12  
X  
22

fussing to but little purpose. Last night however was remarkable for the rapid increase of our population. Annette Swigert had a daughter - John Page's wife also one and our Nancy addia something to her stock whether boy or girl I have not yet heard. Dr Phythian played the part of man & wife to all three so that he literally must have had his hands full.

Mason has determined to go this afternoon to New Haven and devote himself exclusively to the English Branches so that I will have him at home with me this summer.

Dr Bratton & Phythian dissolve partnership ship on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January & the Doctor takes John into Partnership with him. Charley is going with dogs, horses negroes & gun to Hickman County to help Tom Taylor at a saw mill in which John Phythian has purchased an interest since his marriage with Bell Taylor. Some few of provisions will

leave by tommorow's express and I hope  
will arrive in good order and con-  
dition. We are all in good health  
and every one sends love to you.

I have not seen George but once since  
he came back. Mason thinks it doubtful  
whether he will return as he heard him  
talking about going South. I take it for  
granted however that he will go back to  
College for he could hardly be so disregard-  
ful of his parents wishes as not to go.

I have written this in the Bank  
without my spectacles - now by  
feeling them by light. of course the ef-  
fort is fatiguing and probably you  
will find some difficulty in reading  
it out. I would write more if it  
were not for that circumstance.

But whether I write much or  
little always rest assured that  
I think continually of you.

Your affectionate  
father  
Orlando Brown.

Orlando Brown Jr.  
New Haven  
Connecticut.