

A  
B879  
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1.

Frankfort March 3/63

My dear son,

I wrote to you some days ago by Mr Brown supposing that either he or his brother would leave that afternoon. I find this morning that they are here yet and get by the evening train. As Mr Wins goes direct to Louisville today, I will write you a few lines by him. Biggs informs me that she wrote you inclosing Major John Brown's letter containing his account of the expedition to Mount Sterling. It was reported here, that immediately after the date of this letter, the troops were ordered back to Lexington and that Glute & his gang returned di-

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uctly to Mount Sterling. Governor Robinson showed me a despatch that he received an hour ago from Gen Gilmore informing him that Rankle was then in pursuit of the Rebels. Other information is that Woolford with 1400 cavalry has passed Stanford, is in the rear of Clute and will effectually cut off his retreat. This would excite much alarm at first, but it has now all subsided, but there is great apprehension of a formidable invasion from Richmond Va in the course of a few weeks, when we will see what we will see. The Legislature adjourned to day. They passed at least one good act, and that was to increase Mason's salary from three to five hundred dollars at which he was much pleased. He received

your letter and will answer it as soon  
as he gets a little leisure - he is very  
busy just now. The Louisville Journal  
of to day announces among the dis-  
tinguished arrivals direct from Brooklyn  
Colt D. Lindsay & Lieutenant Col. G.W.  
Monroe. Why they have come up I do -  
not know. I hope that they have not  
resigned. At this hour every officer  
should stand firm and true to the  
Union, and especially such should  
be the course of every Kentucky Of-  
ficer. At this crisis, to flinch now  
is to give aid to the Rebels and  
help the Secesh to carry Ky into the  
Southern Confederacy. Should that  
ever happen, then you and I and  
Maton we'll have to go into perpetual  
exile and be despots of the little  
property that has been left us in

This destructive war. The Rebels here  
are jubilant at the prospect of another  
invasion, and are nursing their wrath  
against that day. To-morrow the infor-  
mous and halter-deserving Congress comes  
to a close. The evils that they have done,  
can and will be repaired to a great  
extent - the Rebellion will be suppressed  
& the abolitionists will be driven from  
power. You said something about resign-  
ing of your Regiment is to be kept  
always on the Sandy mud. Why  
let me tell you, the mud & mire of  
Sandy is dry ground to that which  
the army is encountering at Dick's-  
burg & Murfreesboro, and it is muddy  
enough about here just now. I don't  
like to hear you talk of resigning. You  
need be under no apprehension about  
being kept always on the Sandy. The

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coming summer will give employment enough for all the soldiers now in service and for many more. And besides if an officer resigns it will not exempt him from the conscription or draft if that should be enforced.

The Federal resolutions finally adopted by the Legislature are such as will be generally satisfactory and is as much as can be properly be done under the circumstances. I am inclined to the opinion that the excitement about the proclamation is subsiding - not from any growing approval of that every way reprehensible paper, but from a belief that it is universally regarded as unconstitutional that it will not be enforced. Public opinion in Military as well as Civil affairs is a power in the state &

has its weight with soldiers and civilians.

At home, the round of preparation is going on for the approaching wedding. I don't know what day is fixed upon but think it is early in the next month. Bonnie & Louis Scott wrote you a joint letter which doubtless you were glad to get, and will respond to at an early day.

The close of the session has been quite gay, with a base & sundry hops & a negro minstrel show. By the way Abes (our Wes) was married by the Rev. Mr Hays to Miss Elvira Dilyard. Mr Hays and myself honored the ceremonials in our presence and were afterwards treated to a splendid supper at which oysters, ice cream - iced cakes - nuts &c were in profusion, and

the

The raiding party did not enter the room until we had retired.

The latter part of the winter has been exceedingly disagreeable - we have had rain upon rain alternating with sleet, and scarcely one day that could be called a pleasant one. On yesterday the cars passed over the river road bridge on a temporary structure which is durable enough to last for several years and is good enough for the Rebels to burn if they get back here again. The River is now higher than it has been this whole winter.

We expect General Compton and some members of his staff here in a few days as he is now incriminated as a witness in the Buell Court martial. I

were to very glad to see him, as  
he has acquitted himself so  
well as an officer and a patriot.

I have nothing more to write,  
and have already written more  
than you will care to read.

Hoping to hear from you again  
soon, I send you my warmest  
love and ardent wish for your  
health and happiness.

Orlando Brown Jr. 8<sup>o</sup>.

A  
B879

Frankfort July 10. 1863.

My dear Son -

As Capt<sup>n</sup> Clarke re-  
turns to day I write a few lines as  
I am unwilling to let such an opportu-  
nity pass without communicating with  
you. It is true that there is nothing of par-  
ticular interest. We have every day or  
two a rousing up by reports of Morgan's  
men who have been raiding an small  
bands between this and LaGrange -  
not doing much in the way of substancial  
damage stealing a few horses &  
tearing up patches of road keeping  
back the trains. For the last two nights  
they have been reported as hovering a-  
bout this place but each day disipate  
<sup>\*</sup>the report. We have the 2<sup>d</sup> Maryland  
<sup>4<sup>2</sup></sup> about 250 men that commands the  
bridges and the river is now where  
fordable. The surrender of Nickburg -  
the retreat of Bragg - the success of

Breade and the defeat of the Rebels at Helena gives ground for hope that the Rebellion is pretty well over. As to Morgan he seems to be running about like Kuttin' Devil finding hell whichever way he turns, or living like Byrn's scorpion, "girt by fire."

A few days ago we had a grand secess exhibition. The Reb's had received certain information that Buckner was not far off with an overwhelming force and would be in Frankfort in a few days. They believed it, and out they came from all their holes in town and out of town, but the Rebel women were almost frantic with joy. They rigged themselves out in their very best - muffed up and down the pavements with beaming faces and flaunting dresses - took the middle of the street to wave passing under the National flag at the main impasse, and did every thing but shout for Jeff Da

vis - the Miss Welsh's & that set were partic-  
ularly conspicuous and among them and  
in some sort the leader was Betty Ward. In-  
deed the whole party acted in such a  
manner that the military had serious  
thoughts of arresting them. By night however  
the news from Va, Tennessee & Vicksburg ar-  
rived, and the whole crew of domestic  
traitors were gone into obscurity and  
havenot been seen on the street since. I  
thought I never saw a set of young ladies  
so completely unsex themselves and to  
my eyes they looked as ugly as their  
cause.

We have had another misfortune at home  
in the death of little Jim. He went down  
just after dark with some black boys to  
take a swim at the back of the garden.  
He could swim across the River. The  
black boys ran away & left him -  
alive and we did not know any  
thing about it until an hour after

it has happened. They take different stories  
but I am satisfied in my own mind that  
they ducked him until he was drowned  
all of course in rough play, such as is  
often done at the River. His body was  
found after one day had intervened, at  
the mouth of Lees branch below the  
dam. With this exception nothing un-  
usual has happened.

They hear at your Uncle's very often  
from the girls - they are now in the  
Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania &  
go in a few days to the Dartmouth  
Convenement. They are having a  
grand time of it. All are well  
at home & at your Uncle's & at your  
aunt Elizabeth's. Give my best remem-  
brances to John. The Captain has  
had a long interview with the Governor  
and Adj't General and can tell him  
all about the prospects for a new  
Regiment. Write often.

Your affectionate father.  
Orlando Brown.

Lucas. He was then in Toronto, but is now at Windsor opposite Detroit in John Rodman's family. I sent him by Dr Rodman one of your photographs, for which he thanks me and say, that it occupies the most conspicuous place in his room. He thinks it a likeness but nothing like as good looking as the original. It makes me sad whenever I think of the troubles that unwise counsel has brought upon that poor deluded boy. He has as good a heart as ever beat in a human breast and is an honorable & high minded youth. Dr Rodman says that Luke had a terrible fight with a dandy nigger in Toronto who undertaken to elbow him off of the side walk. The nigger proved game and took Luke three successive fights to whip him but he did it at last pretty effectually and was about finishing him with his knife when

The police interferred and put an end to the battle.

Your Ma and I returned on yesterday from a short visit to Clay Lick - we found an unusual prospect for apples. Bill Lodenback, now weighing two hundred and ten pounds and the father of two children, one named Orlando and one named Cordelia, is anxious to open a correspondence with you - it will be interesting no doubt for Bill always keeps an eye to that, and I expect he wants you to consent to my selling some of the Clay Lick land which he expects to get for a smaller price. I don't want to sell any of that land just now and as I told them that I was keeping it for my boys it has occurred to Bill that he could open a profitable negotiation with you. The marriage affair has come to a stand still as the lieutenant has been ordered

to take command of an Iron-clad, and is now at Fort Monroe preparing for a cruise. Bonnie and Mabon are both well. Our household is quite a small one now. The Federal Court meets to day, and I am on the Grand Jury. I suppose Judge Hurd's case will come up this court. He seems to think it a very small affair but I am apprehensive that he underrates its importance. If the Government proves as they say they can, that he offered to raise a company and did actually recruit some, it will go hard with him. Add to this, that the times are unlucky for him, as Burnside's order and policy bear heavily upon all rebel sympathizers and abettors.

I am much pleased at the cheerful tone of your letter. I think you have every reason to congratulate yourself upon not going to Vicksburg. The letter writers

from Sandy puff up your Colonel at such an extravagant rate, that I hope they will soon blow him into a Brigadiership - in which event it will be your turn to be written about.

Big Lis & Little Lis have gone to New York to spend the summer. Mary Mayot told me a week or two ago to say to you that she would have written to you but that you must remember that she was now encumbered with the care of an increasing family. I told her that I would do so and was truly glad to hear that her family was increasing. At which remark she blushed so rosy red that I am inclined to think that my random shot hit the truth. This is a long rambling - gossiping letter which you can read in detached parcels. I say nothing about my health for I have nothing good to say about it. Your affectionate Father. O. Brown Jr.

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Frankfort May 13. 1864

My dear Orlando -

On my return from Lexington this afternoon your telegram from Calletoxbury of this date was handed me. It is one of the great disappointments of my life that I cannot go to Louisville to-morrow. I am compelled to return to Lexington when the Draft for this District is progressing and I am the Commissioner who is appointed by law to be present and read out the names as they are drawn from the Box so that any person is indispensable. Mason will go down to meet you and he will tell you all about myself and our home affairs.

My wee beloved son, you are now going to a theatre when war is on a large scale and the dangers thicker. May God watch over you as he has hitherto done and permit my de eyes once more to see

you and feel the warm pressure of your  
hands and to tell you how proud I am of  
you. I have heard with great delight of your  
conduct at Paintsville and Half Mountain. Dr.  
Conroy & Col. Clay are sounding your praises  
wherever they go, extolling your bravery and  
your kindness to them while they were prisoners.  
Such generous conduct always meets with  
its reward. I know you had a good heart.

As you will be in Nashville in a few  
days you must be sure and call upon  
your aunt Jane. She will give you a heart-  
felt welcome and will scrutinize your ap-  
pearance to see how you resemble your un-  
cle John. He was a man of many noble  
qualities - brave, generous, unselfish, intelli-  
gent and without a "an excellent wit and  
a most sweet fancy". He had one fault and  
that brought him with all the high nobility of  
his nature to an early grave. I pray you  
take warning and avoid as you would a  
fiend from hell the intoxicating cup. Give  
your aunt & her mother my kindest remembrances

and you may tell them that Louise Scott is rapidly regaining her health and that the Peck girls are both well. I have never seen Mary Mayis or her baby. If you should see Mrs Edmonds Taylor tell her that the Edmond is well and goes to bed at ten o'clock.

You must write to me whenever you get an opportunity, for my anxiety to hear from you is great as it is at all times, and will now be continually on the stretch.

Many will tell you that my health is much improved and also how seriously misjudged I have been.

I have nothing more to write you this evening my son but to send my prayers that your life may be spared and give you my blessing which you have full and strong and fervent from your father's heart.

Orlando Brown Jr. Sr.

Frankfort July 14. 1864.

My dear Orlando -

You said, in one of your letters, that nothing delighted a soldier so much as to get a letter from home; And reflecting upon this saying, I have concluded to write you a few lines so that I can give you a little, if not a great deal of pleasure.

Yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> June to Mason was read by us all with profound interest, and your account of your interview with the dying Color Sergeant hot tears onto our eyes. His dying request was a compliment to be valued as long as you live. It was a brave heart manifesting its trust and love in me for the Commander under circumstances of remarkable solemnity. I hope that the amount of the bequest may be sufficient to enable you to erect a monument over him, although I doubt if it will be enough for the purpose. But it was all he had, and you will not estimate the worth of his possessions but as the measure of his love.

I read every thing that relates to Sherman's movements. The news this morning puts him across the Chattahoochee and with a comparatively easy road to Atlanta. I send you Broade still in the front - It

We have an impression here that from Johnson giving up so many strong positions, the main body of his forces has gone to Virginia and may at this moment be in Maryland and about Washington City. If he has done that, and your Army occupies Georgia and South Carolina, a reverse in Lees army must be totally destructive of the Rebel Cause. For Lee to obtain a permanent footing in the North is absolutely impracticable, and if he is driven to South he finds Sherman in force to force him back upon Grant. Then will there be no way open for him but to come West as rapidly as he can - strike the Ohio by the Kanawha - by Pittsburg or by the Sandy - sweep through Ohio, and Indiana or Kentucky, cut off all your supplies from the West, make himself master of the Mississippi and New Orleans, hold the Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas and join forces with Maximilian, make himself a field Marshall of the Franco-American Empire. I always thought that he ought long ago to have abandoned Virginia - moved rapidly to the West, gone down the Mississippi, relieved Vicksburg and with his consolidated army moved North again to Virginia. Bonaparte would have made such a stroke & have succeeded. But I have not the knowledge to play Military Critic even among a crew of civilians, much less with a tried soldier of now near three years pithy so

The successt step they have a living chance to get across the Ohio, and they are availing themselves of the opportunity and giving fine exhibitions of the double quick. Mrs Lucy Evans has gone, and Mrs E. R. Smith, and Mrs Russell Butler, & Mrs Willis Jones and Mrs William Preston, and Mrs Hart Gibson and a host of others too happy in keeping out of their beloved Dixie. There is a rumor, created by some, that Gen. Buckner is on his way to this state once more with a respectable force. Our means of defense are pretty fair if Burnside is equal to his position. Many place great reliance on John Brown, and as he is strong to be a Brigadier he will no doubt do his best, and his best is very good. If they come to Frankfort, we will have a thousand or so men to make a lumbering noise over the hills if they can do nothing more. Our state is in a very disturbed condition, socially and politically, & things are daily growing worse. George Monroe has been nominated Senator for this district in place of Kemp Goodloe by the Lincoln Convention & accepted, although uncertain that he is for McClellan for President. Anderson, Franklin and Woodford compose the district, and I think he will be elected.

But while great events are going on in the outside world, I must not omit to mention an extraordinary incident in our own house. On last night, between

The next, will be Blair, who is speedily approaching his  
day of trouble; so you see the Broadheadline is extending.  
We hear from Luke quite often - he is at St. Catherines in  
Canada, 11 miles from Niagara; not fully determined what to  
do, although I think he will avail himself of Mr. Simples offer  
to get him a situation in a first class Commercial house  
in New York, for which he is well qualified having just  
graduated with credit in a celebrated Commercial Col-  
lege in Toronto. Early in next month Emma Bachelor is  
to marry a young merchant by the name of Waggoner.  
I do not hear of any other marriages unless it be a re-  
marriage that Mr. Sayre & Mrs. Pugh are contemplating something  
of the sort. I suppose you know that Martial Law is  
established in Kentucky, and there is some talk that Whita-  
ker is to be military Governor, but I don't think that there  
is any thing in that.

As I wrote to you about a week ago, which I hope you  
have received, and also Mason's letter with the stamps  
and also the Envelopes & paper sent you by Col. W. Cooper  
some time ago, you will excuse me for bringing this to  
a close. We all send love to you, and take a great  
interest in all that concerns you. You cannot realize  
my anxiety to hear daily from you - you ought to see  
me reading the newspapers which I throw by with  
disgust if there is no news from Sherman. I have not  
had a P. & M. envelope to send

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Frankfort Dec. 20. 1855

My dear Son -

Your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> was received last evening and we were all delighted to hear of your safe arrival and your speedy trip. Your Journey was very different from what <sup>I</sup> ~~you~~ took when a boy when we went partly rail road partly by Steam boat and over the mountains in Concord stages. It took us then with all of these contrivances, nearly a week to accomplish what you have done in just eight hours. When I was a boy I remember very well my saddle bags and horse and that it took me ~~exactly~~ <sup>x</sup> twenty one days to get to Philadelphia where I saw for the first time a ship and a steamboat. What you may see when you get to the city four and on the river, defies anything. Something we know nothing that three rival

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The Telegraph in velocity may then turn up. It may be a pneumatic machine acting by compressed air through tubular iron cylinders that will convey you through from Washington to California in a half hour.

I was very much pleased with every thing you wrote. The description of our old house; your hunt after Gratz and your final location at a boarding House at a little over eleven dollars a week and cheaper than in Frankfort. I was pleased moreover at your backs pay that puts you a month in advance. Do not fail to thank Gratz in my name for his kindness to you. I know that you will come up to his expectations and that it will be in his power to advance your interests in many ways. And just here it occurs to me to say that as the Colonel of the 55<sup>th</sup> Indiana Inf. he held by your voluntary yielding it to him) has been made a Brigadier General now as you

have done the country these lines as much  
service and moreover had the merit of being  
the first young man in Frankfort to  
take up arms in defense of the Union,  
why may you not receive a similar  
compliment from the Secretary of War?  
I am sure if Gratz would call upon  
him and state what you did at  
Middle Creek, at Half Mountain, at  
the Cumberland Gap and at the ap-  
proaches to Atlanta, and that it was  
entirely owing to you that the 14<sup>th</sup> division  
all its good conduct, Mr Stanton would  
be gratified to make the appointment  
and it would be a conspicuous feather  
in your cap hereafter. Consult with  
Gratz about this. I hope you will  
make the acquaintance of my old  
friend & relation W. H. Blair Jr. If  
he knows you are in town he will be  
sure to call and see you. See that  
Congress, and of course your Committee  
adjourn till after the holidays. Time will  
hang heavy on your hands and you

better vary the scene by running down to Annapolis to see Dele and Robert. Such a visit would be charming to them and delightful to yourself, and you could have a fine chat over Frankfort and its affairs. The only important matter that concerns us at home is Mason's chances for the Treasury. The Governor nominated Meek but the Senate will not confirm the nomination. The Senate will be unanimous for Mason, but it rests with the Governor to make the appointment. I hope Mason will get it, as public sentiment is very strong in his favor, and that may influence the Executive. Everything goes on at home as usual. The ice house is finished in splendid style, but we yet have no ice to put in it. As regards my health it is about as it ever was when you left, only that I am troubled with a cough. Dr Gayle's pills always keeps down all affection of dropsy. Mr Lencke Mason is badly salivated and uneasy about it. I think however that taken all together he is doing very well. Harry Todd's little daughter Bessie was so

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baby burned a few days ago from  
her clothes taking fire, that she  
died on yesterday and was buried  
this morning. Our legislature ad-  
journed to day to meet again on the  
~~20~~<sup>21</sup>th January. The first Ball was  
pretty fair in attendance and most  
sumptuous in the supper. The succeeding  
Dance was more attended and seemed  
to please the most. Marion did not  
go, but shows his determination to at-  
tend the next ball. We have not  
heard from Luke since his arrival  
at Chicago. Annette's baby is reported  
as being well. We are writing in  
fine spirits from St Louis and will  
be at home after Gratz gets back. We  
are now in the third day of an  
incessant and heavy rain, and the  
River is rising rapidly so that we  
may soon look for the town again  
by which we hope to get some apples,  
some Cider, and some pork all of

which will be  
highly acceptable. Mr Pepper wife  
and party did not go beyond Cincin-  
nati and are now at home  
settling down from ~~lives~~ "fitful fever"  
and I hope they "sleep well".

Our boy Ash the Sleeps in Maton's room  
and makes a fine shore every night.  
I am daily looking for the Authorities  
announcement of the adoption of the  
Amendment. When it comes I will  
let our servants know that they are  
free. What they intend to do and  
what we intend to do is equally  
unknown.

I believe I have written as much  
as you will be willing to read and  
as much as I can think of as interesting.  
My kindest heart felt and admiring  
love to you. Write to me very  
frequently and give answer often.

To  
O. Brown Jr  
Washington City

Yours affectionate father  
O. Brown Jr

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Frankfort Feb. 8. 1861.

My dear Orlando -

Write you a few lines to thank you for your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and also to assure you of my maintaining my usual health.

I have read Bratz's oration on Gen. Lyon. I read it with pleasure and with pride. Some passages in it are splendidly beautiful—I might say grand. What pleased me as much as anything else was the purely English style. He has returned from transcendental flights to the simple and nervous Saxon, from which he ought never to have departed. And he has steered clear of cumulative adjectives. Mr Webster's "when my eyes shall be turned for the last time towards the sun in Heaven" should be the model for all who appreciate the immixed power of words. He

does not belittle the sun by calling him "glorious" "splendent" and so forth but leaves it as he did Massachusetts - of whom he said "there she stands - the world knows her history by heart." Our Mr Hays endeavored to improve on the grand simplicity of the Bible after the following fashion. He said "I had rather be a door-keeper and perform the most menial offices in the House of my God, than to render in the most gorgeous tents of the wicked." You may bear this in mind and profit by it. Striking out his peculiar notions about Negro equality, this oration will compare favorably with any I remember ever to have read.

Our Legislature is still in session. On yesterday they did one good deed by electing Harry Todd Reiper of the Penitentiary. There is to be a fraternal meeting of the late Union Officers at Louisville sometime in April. I directed John to put your name down as one of the signers to the call. It will partake much of the character of the Society of the Cincinnati in Revolution

By the way, the Union Officers  
and soldiers are getting pretty far over  
the whitewashing and feasting and  
eulogizing of returned Rebels and their  
sympathizers, and it would not sur-  
prise me to hear of their taking some ac-  
tion on that subject in the Convention &  
that there will be a Union Soldiers party  
formed to meet the combined and com-  
pact Rebel Conservative Democratic  
party who now rule the legislature of the  
State and aspire to do so in the future.  
I hear that Gratz will ask you to go to  
New York for Eliza and Phenix Alcott. You  
will be pleased with your respects from  
labor and will enjoy the trip. I will  
you would ask Anna Weston or either of Dr  
Rox's daughters to write a line to Mrs  
Gibson and get her to inform us who were  
the father and mother of my grandfather  
Mason and to give us any information she  
may respond to you as concerning our Scotch  
kin. She is the oldest now living of the  
Mason family. After her come your Uncle  
and myself. I am writing this on the

Treasurer's office. Your Uncle Malm is on the  
approach to the fiftieth. He has had ~~sixty~~ teeth  
pulled out preparatory to having an entire  
new set, when he expects to eat in comfort  
and look handsome again. His weight now  
132 pounds although weight this morning is  
exactly 139—so you see Dr Gayle has knocked  
the water out of us with a first hand power.  
As for myself I walk with ease and with a  
good breath sleep soundly and eat natu-  
rally and healthfully, and upon the whole  
am doing about as well as I ever expect to  
do and infinitely better than I had at  
one time any right to hope for. We  
are all well at home getting along better  
with two servants than when we had a  
dog. No snow yet, but cold enough to form  
good ice and every ice house is filled. Our  
car is covered with tan bark and looks  
like an immense pie. Our coal will  
give out in a day or two which is lasting well  
for 290 bushels which was what we laid up.  
Our wood is abundant enough to last half  
the summer. There is rather too wide a  
gap between your two last letters. But regards  
to Gratz. All send their love to you.

Your affectionate father  
Orlando Brown Jr.

Frankfort March 3. (Bb)

By dear Orlando,

I received yours of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
on yesterday giving your account of  
your visit to Annapolis. It was (as all  
of your letters are) very interesting to me  
but at your Uncle's and Blaw<sup>?</sup>; and  
with your Ma it produced quite a furor  
of agreeable excitement. To hear so minutely  
from Eliza and Robert and Dele was, - as a  
general thing, exceedingly pleasant, but then  
when you observed, in your last sentence,  
that Dele "was looking as she ought to look,"  
Ma conscience dear it not give you  
to him a titterings and ejaculations  
of wonder! And what ignorance of Dele,  
<sup>1</sup> may I think, without much danger of  
<sup>x</sup> mistake, be applied to little Sis - at least  
<sup>42</sup> it looks that way to a man up a tree,  
and as Mrs Mills said in her sermon on

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Cause and Effect, when a child is born  
in the world, every body knows that the  
causes have been at work that produced it.  
I have no doubt that Col. Monroe has fully  
charged you with all that has occurred  
in Frankfort, so that there is no necessity  
for my being news teller. Johnson's veto  
has been universally approved of here - You  
may judge of the unbroken current from  
the fact that John got his name in as one  
of the callers of the meeting and was on  
The Committee of Resolutions - so that this last  
move were so far towards neutralizing  
the effect of any charges of abolitionism <sup>page</sup>.  
Policy is a great thing, but you rarely see  
such a liberal endorsement of it in so young  
a man. I have given a mining lease on  
Clay Lick land to W.B. Dyre and Gaines who are  
to go to work at once with a paid in Capital  
of fifteen thousand dollars, and they  
guaranteed to me one fifth or twenty per-  
cent upon all minerals they company may

big st. This is I think an excellent ar-  
rangement by which if thy succeed I will  
make a great deal and cannot lose a  
cent if thy fails.

Your Uncle Matan has a mania on the  
subject of tooth pulling. He has had all of  
his stumps &c in number pulled out, &  
is harassing old Col. Taylor all but to death  
to go and do likewise. He met Hillary Bedford  
in town yesterday and made him go to  
Dr Gray, and have all his taken out, and he  
is now riding his last hobby with his usual  
zeal, and looks into every old man's mouth  
he comes across. He even wants me  
to have my teeth drawn which are so  
sound and good that I could bite his  
finger off if he was to put it in my  
mouth..

Now I want you to transact a little  
business for me and to do it at once as  
we are beginning to garden. Get for me  
from the Patent Office as many of the Champion

of England please as you can. Any of your  
congratual acquaintances will give you  
their or permission to ask for them at the Agricul-  
tural Bureau. Also a good supply of Salicyl  
Radishes, Peas for Soup - Beans Lima and  
other sorts - Turnips - Beets, Lettuce, and  
any other valuable garden seeds they may  
have for distribution. I don't want any oats or wheat  
but some early seed corn might be valuable.  
You can enclose them all in a bag or box, and  
if Eliza has not left she can bring them, or  
Col. Monroe or Dawson or by the very first  
opportunity. I wish you to attend to this  
immediately. I enclose you a letter which  
I opened thinking that it might allude to  
some business I could do for you. It seems to  
be a spiteful hit from some young lady,  
whether with cause or not I can't say.

I have nothing more to write. My  
health is as usual - no droopy by a very  
bad cold. All send their love to you, give  
mine to Gratz.

Your affectionate father  
Orlando Brown Jr.

Frankfort Apr. 14, 1866.

My dear Orlando

I received yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> last evening, it being four days on the way, while you accomplished your journey in forty eight hours. Very private enterprise seems in almost all things to outstrip public.

You refer to me the decision of a question very material in its importance to yourself, and I know more of the proposed arrangement than I do. A few general principles ideas however may serve as a basis for an opinion. And the first is - whether anything could be so agreeable as to have you contented with one, ought such a selfish consideration to stand in the way? Certainly not. And then is there any probability of any business offering itself in Frankfort that would make it to your interest to remain here? There is none that I know of. Would it in any way advance your respectability or happiness or keep up my pride in you, for you to join the great company of idlers now here, who are steadily becoming drones & drunkards and in all respects worthless? Most assuredly such

you ought to embrace it and to be thankful to Gratz for offering it to you. The compensation is of course as important item. It ought to be sufficient to enable you to pay your boards and clothe you handsomely and leave a surplus for investment. As Your manager his affairs lie gets along without any leaks, and at the end of the year is better off than he was in the beginning. But you are not as saving as you ought to be and do not attach the importance to money that you ought to do. You were never lazy, but even from your childhood extremely punctual in fulfilling to the letter all your engagements and very naturally industrious. If you are lazy now it is an acquisition and not an inheritance (thus by the way of giving you and Gratz a smile or a hearty laugh, according as you are in the humor.)

Lastly. As you would not expect always to be a manager of a Rail Road, will the occupation lead you to any other pursuit? of this I know nothing. My own opinion is that if it gives you any leisure you ought to devote it to acquiring a knowledge of Civil Engineering. It is and must be for a long time, the best profession in this country. I am glad that you are not going to bother yourself with Law or Physic. They are both now any thing but respectable or remunerating callings. The independent man of business is happy

wonderfully gifted man Dr R. E. Gratz. Now what I have written you will see that I concur with you in thinking that you ought to accept Gratz's generous offer.

They are looking for Gratz here to night. His children are now entirely well so that there was no need of his coming on that account. It seems that Fortune at last looks a little propitious on me, for Lyons is just back from Clay Lick and is elated with the lead prospects reporting a vein of three feet in width, which is almost unprecedented. The company were I hope soon organized & go to work vigorously. My share of the profits or yield is to be twenty per cent, which if the venture succeeds will make us all comfortable once more. I am also getting the old meadow re-fenced. The Implett farm is now completely fenced in with an excellent new wire fence, and the house refitted, and all these improvements are made by the renters at their own charge and they pay me in addition three hundred dollars for the first year. That is doing very well with the lame land waste as it has been by four or five years of military occupation and the destruction of my timber, the killing of my horses, hogs & cattle by soldiers party in the State and part, National service. I ought to be paid something for all this as the damage to me has been very heavy notwith-

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which is to take off from the Louisville Road somewhere about  
Emmenc or Pleasureville and cross the Kentucky at Lockport  
which would put our Clay Lick Lanes directly on the main  
rail road thoroughfare from Louisville to Cincinnati. You  
can see at a glance how much this would help us. The  
Road will certainly be built although it may cross some  
twelve miles below us from which we would not reap much  
benefit. — There has been much excitement in Mr Hays church  
over twenty having joined it mostly young men and among  
them Russ and George Watson.

Your Uncle Mason is looking haggard and bad and is much  
swollen but he still continues to go up town every day, and uni-  
formly says that he is better. My own opinion is that he has a serious  
affection of the liver.

Your Ma & all the family are once more in good health. We  
will have a capital garden this year.

I commenced this letter expecting to make it about as short as  
yours was, but writing before breakfast I have been irresistibly  
led out to this elongated epistle. Of my own health I have  
nothing to say only that I am flattered with the hope of being once  
more in comfortable health. I walk about with great ease—sleep  
well—have a wholesome appetite a good digestion, and a  
fresh bin of Gaylespiles to fire at the enemy on his first  
approaching, with the confident expectation of putting him as

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Frankfort May 30. 1866.

Dear Orlando,

I received a letter from you last night, on which you spoke of the complete recovery of your nose (for which God be praised) and also of your trip to Annapolis &c. but there was one great ~~causus omisus~~ for you did not say one word about the cloak. Fortunately however the cloak had arrived the evening before and spoke for itself and showed for itself. It is the very thing I wanted fitting perfectly, of the right weight and exceedingly fine in quality. Your Ma & Blan and Mrs. Brown and your uncle Mr. Brown's people all say that it is the finest cloak they ever saw. All that I am afraid of is that you went to too much expense in procuring it. I sincerely thank you for it for it was a garment much

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needed by me and will be worn not only  
with comfort but with pride.

Col. Scott & little Sis are off on a visit  
to his Illinois property. The Colonel postpones  
his visit in order that he can see & show to his  
wife a charming country at the most beau-  
tiful season and thus make an agreeable  
impression. But unluckily he has rushed up  
into a region of snow & hail while he left  
the flowers & frost in full bloom and leaf  
behind him. There is a probability of another  
agreeable surprise for you as Mr Alexander has  
urged Annette & Dan & Lucas to pay Deli  
a visit, he tendering to pay all the expenses.  
Annette & Dan are now in Cincinnati &  
I think they are inclined to accept the propo-  
sition & we telegraph for Lucas to join them  
if they conclude to go. I suppose Deli will  
return with them and come back as light  
as when she went away. Mrs Hanna and  
Ketty have got home. Mrs H. looks better  
than she has done in forty years.

I have had another killing affair in this county. A few days ago, a returned negro soldier and a man too of excellent character made an agreement with Pak Mayhale to cut fifty cords of wood for him, and was permitted to stay in a cabin occupied by an old negro man and woman. About twelve o'clock at night a party of regulators, twelve or thirteen in number came to the house determined to kill or lynch the man. They broke open the door and rushed in. The negro hearing the noise and their threats got down his old revolver, fired, and killed one (Carrie) dead on the spot and wounded Bogswell so that he died the next day. His pistol failing to go off any more, he clubbed it and beat several over the head with it and made such stout resistance that he routed the whole party & came to town and delivered himself up. His preliminary trial goes on to day. There is but one opinion expressed that I have heard of, & that is that the negro did perfectly right.

Gains and gold are much encouraged with their examinations for lead on our lands & are now organizing a company to raise fifteen thousand with which to begin active operations. I hope the enterprise will turn out advantageous for us as we get 20 per cent

for of any cost, of all the lead they may mine,  
so that the more they get out the better it will  
be for us.

Your Uncle Mazon & Aunt Mary talk of  
going to Crab Orchard this week. Your Uncle  
is very feeble although an tolerable fair spirit.  
As to my own health that continues to improve  
except that I have a very bad cough. It  
seems to me that the droopy has all gone, &  
the last phase of my being out of sorts is the  
prospect of having internal piles. These piles  
are the safety valves for the brain and staves off  
apoplexy. I suppose that the old school <sup>method</sup> ~~old~~ covered  
that by reversing the order and spanking the stern.  
They quickened the energy of the brain thereby. This  
may be termed reasoning *a posteriori*.

I am doubtless have heard of Van Winkle's death  
and the appointment of his brother as successor. This  
is the day for the Louisville Convention. I fear that it  
will be <sup>fitly</sup> attended. Bonnie is not well -  
she seems to have some lingering ailment which  
makes her pale & unhealthy. Your Ma is in her  
usual health - head aches as heretofore. Mazon  
is well and acts the Treasurer save only that the  
General signs checks.

Your affectionate father -  
Orlando Brown. 8<sup>th</sup>

Frankfort June 29. 1866.

My dear Son -

I write you a few lines mainly to inform you that my health steadily improves and that every body congratulates me upon my good looks. And I may say in this connection that your Uncle Mason looks better as the last few days than he has done for months. He goes tomorrow to the Bedford Springs in Trimble County.

Deal, shortly after her return home was attacked with a violent cold, and since then has been very sick and confined to her bed. She is rather better now. Robert's return was a perfect Godsend to her & was better than any medicine.

I send you the Commonwealth of this morning from

by me. The Union men are entering into the Campaign with ardent zeal. John Brown & George Monroe start in a few days for the Sandy & the mountains to rally the "boys in blue." The old Union war element is beginning to ferment, and the Rebels are soon to meet again their old victorious enemies. I apprehend that there will be a good deal of blood shed before the campaign is over.

The time is now near at hand when you will be home again, greatly to my delight. I hope that Bratz has arranged about the Clerkship to your satisfaction or made a more valuable arrangement for you in St Louis.

There is no home news to write about, and you must accept this as an apology for my unusual silence and as evidence of my unceasing thought of you. This morning was so very cold that I walked around town in my new cloak, glad of the opportunity of making such a

Frankfort Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

My dear Orlando

You have gained a very unusual and signal triumph over me by getting me, in your debt for three letters, and the first one narrating the most remarkable adventure of your whole life. The perils of war from exposure, sickness, cannon, muskets and rifles you have safely passed; but never before having over the "imminent deadly break" of a fallen rail road bridge with rounds & death in front of you and steams forcing you into the same chasm from the rear.

Well there is a Providence that shapes our ends, and the wise man profits by the manifestations. The first is no writer from a signal deliverance but goes his way without <sup>2</sup> remorse, acknowledgement, or gratitude. <sup>3</sup> I hope that you have thought profitably over all this, and have made up your mind.

Filson Historical Society

Never again to indulge in irreverent jests,  
and to live through your future life as  
one who has God in his thoughts and sees  
him as the Supreme ruler and one to whom  
we are accountable. We all did feel  
gratitude in our hearts at your ~~wonder~~-  
ful escape and hope that it will not  
be lost on any of us.

You may well complain of my not writing  
to you but you cannot complain of my  
not continually thinking about you. Indeed  
you are my meditation by day and by  
night, my great desire being that you  
may be happy. As for myself, my days  
are at best but few, and feeble, and  
ill health and other troubles fill them  
up with vexation of spirit. But you are  
young and may reasonably look forward  
to many years of life. You seem now for  
the first time, clearly to see the necessity for  
exertion for prudence, for economy, and  
are casting about <sup>for</sup> what you shall do to  
best attain the end, and you ask my

advice concerning the best course to pursue  
In two things I can advise and they are  
worth your heeding. The first is strict do-  
bility the second is economy. But as  
to the particular line of business you  
ought to follow there I am entirely at  
fault. The Army for which you have  
peculiar fitness has become distasteful  
to you and is under circumstances per-  
haps unexpedient. The law you have  
abandoned and I think very properly.  
There is therefore nothing but the business  
of civil life to fall back upon. My  
own opinion is that if you would (as you  
might easily do) qualify yourself for  
a Civil Engineer it would be the best  
the most sure and the most profitable. If  
you could connect go up in and Ohio  
farm I could give you a good one, but  
the life would not be agreeable. Upon  
the whole, we must think further  
about the matter and we may  
hit upon some business that would do.

Filson Historical Society

This letter so far omits something of a homily which like all other homilies is apt to be wearisome.

But, as to home news I have but little to write. Jack & Bonnie are here as boarders at fifty dollars a month, and have paid fifty whether for a part month or for the present one. I don't know upon the whole looking at the matter in all its bearings it seemed to me the best & could do.

The health of the family is about as usual - my own is a variation between winds and water but I don't claim either to

advance or recede. Your Uncle Maton talks continually about religious subjects - his bodily condition is one of great old - comfort, and he seems to be gradually declining to which he is perfectly reconciled and expresses perfect readiness for the summons. come when it will. You must look to other correspondents for the town chat.

Give my kindest regards to Gratz - consult with him about your future prospects for he is wiser and such things that I am.

Your devoted father  
Orlando Brown, Jr.