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Camp Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 1861

My very dear Aunt,

Yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst was brought me while partaking of my sumptuous supper of hot coffee, light rolls, fried potatoes, and beef steak, all gotten into eating order by the aforesaid “contraband.” All further operations were it immediately suspended until after the perusal of the epistle. Indeed, I experienced more pleasure, then in the perusal of a Morning Paper, containing the particular is of a recently fought battle, at the breakfast table in a Splendid Dining Saloon, Ahem! Yours is the first letter (except those I found there on my arrival) I have received since my return from my travels in North America, and you may well imagine a foreigner would greet the first reliable news from his native country, gleefully. The fact is, I had commenced thinking my visit to my friends had proved rather disastrous to my correspondence, supposing, that since  
(to the backside)

They have caught sight of, had met, he was some what acquainted with the aforesaid Lieutenant, had concluded he was not the boy they expected, and that his further acquaintance was entirely unnecessary, had beter he cut as short as possible, Ahem! Perhaps the above mentioned suppositions are entirely groundless, I do indeed hope so, particularly, on account of the honor I hear for the M\_\_\_y name! It does seem a very long time since I left your hospitable roof, about, about, \_\_\_ well cannot say how long, though I know it (to be?) a long time. I am very, very sorry, indeed, I am sorry I so grieved my dear old Aunt so much by that little indiscretion of mine; it does seem like the dear old Lady will never entirely recover from the effects. I hope I will not have to be accountable for any decline in her health on account thereof. Indeed she is very pathetic over it, even very eloquent, I almost shed tears over the recital of the terrible “robbery” and wrong that had been committed by the “atrocious villain.” Penitent, I should think the man indeed, hardened in crime, that could commit such a (un?)deed

(invert page)

I am glad Uncle has found some business, and I think he is now on the right track, for a McKinney, takes to Law, just as a duck to water, the business comes perfectly natural to them. I have no doubt he would soon make an eminent jurist, I know his wife would fully appreciate his attainments, if no one else did. Indeed, from what acquaintance I have with the Lady, she is very “appreciative” woman. Thank you for your invitation to dinner, I am very sorry indeed that my business engagements, will not allow me to except your kind invitation, perhaps I may be at leisure some other day, and will indeed be happy to enjoy your hospitality. Ahem! Thank you, not any of the snow balls, they will not suit the Caliber of our muskets. “Wait till I catch you” so

Humphrey Marshall said to (Cal T?) (missing part/stained) when a former was getting (missing word/stained) "My dear little Nephew," you must have been thinking of that 16-year old picture when you wrote that. Quite a child, that same Nephew! Success is my watchword, has been and shall be. And now I believe I have answered your altogether pleasant letter almost sentence by sentence, will now proceed on another sheet, to give you the news. This sheet is emphatically yours, though I (faded letters) Uncle can read it he wants to.