

From Jonathan B. Fuller to Dear Father

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Kansas City, Mo.

June 20th 1864

Dear Father[,]

Yours of the 12th as also the Papers came duly to hand. I am sorry to hear of Mother's illness--but trust that before this reaches you she will be better. I as usual am enjoying excellent health. Hearty as a pig--but feeling shockingly lazy under this warm weather. A [*text stricken through*] little bored too thinking of my Address to the Literary Societies of Wm. Jewell. I haven't had time to prepare a thoroughly good article--and shall have to trust a good deal to the spur of the moment. But I hope kind Providence will help me out of this scrape as it has out of others. I have missed my books sadly while I have been trying to get myself ready for it. The Doctor's--and John Thomas's--and Dr. Case's Libraries altogether don't make up the difficiency. I speak on Wednesday morning (June 22d) at 11 o'clock. If I can I shall beg out of the Address to the Female School.

Our services yesterday were about as usual--save that the congregation was a little smaller on account of the details for Guard duty. For everybody is under arms. The soldiers are off scouring the county for bushwhackers. We in the meanwhile are supposed to be in danger of an attack--so all hands--Rebel & Radical--old and young--are armed and standing guard every night. Doctor and I have not enrolled and I guess will not. I am pretty confident I will not be asked to do duty. The Doctor however is not quite so sure. I still think we are more scared than hurt--for I do not believe the guerrillas will try it at all--even if there are enough in the county to undertake it which I very much doubt.

The invitation from Louisville I will reflect upon--though I think I shall decline. It is farther from home than I care to be--it is more work than I want to undertake yet awhile--and I don't wish to enter upon regular city labors until I have completed a somewhat larger course of study. And lastly I am not so thoroughly posted on the character of the Louisville Churches as I should wish to be. Some of them have a reputation for quarrelling with and not supporting their Pastors which I do not altogether like. I happened to be sitting on the porch with Mrs[.] Lykins when the Letter came--so in answer to some question of hers in regard to it--I told her it was an invitation to take charge of the Chesnut St[.] Baptist Church of Louisville. She did not seem pleased. I have not mentioned it to any one else because if I seem to make much of it, they might

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think that I was unaccustomed to such calls. If I had been loose I should of course have paid them a visit--as it is I expect the best course will be to decline.

The weather has turned burningly hot--and dry as tinder. The grass is brown and withered--vegetables are at a stand--everything is parching[.] How does the cistern hold out?

As to church matters we are working along slowly--I looking for an explosion any moment. Twice within the last ten days I thought we should have it. Yesterday week a notice of a meeting of the citizens for organization for defense [*text stricken through*] was sent up with the request that it be read in Church. As the same notice had been published in that mornings paper I thought it both unnecessary and inappropriate for church--and I so remarked to Bro. Rogers--adding however that if he said so I would read it. As he said no--I paid no attention to it. Considerable remark was made about the omission I understand. But Rogers is one of the blackest Radicals in town--so they can't make anything of it. The fuss was made by members of other churches--so I take it--religious jealous had something to do with it.

Again the choir leader[,] a regular down east Yankee took it into his head that [*text stricken through*] it would be a good idea to commence the service of yesterday morning by singing the Hymn-- No. 1000 in the Psalmist beginning

"My country, 'tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing. &c"

Fortunately I had notice of this [MS. illegible] intention on Saturday. It was a delicate question. If the hymn was sung the Rebels and "softs" generally might regard it as an insult to their sensibilities and withdraw from the congregation, if on the other hand I should suppress the piece--the Radicals of the Methodist Church might get hold of it and use it against me. Very providentially the leader came late that morning--and I gave out the regular hymn before he got in.

I had prepared myself however for the emergency by getting Bro. Roger's opinion in favor of suppressing it. As long as I can keep him between me and the Radical fine I am safe I think in that quarter. Even in the first case I am not blamed--for the story among the public is that I wanted to read the notice--but some of the Church members overruled me. I will trust in Providence--hoping for the best--and ready for the worst.

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I am glad you are keeping clear of those local troubles. Hope that you may continue to escape them.

Cyrus has not written yet. I wonder that he does not finish making collection of my salary. It is certainly time.

Have the Japan [*text stricken through*] Lillies shown any signs of blooming yet? Take good care of them. And take a little more care of yourself. I again say I would not to myself injury working in the Factory on any account. You can certainly find easier work in the Factory and if you cannot--it is cheaper to be idle--than to be working beyond your strength.

What are our Rebel friends saying or doing now? I suppose however they will not say much[.]

Give my kindest regards to all friends--Hope that you are all getting along pleasantly in these summer days. Glad to hear that B.G. Brown is disposed to be friendly. Tell me what books he sends.

My best love to all--Mother, Mollie and yourself--take care of yourselves--and enjoy yourselves as you can. I am still doing well here. I paid my board this week up to the first of July (\$4.) Four dollars a week for board, lodging, washing, lights &c. I think it is right cheap, for the accommodation I have, for it is emphatically the best place in town. I won't be able to make any use of the Priest. But in the meanwhile I am teaching Latin as I told you I believe before. Bro. & Sister Lykins send their regards.

As ever I am very affectionately

Your Son
J.B. Fuller