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Title: Letter from Roger B. Taney to J. Mason Campbell

Date: August 25, 1855

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Old Point Aug. 25. 1855

My Dear Sir

You will of course be anxious to hear from us while the pestilence is so near us - and is none of the girls proper writing to day, I take the duty upon myself. - We are all well. My own health much improved - & Mrs. Torrey also. - I should both perhaps have improved still more, but for the sadness & depression which is unavoidable to her views of so much distress are passing near you - and much of it before your eyes. For our cottage you know is almost at the edge of the water - and as the wharf is not finished, the steam boats land & take off their passengers near our very doors - and we daily see their decks crowded with men women and children flying from the pestilence and

and many of them embarking here
who had made their way to Hampton
& come over to this place to embark in
the Baltimore Philadelphia or New
York Boats. - Besides we have some
excellent and valued friends in the
midst of the danger & some have suffered
from it. - Mrs. Barron to whom we were
all very much attached, and one of her
daughters died with the fever, and
the Captain himself has been ill, but
is now recovering. And the Loyalls
(Mrs. Fraguets family) have been in the
midst of it, and one of them ill, but is sup-
posed now to be out of danger. You may
well suppose that scenes like these, are not
calculated to brighten our spirits. - and
since the first of this month we have
had scarcely any topic of conversation
except the fever & its victims. - But yet I
have never felt that there was the slight-
est danger from it here - although I see

My family have not always felt the same
confidence - & have suffered more than
they need have done by indulging in
unnecessary fears. - For my own part
if a case had been brought to the Hotel
from this respected district, I should
have felt no apprehension of the
consequence. And I have looked with real
sorrow upon the harshness with which they
were repelled from some places, - and am glad
to find that public opinion has been
soured enough to compel the authorities
in some places to restrain their steps -
It is sad to see those wretched persons
who call themselves Christians, and
who think they are Christians, were
willing to consign a whole city with
its thousands of inhabitants to almost
certain & painful death,
rather than incur the peril whatever
it might be, that would afford the
only opportunity

of

telescope. Power is as contempuous as the
Juno - and good & concordance is always
cruel. -

You must not suppose because I am
writing to you so much about the Juno
that I am so engrossed by it - that I think
of nothing else. - I have ^{been} for some days
very much interested in witnessing the
operations of a man with a marine armor
who is engaged in building the Piers of
the New Harbor - or rather in assist-
ing in bringing up a quantity of Stone
which had accidentally fallen in. He
remains under water five hours - at the
Depth of 18 or 20. feet - and the whole
arrangement of the armor & its working
is beautiful - if beautiful is a word
that ought to be applied to the nice adap-
tation of philosophical principles in
the arrangement of the Machinery - or to
the appearance of the Operator who
clothed in armor who comes up like
a monster from the deep. I should
wish Farley was here to see him

If the season was not so bad a one
from June near us.

The weather here today & yesterday
is warm - with the thermometer
about 80. - in the middle of the
day - But for a fortnight before it was
very cool - cool enough to sleep under
a blanket & make me put on
flannel for a few days - But the
weather is always pleasant - and
we all use it freely -

We give you much love to
all - affectionately

R. B. Torrey

J. Mober Campbell Esq.

Newport

R. Island

I am obliged to write in much haste - for
I have spent too much time at the school.

1855
Aug. 25 TANEY, ROGER BROOKE

To James Mason Campbell.

Old point augt. 25. 1855

My Dear sir

You will of course be anxious to hear from us while the pestilence is so near us - and as none of the girls propose writing today, I take the duty upon myself. My own health much improved - & Mrs. Taney's also. We should both perhaps have improved still more, but for the sadness & depression which is unavoidable when scenes of so much distress are passing near you - and much of it before your eyes. For our cottage you know is almost at the edge of the water - and as the wharf is not finished, the steam boats land & take off their passengers near our very doors - and we daily see their decks crowded with men women and children flying from the pestilence and many of them embarking here who had made their way to Hampton & come over to this place to embark in the Baltimore Philadelphia or New York Boats. Besides we have some excellent and valued friends in the midst of the danger & some have suffered from it. Mrs. Barron to whom we were all very much attached, and one of her daughters died with the fever, and the captain himself has been ill, but is now recovering. And the Loyalls (Mrs. Faragut's family) have been in the midst of it, and one of them ill, but is supposed now to be out of danger. You may well suppose that scenes like these, are not calculated to brighten our spirits - and since the first of this month we have had scarcely any topic of conversation except the fever & its victims. But yet I have never felt that there was the slightest danger from it here - although I fear my family have not always felt the same confidence & have suffered more than they need have done by indulging in unnecessary fears. For my own part if a case had been brought to the Hotel from the infested district, I should have felt no apprehension at the cottage. And I have looked with real sorrow upon the barbarity with (which) they were repelled from some places, - and am glad to find that public opinion has been sound enough to compel the authorities in some places to retrace their steps. It is sad to see that so many persons who call themselves christians, and who think they are christians, were willing to consign a whole city with its thousands of inhabitants to almost to almost certain & painful death, rather than incur the peril whatever it might be, that would afford the unhappy sufferers the only opportunity of escape. Panic is as contagious as the fever - and fear & cowardice is always cruel.

You must not suppose because I am writing to you so much about that I am so engrossed by it - that I think of nothing else. I have been for some days very much interested in witnessing the operations of a man with a marine armor who is engaged in building the Piers of the new wharf - or rather in assisting in bringing up a quantity of stone which had accidentally fallen in. He remains under water five hours - at a depth of 18 or 20 feet - and the whole arrangement of the armour and its working is beautiful - if beautiful is a word that ought to be applied to the nice adaptation of philosophical principles in the arrangement of the machinery - or the appearance of the operator when clothed in armor who comes up like a monster from the deep. I should wish Taney was here to see him if the season was not so sad a one from fever near us.

The weather here today & yesterday is warm - with the thermometer about 80 - in the middle of the day. But for a fortnight before it was very cool - cool enough to sleep under a blanket & make me put on flannel for a few days. But this clothing is always pleasant - and we all wear it freely.

We join in much love to all - affectionately

R. B. Taney

J. Mason Campbell, Esq. I am obliged to write in much haste - for
Newport R. Island I have spent too much time at the wharf.