## **Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections**

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

## **Documents Online**

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

**Date:** August 25, 1855

**Location:** I-SpahrB-1965-18

## **Contact:**

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Old point augt 25-105-5 my bear fin you will of coverse be anyour to hear from us while the pestilence is so near us - and is none of the girls hopon writing to day, & take the Daty whom myself. - loe one all weell. My own health much improved - & Mus Formy also - be Thouse both purholes have in-proved the more, but for the swamp of Defrupion which is unevoidable when sume of an much Distrip are paping him you - and purch of it begon your copy you provious almost at the adjust the Roater - and as the whorks is not five ship, the Strom hoots land a toke off their propries gens mor our very loon-answer doily De Buir Dechu Crowded with men bomen and children flying from the prestitioner

and mony of them emborhing here who had made their way to Hampton d come over to this John to emback in the boltemon philosophio or there you to boots - toused we have some excellent one realized from on in the midst of the dongerd dome have suffered from it. - Mrs Barrow to whom we were ale may much attacked, and one of her Laughter dud with the faver, and The Contain himself has been ill trust is now working. And the dayalles ( Aus Foraguts gomily) have been in the midet of it, and one of them ill, but is suf from now to be out of danger. you may ruell suppose that somes the these, on not celulated to brighten our spirits. and since the first of this months we how has scorrely any toling of consumption years the few a its victims. - But yet I have never felt that There was the slight! est Janger gow it how setting I I from

Bay family have not always get the assu conjourer - + have duffered more Than they need have some ley indulging in unnewpory fram. - For my own hor of a core has been bringer to the Arote gran trustes district Labourts how get no apprehimmen of the conous whom the harlesty with they republid from some places, and one of a to find thet public opinion has been seund many to to combile the authorities in some stones to retree Thin atchs -It is doo to are that do money newsons neho we numbers distions, and who think they one duistions, were willing to consign a whole lity with its monower of indications to almost to almost cutain a painful outter, return Those inder the peril whateres migrate her, that would appoin the and my suggestions the only offertunity

Just - sud from a Contagions or how you must not suppose here Low tenting to you so much about the few hat I am so uproprid by it - that I thenk of nothing ilso . - I have for some days very much interested in withing the operation of a man with a marine termor who is engaged in huilding the Dies of The new vehouse - or rather on yout ing in langing who a grantly of from which hos accidentally goes in the remain under water give hours - as the 8-pette of 18 or 20. for and the whole arrangement of the armount sits working is beautiful - I broadful is a mond That ought to be applied to the nice adop lation of philosophical principles in the arrangement of the marking - or to the appearance of the operation when clother armor who tomes uplike a mouste from the deel. I should wish Jany was how to see him

of the desson was not as dad a one from Jens near us. The weether him today a yesterday is more much the thermometer about 80 - in the middle of the Lay - hour que a joutinget began it was my cool - wol manger to slop under - When some me put on flormed for a free deep - Out the leating is always wasout- and me all now it greetyan join in much low to all - appetionally R. B. Loney g mojon Compleele Em-newsoon newson R. Jolowo I am obliged to went in much hoster - for I have shown too week time of the What

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. Taneys 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. Faraguts 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 nrought 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 palces, - and am gl ad 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 joinin 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.