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

Date: October 19, 1854

Location: I-SpahrB-1965-19

Contact:

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

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Old Point Oct. 19. 1854

My Dear Sir

It is some time since I have received a letter from you - but I suppose you are busy in the courts, and that things go on as usual in Baltimore. Alice had a letter from Phoebe yesterday & I am glad to hear you are all well. You will perhaps think the latitude of age has come upon me when I tell you that I look with sorrow upon the year approaching of the day which compels me to leave this place & resume my judicial duties. Certainly I have been here long enough to repose from the labor of the winter: and have received whatever benefit to my health which the climate can give me - and ought by this time to be tired of idleness; - But in truth I am not idle enough to find time heavy on my hands. This month when the summer visitors are all gone has been more pleasant to me than any other. For in truth I do not seem to myself to be idle

and

and never find the day or night too long for
me - and would if I could spend the winter
here. I am now so accustomed to walk on
the beach - meeting rarely any one -
- hearing nothing but the waves beating on the
shore - with the wide open view before me
that it will take me some time to be reconciled
to the hard rough brick pavements of the town
- to the jostling and talking crowd in the streets -
and shut up between rows of houses where you
have no scenery but brick & mortar. But I
must meet the change without repining - and
I write to you because I suppose the Par are
beginning to inquire what has become of
me - and will look for information from
you. - My plan is to leave here on Friday
or Saturday in next week, and to be in court
on the first day of the Term. You will be sur-
prised to learn that Mrs Terry does not return
with me. But she and the girls will remain
until late in November if not until the end of
the month. We all wish her to do so, and she
wishes it herself. The unlucky accident to her
last confined her to the house all this month

It is now better & the Doctor says she may take
moderate exercise when it - But she has lost
of all the Delightful walks & exercise which
we hoped for in this month - and between ^{the pain} and
loss of rest - and want of exercise she is now hardly
as strong as she was at the beginning of it.
We think it very desirable that she should have
nowhere to improve her strength and gene-
ral health as we have lost October - The
climate is Delightful - just cool enough
generally to have a fire with the doors open -
and in our friends of the Army & their families
we have a pleasant society - quite large
enough for social intercourse & amusement.
To day it is so warm that we do not need a
fire in the middle the day: and we un-
derstand that November here is as pleasant
as October - and think Mrs. Lacey will enjoy it.
I mean to ask Lizzy & Stevenson for a
home until my own folks return - and go to
work in my office - & try at all events to get
through the appeal cases before the opinion of the
Supreme Court. - Love ever to you all
Truly & affly yrs. R. B. Tarry
E. Mason Campbell Esq.