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Title: Letter from Roger B. Taney to Taney Campbell

Date: August 18, 1855

Location: I-SpahrB-1965-7

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Old Point Aug. 18. 1855

My Dear Fanny

Your dear grandmother in her last letter to Alice said her next letter should be to you. - But she tells me today that she had rather I should write to you myself than for her - and this letter is therefore from myself - and not written by me, as her amanuensis.

We have been very glad to hear from you all, so frequently, and to learn how pleasantly you are passing your time. This morning I received a letter from your father, and your dear grandmother received one from Alice. We hope you will all return in good health after such an agreeable summer. Alice talks a good deal of your having and horse-riding too. I hope you ride it also. - It is a capital opportunity to begin to ride - and

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The sooner you begin, the bolder and better rider you will be.

We had a very pleasant time here until the early part of this month. But the terrible ravages of the yellow fever in Norfolk & Portsmouth, has broken up the Company at Old Point, and we hear now scarcely any thing talked about but sickness & deaths from the fever. We see too a great deal of the distress and suffering it has produced. For every day the steam boats have been passing crowded with men women & children flying from the pestilence. Yet we are far enough off to feel no fear about it. - The commanding officer has forbidden any person from landing from Norfolk or Portsmouth ~~from landing~~ at the point. - Yet a few exceptions appear to have been made when they were not from the infected district of the town. - But I do not apprehend the least danger, and should

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Not feel alarmed, even if one or more
of those who have been permitted to come
should be taken sick after they arrive
here. There is no danger I think of its spread-
ing ~~here~~ in a place like this. - But the
Commanding Officer has now so many
men here, that the barracks are much
crowded, & he was right in taking mea-
sures to protect them. - At the same time
it is almost cruel to expose a platoon of re-
fugees to those who are fleeing from the
dangers & forcing them back to a place
certain disease if not death in the place
where the pestilence is raging. - It can
hardly be justified upon principles
of humanity - & Christianity. And while
it is right to protect ourselves - that pro-
tection ought not to be carried so
far, as to forget the duty we owe to our
neighbours: and ~~that~~ danger ought never
to prevent us from fulfilling a duty.

You Aunt Lizzie left us on Wednesday
 and arrived safe at home. - We had a
 letter from her today. We all continue
 well here. Little Pray improves
 daily, and is more and more enter-
 taining and intelligent. - I will not
 say that I wish you were here, because
 the yellow fever has made every thing
 sad. - But if this unfortunate event had
 not happened I should wish for you
 every day. - There are now upwards of
 900 men, in the fort, who drill with
 martial music every day. - I am sure
 you would like to see them. - Upward
 of an hundred landed two days ago from
 the steam boat from New York and
 marched by our door. -

I have only room enough Dear Tony to
 add our united & affectionate love to
 you all - & I am Dear Tony
 ever your affectionate
 Grandfather
 Terry Campbell
 Newport
 R. B. Terry

3 See what a blunder I have made. The
two sheets of paper stuck together - and
I have written on them as if they were one)

1855

Aug. 18 TANEY, ROGER BROOKE

To Taney Campbell.

Old point Aug. 18. 1855

My Dear Taney

Your dear grandmother in her last letter to Alice said her next letter should be to you. But she tells me today that she had rather I should write to you myself than for her - and this letter is therefore from myself - and not written by me, as her amanuensis.

We have been very glad to hear from you all, so frequently, and to hear how pleasantly you are passing your time. This morning I received a letter from your father, and your dear grandmother received one from Alice. We hope you will all return in good health after such an agreeable summer. Alice talks a good deal of your leading and harnessing the poney. I hope you ride it also. It is a capital opportunity to begin to ride - and the sooner you begin, the bolder and better rider you will be.

We had a very pleasant time here until the early part of this month. But the terrible ravages of the yellow fever in Norfolk & Portsmouth has broken up the company at old point, and we hear now scarcely any thing talked about but sickness & death from the fever. We see too a great deal of the distress and suffering it has produced. For every day the steam boats have been passing crowded with men women & children flying from the pestilence. Yet we are far enough off to feel no fear about it. The commanding officer has forbidden any person from landing from Norfolk or portsmouth on the point. Yet a few exceptions appear to have been made when they were not from the infected District of the Town. But I do not apprehend the least danger, and should not feel alarmed, even if one or more of those who have been permitted to come should be taken sick after they arrive here. There is no danger I think of its spreading in a place like this. But the commanding officer has now so many men here, that the barracks are much crowded, & he was right in taking measures to protect them. At the same time it is almost cruel to refuse a place of refuge to those who are fleeing from the danger & forcing them back to almost certain disease if not death in the place where the pestilence is raging. It can hardly be justified upon principles of humanity - & christianity. And while it is right to protect ourselves - that protection ought not to be carried so far, as to forget the duty we owe to our neighbors: and danger ought never to prevent us from fulfilling a duty.

Your Aunt Lizzie left us on Wednesday and arrived safe at home. We had a letter from her today. We all continue well here. Little Roger improves daily, and is more and more entertaining and intelligent. I will not say that I wish you were here, because the yellow fever has made everything sad. But if this unfortunate event had not happened I should wish for you every day. There are now upwards of 900 men in the fort, who drill with martial music every day. I am sure you would like to see them. Upwards of an hundred landed two days ago from the steam boat from New York and marched by our door.

I have only room my dear Taney to add our united & affectionate love to you all - & I am Dear Taney

every your affectionate

Taney Campbell

Grandfather

Newport

R. B. Taney