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**Title:** Letters from Andrew Curtin to Eli Slifer, 1864-66

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# United States Hotel,

BROWN & WOELPPER, Prop'rs.

Atlantic City, N. J. 28 July 1864

Dear Sir

That result in Beasman is -  
had our Stutzman should be depa-  
red - I have letters saying the numbers  
are right but do not believe it - The  
report of the census in Phila has en-  
couraged his friends and just now has  
some time come -

I see the politicians here and  
think I am making strength - Prigony  
is his and his rights - Mann is  
his and indeed many others - With  
some money I really believe we can  
buy all but three nominations in  
Phila - The air line road and  
the road from Baltimore to Aquia  
creek are defeated - Cannon was  
the head and part - I have a hint  
on the subject - That is what I want  
to see Magraw for - The Canadian  
and Amby - the Phila & Baltimore  
and the Baltimore and Ohio  
interests are against these projects and  
do not want Cannon in the Senate



I wonder if Mr. [unclear] has thought of  
or heard of this - It is the great  
prize for us -

I must give Fisher some  
money and some supply. Besides  
having gone in we must see this  
entire thing -

At the fighting  
should my heart is not set  
on the office - I wish it was  
and I could put some vigor  
into the fight - Any day I conclude  
to drop and would not for any  
real friends -

Is it possible perhaps is  
a common name? If he is  
worth anything could come it or  
have him withdrawn -

I go to Washington to see  
Brookings - If I can get him in  
it will be a trump card -

Yours truly

Wm. C. C. [unclear]

28 July 1864

Dear Slifer

That result in Bedford is bad and Stutzman should be defeated. I have letters saying the numbers are right but do not believe it. The report of the success in Phila has encouraged his friends and just now has [found?] him some.

I see the politicians here and think I am making strength. Ridgway is here and seems right. Mann is here and indeed many others. With more money I really believe we can carry all but three nominations in Phila. The air line road and the road from Baltimore to Acquia creek are defeated. Cameron was the head and [foot?]. I hear much on the subject. That is what I went to Mr. Magraw for. The Camden and Amboy, the Phila & Baltimore and the Baltimore and Ohio interests are against those projects and do not want Cameron in the Senate.

[page break]

I wonder if McClure has thought of or knows of this. It is the great [prize?] for us.

I must give Fisher more money and will supply B ~~whether~~ Having gone in we must see this enterprise through.

Although fighting hard my heart is not set ~~to be~~ the office. I wish it was and I could put more vigour into the fight. Every day I conclude to drop and would but for my real friends.

It is possible [illegible] is a Cameron man? If he is [Washaburg?] could correct it or have him withdraw.

I go to Washington to see Reed Myer. If I can keep him in it will be a trump card.

Yrs truly

A. G. Curtin



Bellevue 23 Oct 1864

Dear Sir

Have spoken with Mr. Wilson to  
 Aug of Patrons who he  
 wants to go to

I am better ~~now~~  
 since have for him in after a  
 more time -

How

R. Rippe

Yes truly  
 A. G. Leavitt

P.S. I must have solution of agents  
 to you and the delicate question  
 of sending demerits - If the  
 Mass Rep. will not I am still  
 clear we must ~~be~~ make a  
 fair number though for the  
 the current affair to be connected  
 with a parliament election - Let  
 me hear at 2. Warner & G. G. G. G.  
 about it

Bellefonte 3 Oct 1864

Dear Sir

Please assign Wilson to Army of Potamac when he wants to go.  
I am better and will leave for Erie in afternoon tomorrow.

Yrs Truly  
A.G Curtin

Hon

E. Slifer

P.S. I must leave selection of agents to you and the delicate question of sending democrats. If the War Dep. will not I am still clear we must send a fair number through for them. We cannot afford to be connected with a fraudulent election. Let me hear at L. Haven by telegraph about it.

ACG

# Western Union Telegraph

CONNECTING

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DAVID BROOKS, *Sup't Penna. Division*, Philadelphia.

DELAUGHLY BROTHERS PRS.

Dated *Washn* *May 31* 1865

For *Mr. Sibley*

*As I can do*

*nothing more here*

*I will come home*

*Our Regts are leaving*

*upstate & are all*

*the first*

*A. J. Curtis*

*21 Coll 94*

*Cal State*

Harbg May 31 1865  
Hon E. Slifer

As I can do nothing more here I will come home our Regts are leaving repeatedly & are all the first 1.

A. G. Curtin



Hanama 10 Dec 1865

Dear Sir

I wrote you from  
Charleston once the day  
after my arrival here  
and I have your two very  
letters - Your letter came  
to hand yesterday -

I find my mind  
sure my pleasant in-  
cident of the fact that  
I get better every day

When I look back  
and reflect on the con-  
dition of my health I was  
fully convinced that this  
transition was necessary to  
save my life, or what would  
be worse the loss of the use  
of my limbs - I suffer every  
day - Am getting stronger  
and my legs move as my  
will indicates, and all



The distating part is  
leaving my home -

In justice to my  
family who we have not  
lost in my life and  
to myself I cannot leave  
to be home the part of  
saying anything  
has occurred on that subject  
let me have - Perhaps a  
meeting leading members  
of both parties, a meeting  
of the delegation, or some  
such course might be  
wiser - You must  
know be the judge of  
that - I will make  
some visit to the hospital  
Monday or Tuesday  
and then go into the  
interior of the island



We have the standards  
on the Allegheny papers  
and must submit them up  
but a copy of the present  
of the Standard they will  
be reasons you can un-  
derstand cannot come  
leading men in Pittsburg  
with the vindication. The  
intentionally (the Standard is  
not on good terms with  
many of the -

It is my hat this  
morning and the steam  
as about to sail - I wish  
the Standard was with  
you as no doubt you  
will be much supplied  
Take the responsibility  
and I will excuse what  
you do -  
be the subject of



my running but I don't  
wish to say a word and  
ask him to write the  
paper before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June  
It will neutralize the  
Telegraph -

I have not time  
to write you of late this  
morning -

I wish to live for my  
family and it has pleased  
God to surround me with  
a circle of friends so that  
I can't go home and so please  
say that I do not wish  
to leave this yet a while  
as ever

Truly yours  
Wm. G. Shippen

A. G. Cochrane

1865

Write me

Havana 16 Dec 1865

Dear Slifer

I wrote you from Charleston and the day after my arrival here and [presume?] you have my letters. Your letter came to hand yesterday.

I find my visit here very pleasant independent of the fact that I get better every day.

When I look back and reflect on the conditions of my health I am fully convinced that this transition was necessary to save my life, or what could be worse the loss of the use of my limbs. I [improve?] every day. Am getting stronger and my legs move as my will indicates, and all

[page break]

the distorting pain is leaving my spine.

In justice to my family who for [lage?] entrust in my life and to myself I must leave to be here the first of January and if anything more [has?] occurred on that subject let me know. Perhaps, a meeting leading members of both parties, a meeting of Pha delegation or some such devise might be useful. You must him be the visage of that. I will make a formal visit to the Captain [himself?] on Tuesday and then go into the interior of the Island.

[page break]

We have the slanders on the Alleghany pardons and must not let them up but a copy of the [illegible] of the Grand Jury and for reasons you can understand cannot [illegible] leading man in Pittsburg with the vindication. Unfortunately Coln Roberts is not on good terms with many of them.

It is very hot this evening and the steamer is about to sail. I wish Mr. Meredith was with you as no doubt you will be much perplexed. Take the responsibility and I will endorse what you do.

On the subject of

[page break]

my [retaining?] him. I [illegible] him Ferry a [illegible] and ask him to write the papers before the 1<sup>st</sup> Jany. It will initialize the telegraph.

I have not time to write McClure this morning

I wish to live for my family and it has pleased God to surround me with a circle of friends so steadfast, so true, and so forbidding that I do not wish to leave there yet a while.

As [illegible]

Trly Your Friend

A. G. Curtin

Hon. E. Slifer

write me



Honolulu 20 Dec 1863

Dear Miss

I cannot tell you how much we are disappointed at not receiving letters by the steamer yesterday - Mrs Curtis expected to hear from our family - I suppose our letters were too late at N. York.

I continue better altho not free from disease - My hands are stiff and I write with no little difficulty - but some having heard that a steamer gives out 10 dollars I write this in a book store - till Volants I am much in haste for this letter and will answer him by steamer Saturday - I could not be home now on 1st January and altho it is my duty to be here the fact that I will be absent at the meeting of the Legislature gives me much annoyance - Yesterday I was at the Palace and had a pleasant interview with the Captain Morrison and then dine with him next week we go to Matanzas to remain for a few days - My time is up -

Very your friend  
A. G. Curtis  
1863



Havana 20 Dec 1865

Dear Slifer

I cannot tell you how much we were disappointed at not receiving letters by the steamer yesterday. Mrs. Curtin expected to hear from our family. I suppose our letters were too late at N. York.

I continue better altho not free from disease. My hands are stiff and I write with no little difficulty. Just now having heard that a steamer goes at 10 O.C. I write this in a book store. Tell Roberts I am much indebted for his letter and will answer him by steamer Saturday. I could not be home now on 1<sup>st</sup> January and although it is my duty to be here the fact gives me much annoyance. Yesterday I was at the Palace and had a pleasant interview with the Captain General and will dine with him next week. We go to Matanzas tomorrow for a few days. My time is up.

Truly your friend

A. G. Curtin

P.S. I will be ready to go

Dear Sir

I found a letter  
would go this morning  
and write you - We  
go to Matanzas in  
the morning and the  
Steamer goes on  
Saturday so that you  
cannot expect a letter  
written after this

I wrote Mr. Plummer  
and Parents today and  
my house is tired -

Please tell Mr. Gray  
to put up some of the  
best papers and  
send me - I have  
put in a Penna paper  
since I left home -

I hope you will  
get along with the Lyellite  
note by each mail

With your friend  
Wm. C. C. C.

P.S. I wrote Mr. [Meredith?] on [Saturday?]  
Dear Slifer

I [found?] a letter would go this morning and write you. We go to Matanzas in the morning and the steamer goes on Saturday so that you cannot expect a letter written after this.

I wrote McClure and Roberts today and my hand is tired.

Please tell McClure to put up more of the [past?] papers and send me. I have not seen a Penna paper since I left home.

I hope you will get along with the legislature.

Write by each mail.

Trly your friend

A. G. Curtin





Worcester 28 Dec 1865

Dear Miss

Your letters of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> were read, but this morning could give me great pleasure indeed. I am no little surprised that you had not read any of my letters except the one written at Chelmsford. As I cannot the time you should have had three more. You would realize the blessing of a good sermon if you had spent two weeks here. You would appreciate education and Christian culture, and detest and abhor slavery. I am thankful I am that notwithstanding the thankless unjust and unmanly conduct of the national authorities during the war we stood steadfastly by our matchless hero. If I had been at home I would have advised you to take the privacy of your rail road even if you resigned but for one



consideration. You could not leave  
me without seeing, feeling, and hearing  
the exultation of the pack of whiffs  
that have surrounded us and persistently  
pursued and surrounded us. It is  
hard to imagine such an affair but  
you could not resign now. You  
know more than I can at this dis-  
tance but I cannot see that your  
resignation would have been ac-  
companying. If the applicant in York  
is the right man appoint him and  
this is authority for Colonel McFay  
to sign the commission.

You kindly mention  
the dinner of May. Of course  
it would be most gratifying to  
Mrs Louisa and me to have  
it done in our absence but I fear  
it cannot be accomplished. There  
might be opposition and it would  
drive Mrs Louisa mad to have  
it disrupted and made again  
the subject of public gossip.



Please consult the gentlemen about your course  
act as you think best. It must be  
done at any hazard, but I hesitate  
to involve others in a trouble so  
naturally and quietly my own

If I were is half a man  
he will out Bazaar and it is un-  
willing to say how I would feel -

By this time you  
certainly have my letters and are  
advised that I will not be home  
until late in February. It often occurs  
to me that my duty, considered I  
should be at home; but when  
I consider my impaired and an-  
nually health it seems hard to leave  
home. We had a long voyage  
out and for a week the climate  
seemed too hot for me, but now  
it acts on me like a charm. I  
am gaining flesh once gaining strength  
My legs are obedient to my will,  
and the pain in my spine which  
so distresses me is almost gone



If the Legislature does not adjourn  
no doubt you can make some  
arrangement to have him being done

I will write Mr. Durielett and  
ask him to go up and see with you  
before the voyage so far as it  
is possible in my absence.

Buy much attention to your  
writing. Tell - He is a clever  
man and if you can let him down  
do so.

Please ask Colonel McFar  
to write Constant Center Millington  
Center County that I am getting  
well - Do not neglect the edu-  
cation of the emigrants - Common  
will pay it if he can and a little  
work will be done - I wrote McFar  
to caution him on the subject.

Make any business requests  
to Burchard and to all the  
gentlemen about you who have been  
so true and faithful to me -

Very your friend

A. G. Putnam 1863



Matanzas 28 Dec 1865

Dear Slifer

Your letters of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> were recd. here this morning and gave me great pleasure indeed. I am no little surprised that you had not recd. any of my letters except the one written at Charleston. As I count the time you should have had three more. You should realize the blessing of a good government if you had spent two weeks here. You would appreciate education and Christian culture, and detest and abhor slavery. How thankful I am that notwithstanding the thankless unjust and unmanly conduct of the national authorities during the war we stand steadfastly by our matchless Government. If I had been at home I would have advised you to take the Presidency of your rail road even if you resigned but for one

[page break]

consideration. You could not leave me without serving, finding, and hearing the exaltation of the pack of [illegible] that have surrounded us and persistently [illegible] and misrepresented us. It is hard to imagine such an offer but you could not resign now. You know more than I can at this distance but I cannot see that your resignation would have been necessary - If the applicant in York is the right man appoint him and this is authority for Colonel McClure to sign the commission.

You kindly mention the dinner of May. Of course it would be most gratifying for Mrs. Curtin and me to have it done in our absence but I fear it cannot be accomplished. There might be opposition and it would drive Mrs. Curtin mad to have it discussed and made again the subject of public gossip.

[page break]

Please consult the gentlemen about you and act as you think best. It must be done at any hazard, but I hesitate to involve others in a trouble so naturally and spiritually my own.

If Knipe is half a man he will oust Bergman and it is unnecessary to say how I could feel.

By this time you certainly have my letters and are advised that I will not be home until late in February. It often occurs to me that my duty consulted I should be at home but when I consider my improved and improving health it seems hard to leave [soon?]. We had a long voyage out and for a week the climate seemed too hot for me, but now it acts on me like a charm. I am gaining flesh and growing strong. My legs are obedient to my will, and the pain in my spine which so distressed me is almost gone.

[page break]

If the Legislature does not adjourn no doubt you can make some arrangement to save harm being done.

I will write Mr. Meredith and ask him to go up and with you prepare the message so far as it is possible in my absence.

[I am?] much obliged to you for [saving?] Fell. He is a clever man and if you can let him down do so.

Please ask Colonel McClure to write Constance Curtin Milesburg, Center County that I am getting well. Do not neglect the composition of the convention. Cameron will pack it if he can and a little work will [head?] him. I wrote McClure to caution him on the subject

Make my kindest requests to Bomberger and to all the gentlemen about you who have been so true and faithful to me

Trly your friend  
A. G. Curtin



# The Western Union Telegraph Company.

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The Company will not be liable for damages in any case, unless the claim is presented in writing within ninety days after the mistake or neglect occurs.

working of their lines. Nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages, unless insured. Nor for mistakes or neglect of any other company over whose lines any message may be sent by this Company to reach its destination; and this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender of any message, to forward it over the lines of such other company.

Correctness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of this Company, can be insured, at the time of sending, by an agreement in writing, stating the amount of risk and payment of premium, at the following rates in addition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz:—One per cent, on such amount of risk for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent, if the distance exceeds 1,000 miles.

J. H. WADE, Pres't.

O. H. PALMER, Sec'y, Rochester, N. Y.

ANSON STAGER, Gen'l Sup't, Cleveland, O.

<p>No. _____</p> <p>To <i>Yoneli Slifer</i></p>	<p>From <i>Erie Pa</i> Dated <i>12</i></p> <p>Rec'd <i>12 1866 950P M.S.</i></p>
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*Say to Merwin I cannot now tell  
 come if possible & if impossible  
 say to him will make an extraordinary  
 effort The meeting here very large  
 I go to Titusville in morning & then  
 Meadville*

*A. G. Curtis*

*35 - col 1100 Chestnut*

Erie Pa 12, 1866  
Hon Eli Slifer

Say to Mercer I cannot now will come if possible & if impossible say to him will make an extraordinary effort the meeting here very large I go to Titusville in morning & then Meadville.

A.G. Curtin