





United States
Confederate States of America.

War Department,

Engineer Bureau,

near Richmond, Va.

C. M. Blackford, Esq.

September 21 1865

My dear Brother,

I want you to do me a favor which I think is always the condition of affairs between us. This one I think you will view as I do. Sometime in 1863, I borrowed \$203.⁰⁰ from Uncle Jim (Greenbacks) and last May an additional amount of \$158.⁷⁵, making 361.⁷⁵ in all. He appeared to me to do this most cheerfully. I gave him a note or due-bill, not bearing interest (according to his desire) and told him that as I was to receive \$125. per month, I thought I could send him \$60. or \$50. each month in liquidation. It turned out that the first month we received only \$100. salary and that of course taxed. Since I commenced work, ^{June 1st} I have received pay for 3 months, June, July & August. The pay now is \$125. per month, they promised to raise it to \$150. but have not done so yet. Out of June pay I sent him \$30. - In July, feeling uneasy about my health, and wishing to provide means of payment in case of my death, I insured my life for \$1000. to be paid me in full at the end of 15 years

to my heir in case I die before that time
This cost me \$61.96 and I wrote to inform Mr
Jim of it - Of my August pay, I sent him
\$40.⁰⁰ and the policy of assurance as a colla
security. In the mean time we kept up a very
animated, affectionate, & agreeable correspondence
On the 30th August before he received my August
instrument, and of course before my pay was
due me, he wrote me a very harsh & as I
threatening letter, saying that "we might as well
understand each other at once", that "it would
be better for me" and "save me future trouble
to be more prompt &c &c - It made me as
as possible, and my reply displayed some (but not
irritation - Of course this was wrong. I had no
right to show any feeling till I had discharged
obligation - Yesterday I received a very severe and
dignified letter in which he presses home his
barrage, throws in my teeth the circumstances of
case, trots me with his having neglected to check
me interest, & winds up by hoping that I will
means for a "speedy liquidation" of the "obliga
Now if there can be, considering all the circum
stances, a more thoroughly Yankee spirit than
I would like to see it. I have given you a
perfectly fair statement of the transaction.
Up to Sept. 1st I had received for salary (to
off) \$340.00 of this I had sent him \$40. I had
spent of insurance for his benefit \$2.⁰⁰ I had
given away to those more in need than I,

\$20 & then for \$100. This I can meet
live, and if I die the insurance
will place me under great obligations, and I have
always made it my mind never to be under
obligations to anyone but a brother -
I would like for you to show this to Eugene (&
no one else, and I feel sure that under
the circumstances he will lend his name for me
to discharge the debt that galls me so, but would
I pay the additional interest (2 per cent) I wrote
Eugene a day or two ago, asking him to execute
an important commission for me, please ask
him to let me know at once if he has received it
for I had a great suspicion of the channel through
which I sent the letter to the office. I offer you
my affectionate congratulations upon the safe
arrival of my nephew - Can't you name him after
me? All his kin down in my will - Give my best
love to Sister & Nannie I want to see them very
much. I am camped on your old trace at Col.
All Saints on "Guile" road, but the family are in

leaving \$158. for my expenses of board, clothing, &
hire, doctor's bill &c. for 3 months. You may
sure that I am in torture. till I can pay
off principal + interest at 8 per cent. In my
answer to his letter of yesterday, I maintain
the humble respect due from a ~~creditor~~ to a
to a Yankee creditor, regretted, and apolo-
for having displayed irritation previously, &
that I had no right to it &c. & requesting him
to send me the items of dates + exact amount
that I might send him the regular note bearing
at 8 per cent. - At the end of this month I
send him \$40. more. this will make \$110.⁰⁰
all; the balance due him, principal + interest
upto 1st Nov^r day, would be about \$290.⁰⁰
This amount I must raise somehow. I can
bear the obligation. My place here is good
till the end of winter, perhaps longer.
Can you not together with Eugene, get
that much accommodation from bank
day \$300. at 60 days. to be renewed for

Permanent? Your last
 letter of Dr being out on the
 day. Great folly! Great folly!
 The tombs of imprudent women
 have sacrificed to just one
 imprudence.

Did you get a letter from
 to Senty Minor ("Big Senty")?

W. Scarborough
 Westchester Co. N.Y.
 23rd Sept. 1865

C. M. Blackford
 Lyndburg
 Mo.

Dear Charly.

Yours of the
 15th Sept. has been received.
 I thank you for the trouble
 you have taken. There is now
 an agency for the road in N.Y.
 and I can ascertain from
 them all I desire for the future
 and will not have to trouble
 you again in the matter.
 I shall also write to Mobile
 directing my letter to the Capt. who
 I suppose will be the

person best informed in the matter
Your Mother thinks of leaving
her about the latter part of
next week or first of the
month following in company with
Mr & Mrs Mafsey who are going
to Edgewood; that is provided
they make no objection to
taking her, which I am fully
sure they will not. My mind is
well go with them. My mind is
our great inevitable evil on the
subject of our beloved country &
people (I mean of course our people
not the enemies you know) and I
don't trust myself with
our word upon the subject.

Your Mother's departure will be
a sore trial to me, as her
presence has been one of great
pleasure. As I get older esp.
= cially on such trials as these

I stay to my own people with the greatest freedom & opportunity
to our children & Mother who was almost like a mother to
me. Indeed I now live in the quiet of the present
house. Nothing is to be but peace; the future but the
cultivation of my people so far as regards everything which
I most prize. Let me know what I can do
for the friends you have taken in my behalf
Do not bear my father's delinquency in the matter. The woman
with the hair is as worthy of his hair as he of the
arms. He is an excellent night surgeon as
our dear mother said
In haste
Yr. affct. son
P. J.
Dear to the heart & consolation to you both on the
arrival of the little stranger. And the doctor think the young one

University of Va
Sept. 25, 1865

My dear Charlie,

Yours of 22nd rec^d. The address is "N York Life Insurance Co, 112 and 114, Broadway N York."

Dr Davis & the bridal party arrived duly, on Friday. To-day they had their first entertainment to-day at his brother Eugene's. Dabney is to give them a party (To-day was a dinner), Thursday evening, & we follow on Friday, or perhaps on Monday. I wish you & Sue could be at it. Ask Sue if she can't smother the baby for the time, come over in the morning, & go back by the night-train? Tell her we are anxious, it should not be a "tight" affair, in any sense of the phrase.

We are all well, and upon the hooks of expectation in res-

put to students, who are required
to drop in, one at a time.

Best love to Sue & the boys
Affectionately yours
John W. Minn

Dear Mr. Blackford Esq

Leopoldus
Verga

New Orleans

No 412 Magazine

Sep 20th 1865

My dear Charles

I received, last evening
yours of the 14th inst. & hasten to reply -

Accept, for yourself & mine, my cordial
congratulations on the advent of your
little boy -

Should we determine on going
to Va. we shall certainly stay a few
days at your house, when we will
welcome the little stranger in person.

The Bonds noted on the first page
of my schedule are Virginia State
Bonds. The list on first page commences thus
"Bond Va. No. 2004 March 23rd 1857 \$

" " 2005 " " " "

" " 2006 " " " "

&c &c

The sum of these bonds, as shown
on my copy of the schedule, is thirty
thousand & seventy dollars -

Now the 'Va' in that sent you, I suppose
is to be accounted for as an error in
transcript ^{was omitted,}

Let me know what you will do in my matter

I should have sent you the various scrip
but like not to entrust them to the mail.

Our present plan is to go hence to
N. York & there live for the present, or until
Virginia is or shall be in a better state of
organization, or until we go to Europe.

My own selection would have been
Charlottesville Va. with a view to the edu-
-cation of our children, but that accursed
Church of Rome, interloper, or rather is
not to be found near that seat of learning

Proceed in the matter of asking Clemens
for I cannot bring my self to use the other
word in connection with the most self-sacrificing
deed of my life.

I would my power were as great as my
will is good for the scrip of the whole
Yankee people.

Why are the southern people now like Lazarus?

Because they have been licked by dogs -
Love to Sue & the rest

Affectionately your uncle
B. M. Blackford Esq Lewis W. Minor
Synchbury Va

1845.
Richmond Oct 2

My Dr Sir.

When I reached Wash^{ton}
I went to the At. Gen's Office & found
your papers had but sent up
to the Post as well as my own
and accordingly I put in a
card for you. I then had to
wait until Saturday before
I could learn the fate of our
applications. On that day a list
of the names pardoned on Wed-
nesday was put out in the Hall
& both yours & mine were on it.
The Post told us that the warrants
would not be delivered to any
one for an absent man but upon
the reception of a letter contain-
ing a request and giving his ad-
dress it should be ^{not} forwarded
by mail. I could ^{not} get mine nor
did any with me as they could not
be made out in time but left my
address & trusted to his promise
you must therefore address the
Post a letter at once & you will
get your pardon.
I regret to say that my search
for lost papers here has been a

to cal failure & must do the
I can without them.

I have had an expansion trip
had I waited one week longer
might have been saved it is
as the present plan of giving
doubt is adopted to save the
from going to Washington

I shall go at home tomorrow

Love to Sue & believe me

Yrs truly

Ralph Col

Camp - Oct 2^d 1862

Dear Mother

I write in Quas
hate - Your letter received
Yesterday - many thanks -
we do as you say - My
Salary raised yesterday to \$150.
and rations. Man going
by to Richmond waits for this
note. Expect Mother here very
day. Yours affectionately

D. L. B.

Capt M. B.

[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper]

[Vertical strip of brown paper, possibly a label or binding reinforcement]

Wethersfield Oct 9th 1795
Mr W. A. Blackford

Dear Sir your
4th June to hand and I
hasten to reply - you did
not write upon what
terms Messrs Bawtree & Fisher
took proposed a settlement
he with some of my
other Creditors proposed
to send these claims
to an attorney in Va
and I place good claim
in the attorney's hands
for collection to be placed
to my credit on notes
& ac^{ts}. I was owing in
Baltimore in return I made
this proposition to my
Creditors in Baltimore
and I recommended you
as a suitable Lawyer

To attend to the claim
as I feared through
Lynchburg. I tried to
see but could not -
you have received such
information or instructions
about the claim send
please write me and
if you have received such
instructions as soon as
my wife's health is such
that I can leave home
I will come to you
city & make such arrange-
ments all of my papers
& bonds are at Mr
Pettus in Campbell
County please write to
me soon I remain
Yours
W. P. Bester

Mr John. M. Miller at the
City Bank is acquainted
with me

Chas M. Blackford Esq
Lynchburg Va

Bucklin Mo
Oct 2/65

Sir

Having some business
to attend to Mr Jas Williams of your City
referred me to you it is reference to
Estate of Wemy. E. Haynes Jm. S.
Yancey Administrator part of the
Estate is in Amherst Co My wife is the
Heir please inform me if you
can do anything in the matter and
what papers or proof you need

I Am Very Truly Yrs

Thos. M. Pryor
Bucklin Linn Co
Missouri
Estate is unsettled I believe

[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]