



Brother versus Brother

Primary Source

Transcription, Letter from Thomas Drayton To His Brother Percival Drayton, 1860

Charleston 7 Nov 1860

Dear Percy,

I cant [sic] say I am much better for I have been nearly run off my legs since my return.

Well, Lincoln is elected, and now for the end.

Agitation as it is, and such as it has been, is still on the increase, and all men South both fire-eaters and the moderate men, who have hung with tenacity and affection to the permanency of the confederacy and to maintain it as it was originally, now find that we cannot have peace and prosperity in the Union, and are now resolved to [?] it out of the union!

From present indications, I am convinced that, in a few more months, seven, if not more of the Southern States will have seceded. We are compelled to preserve this course. None deploras it more than I do, particularly as it will involve, what I had hoped never to have lived to see- divisions between brothers- who up to this moment, have been one in sentiment and devotion to each other. But Gods [sic] will be done. The present and approaching visitation of sorrow, crime and suffering, are due to the corruption of the land and our indifference to the glorious inheritance transmitted to unworthy sons. My father told me a few years before his death that the Government could not endure many years longer and that although he would not live to see the dismemberment, I might. The fulfillment is at hand. The triumph of the north will be short lived.

I have to be in Washington next week. You must meet me then. I will give you due notice. I now go for separation as the only security of the South. My judgement [sic] and feelings may have led me to think and decide erroneously. But I shall not waiver. I have no hope of new guaranties to protect us against a fanatical and unscrupulous majority. Misrule, contempt of law, word and religion crop out of the body politic, to the exclusions of honor, decency and truth. There is no sober, honest [?] thought strong enough to do justice, if appealed to. I shall attempt to [in]criminate no one Section. The whole people are to blame – and must suffer together. “Blessed is that [sic] nation whose lord is their “God.” May we soon believe it.

Good night for I am weary. Day after tomorrow, the mayor, alderman, etc etc return our visit in honor of the completion of the Railroad. It will be a more political than a railroad gathering.

A dispute about an egg, caused war among dwarfs – and abstraction, among giants.

I am in no temper for toast and celebration.

Yr affect [sic] brother
T F Drayton

Love to my mother and the rest of the family! God bless them all.