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(No. 1)

Chattanooga, Tennessee,

May 16<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Dear Coz:

Ha! Ha!! H!!! Coz! That sounds well. Of course I'm your cousin, to your friends at least. To others only a dear friend is it not so? There, if you will not flatter me I will myself. Did not know that I was so fond of flattery did you? Well you see it now. But I do not wish you to take pattern from this letter. As I like your style much better than my own.

You will see that I have numbered this letter. You leave it for me to say how often we shall write that is giving me an undue advantage, still I shall take it: the advantage. I had been upon the point of speaking of the same thing myself, more than

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once. Then I would think it was a shame for me to ask you to devote any stated portion of your time to a nobody, like me.

I propose – if it meets your approval, that we write each week. I know I am asking a great deal but there. I am far away from home and homes friends. And love so much to receive letters from old friends. What say you, shall it be one letter per week or as your proposed, one in two weeks? I will leave to you. In the meantime I shall try and write as often as I proposed.

Be still, my bursting heart – go away from me hard-tack. I have no use for you now. My appetite is gone – gone entirely – Bring the Camphor bottle I am fainting. Orpha! Orpha! How could you be so cruel. I am undone. What is there to live for now. I shall certainly commit Susanside(?) [sic] Bring me my razor, no a pistol I mean – a Pistol won't do – go and get the butcher knife or what is better, "tie me on the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel!" Give me your full sympathy as I am very much in need of it. I am going down to the Barbers to get my Mustache dressed in mourning. Oh! How I feel.

You had a busy day of it attending church on that sabbath! And I Poor I. I got up in the morning attended roll call, went to the stable, fed my horses. Came back to my quarters Eat my breakfast. Went to the stable – groomed my team – harnessed them came back to tent washed combed – blacked my boots – went to the stable – brought my team out – hitched my team to the gun – then came Sunday morning Inspection – which lasted 3 hours. Came back to camp unhitched, unharnessed – And went to water. After water came dinner – then roll call – then feed call – Then wrote two letters. Watered my horses – groomed them – Eat supper attended retreat(?) roll call – And then went and fed my horses. What say you, did I not have a busy day of

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It? That is the rest we get every Sabbath.

So you are going to board second(?) are you. Say, will you punish me if by sending me to sit with the big girls if I come to your school and do not behave myself.

Yes, I remember Horace, I was personally acquainted with him. I had forgotten that he was a prisoner, and in the hands of fiends. How I do detest the people of the north that preach leniency towards traitors and fiends. What! Will they take the snake that has bitten them, and place it in their bosom for shame. But upon all such I will have nothing to do with them. I do not wish to set my eyes upon one such.

I had forgotten to tell you your letter dated May 1<sup>st</sup> came to hand today.

Yes, there are many of that noble land that have given up their all for their country. Even their lives. And willingly too. I

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get angry and excited when my attention is called to the fact for then I think of the traitors at home and had it not been for them there would not been one half of the blood spilled that there has been.

Yes, I hope and pray that President Johnson will be more severe with the rebels than was our beloved President Abraham Lincoln. And surely he will be. He has felt their iron hand upon his brow his native state calls loudly for retribution and surely he hears the call.

The time of our battery expires on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October next. Many think we will be mustered out ere that time. Now that the rebellion is crushed. I for one wish to go home and hope that I may be permitted to do so.

I do not wish to write to Miss Perkins unless I am sure of an answer. So I guess Lottie will be as much as I can attend to in Waymont(?) Pa.

Of course you must give me a description

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home and “our family.” I shall expect it next time.

There goes "water call" I must close. Will come again in a few days.

My love to cousins  
Your doting Coz  
George L. Young

Miss Lottie L Lasher  
Waymont Pa  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 1865