

Cincinnati 17 Aug 1844

My Old Friend Shedd,

How are you by this time?

Located, married, making pills & rolling in western clover I suppose. Very well, go ahead while you are young. Have not heard from you since we parted 3 yrs ago, until a line fr. your bro. This morn told your whereabouts, - did not suppose you were out west, but think you wise in going there. I love that glorious prairie country. It is fine for doctors. There is much to praise in the spirit of the people, where the hunting gentry have retired.

But you must know what I have been doing since we met. Studied dentistry - practiced 20 months in Chipp. fond of my profession - up here to spend 7 or 8 wks. of sickly season. Stayed there last summer - had lots of chill & fever that sickly season. Like the climate all but 3 mos. in year - but not the society - are somewhat southernized, but as much as ever opposed to slavery and a little more so - it is a monstrosity, the more seen the more ugly - - Came here & spent 3 wks. last Dec. at an C. S. sewing soc. meeting one eve, introduced by friends Dr. Knowlton & Newton as Dr. B. fr. Chipp. - acted the southerner in the most unfeeling manner imaginable, defending sl. in discussion with them an hour, all the while relating stories of the cruel treatment &c. I had seen or heard there, its workings &c. Such feelings of indignation you can't begin to conceive of - one lady said to another 'he's a real southerner, he looks like a slaveholder, I can't bear to look at him' - at length one lady unable to stand it longer left the room and nearly all the others had the big tears in their eyes. Mr Smith, at whose house we were, just giving me over as an incorrigible slave, was obliged as I perceived, to order me to quit his house, and having carried it as far as I wished, stopped it by telling them that I was as good an abolitionist as any of them - the affair understood was followed by such a fun & laughter as you never did hear - one of the richest scenes I ever enjoyed - laugh every time I think of it - soon the lady mentioned above said to her neighbor 'I've taken another look at him he looks a good deal better now' - some of them kept their husbands awake half the night with the relation of it, &c.

To make amends sent one of them \$3 to aid the soc. for the relief of destitute emigrants to Vic's land of liberty.

The liberty party here are getting along swimmingly. In a new-resistant & Pawierite in the abstract - intend to visit the phalanx at Clermont soon. Parson Miller is holding an 8 days meeting at the 100 ft. square tabernacle here.

It is often said that U.S. movements have made the condition of the slave worse - not true - they are better fed, clothed, & less harshly treated generally, than they were 10 yrs. ago - they have more preaching such as it is - I know several planters, who care no more for the gospel than the Turks, who this year pay a pretended preacher \$50 to preach to slaves on their plantations - the gospel they give 'servants be obedient &c.' is beneficial to the master, operating on the fears of the ignorant slave who is told if he disobeys his master God will punish him with eternal scorching - - Although a strong believer in good old high toned Calvinism, I am somewhat disposed to think that the slaves should be saved, any how, not because they are so good but for being no worse - exposed as they are to double concentration of everything to make men bad.

The state of society is improving at the south. A debating society in the country had for a question lately that of the north, 'Which is the greatest evil slavery or the use of ardent spirits,' and became so interested in it that they deferred it for continuance at another meeting. - You can't imagine the contempt I feel for those northern scoundrels, who go to the south pretending to preach the gospel - they usually are the worst advocates for slavery - lately heard one of these infamous gentry say in a crowd that all the sin of slavery was in the abuse of it. I know several nigger catchers with dogs who are infinitely honorable men compared with these clerical renegades - They'll get their reward, that's some consolation. Most of intelligent planters freely admit that all men are created with equal rights - that slaveholding in itself is sinful &c. but excuse themselves as best they can. I know men owning hundreds of slaves or nearly that number, who say that Johnny L. is perfectly right in all he has said & done on this subject in congress.

A dental convention was held here last week, & the Mississippi Valley Association of Dental Surgeons formed, of

which I had the pleasure & honor to become a member. It took high ground and will do much to elevate dental science & practice in the south & west. Only about half of the dentists of this city were invited to attend the convention - there are some quacks & humbugs here as elsewhere. Dr. Cooke pres. of the soc. Rogers, Taylor, Allen &c. officers - No member rec. who can't stand an examination by a committee, and get 2/3 the votes of members present. A City Dental soc. was formed ¹⁸⁴² ₁₈₄₀.

I like Cin. its good eating &c. - no Graham epicure - but the stuff I've eaten at southern hotels, horribile dictu!!! When bacon is scarce or dear in the summer they gather large quantities of animal off-
stables of different kind & sizes with the cabbage greens, & boil them as a substitute for bacon. I have seen two of the fine plump fellows 1/2 inches long in a small quantity of cabbage intended for my own stomach, but not according with my notions (Graham), did not take it - well the next morn I tried there another of the anti-vegetables was conspicuous on the top of the pile, and I don't know how many under it! When grease is plenty in winter they mix the corn bread with it, shines like a cat's eyes in the dark & won't hold together to break in pieces - in summer a weevil 1/4 inch long & very numerous ground with the corn is a good substitute for the grease, imparting to the bread a peculiar flavor - I have seen the bug (weevil) on the table alive & kicking. When they have none of these the corn dodgers are brick bat things, and with the India-rubber biscuit make one feel as tho' he had dined on pebbles mixed with iron filings.

Do you know where any of our college friends are - Estlin, Hayes, Walcott, &c. &c. some of them I suppose are west. Downer is practising law at Milwaukee. Where is Richard?

Now friend Thedd, as I have filled a big sheet - please pay me in kind, soon as convenient. I shall stay here 5 or 6 wks. my P.O. south is Raymond, Third Co. Miss. I would rejoice very much to see you but this can't be at present. Let me know your sea port on the river, and in what part of the Ter. you are &c. how you like there - how St. L. is getting along &c. &c.

Your bro. supposes you were married 2 mos. ago. If so success to you - stay honey-moon last half a century, and you raise a fine lot of Hawk-eye brats to rejoice your hearts and luxuriate on the prairie,

Please make my compliments to Mrs. Stoddard, and tell her an old friend of your boy who might have married many warm Yankee than generally.

I have engaged a French gentleman, Danville, Vermont the study of French, No. 10. I'll get a night's instruction of it in 5 weeks, as I have but little to do except to make half a dozen blank jobs. Perhaps a knowledge of the may do me no good, but if I go to New Orleans or France abroad it may come in good use. By the way, I have met with several very fine young ladies here, and last night (was) called with Dr. Knowlton on Miss Jackson a doctor -



Dr. George Thedd
 Denmark
 Lee Co.
 Iowa Terr.

Aug 21 - Liberty meeting at Court House last night - The way Lewis raved Clay up salt river on the tariff, compromise, slavery, Chipewin question, Texas &c. was a caution.

Now, friend Thedd, just write me a hall letter soon, and direct to this goodly city. If you meet with a Yankee of the right stripe who wishes to visit South America 2 or 3 yrs. hence (western coast) please inform me. I'll not stay south many years - a man had better live here 5 yrs. and die; than to spend a long life at the south.

Sincerely your friend
 A. Perry