

Coast Guard Office
Monday 1 pm
April 29 1861

My dear Miss Lane

I have yr little note, enclosing the letter to Capt. Lee. I shall take proper care of it, have it sent to him today or tomorrow to Richmond where I am almost sure he is now. He bid us goodbye on Thursday evening _ it affected us all very much – on Friday [sic] I allowed Mrs Palmer (you know I cannot object to any wish of hers) to drive with my niece Angela Turner, a young lady of 19, who is connected to Mrs. Robt. E. Lee, to Arlington – I felt there was no danger in going there, they found U S soldiers at Washington end of [Long?] Bridge and 2 Virginia sentinels at the Toll gate in the road to Arlington. They, Mrs. Robt. E. Lee said, were placed there “to prevent provisions leaving the State of Virginia” – but on crossing the bridge as they returned who should they meet but our friend Capt. Lee, he was sitting on a trunk in a wagon, wearing a slouched hat given by one of the Virginia “poor white men” & five or six other trunks were piled up in the wagon beside and around him.

Miss Palmer, (& you also had you been with her), shed tears. I cannot say more –

I shall only hope he may not have cause personally to repeat the very serious step he has taken!

I am one of the sanguine & hopeful few who feel a confiding hope & belief, nay a conviction, that we shall yet avoid a bloody war. As I trust may be right in this – that if separation must take place, it may be peaceful_

I believe peace to be a blessing, war a curse and of all war, a civil, fratricidal war, the most horrible. – God grant it may yet be avoided. –

But I have inflicted too long a letter, or rather scrawl upon you – because so indistinct a letter, I have to write at Rail Road speed. – Remember us both most kindly to your uncle, and believe dear Miss Lane very many here miss you greatly. If I can in any way within my limited power be of any service to you here --

pray command your
true & sincere friend
W R Palmer

Miss Lane

P.S. The time has gone by for taking Washington & [?] vigorous [?]. from 19 to 24? we had in all left them 4000 men here, now we have 14. & 14 thousand more coming along. – Mr Anthonys little R. [Sland], has sent some very fine looking fellows here, the dandy 7! of New York – the white gloved fellows are here –

WRP

P.S.no2

Do write me another little note soon. -



LancasterHistory

P.S. The time has gone by for taking Washington by one vigorous jab, from 19 to 24. We had in all less than 4000 men here, now we have 14. & 14 thousand more arriving along. -- Mr. Anthony's little R Island, has sent some very fine looking fellows here, the dandy of New York -- the white gloved fellows are here --

W R P.

P.S. no2

Do write me another little note soon.____

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