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MC073: Folder 26: William Joseph Palmer to Thomas Sharp Palmer 1859 August 18

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Charleston, South Carolina
Omnibus Office August 1859

Dear Brother Tom;

Your letter of first of August came to hand this morning which I hasten to answer. I was under the impression Kate and I owed you letters. I am going to try and get out of debt by writing immediately. Kate, I suppose will have to owe you a while yet, as her physician has forbidden her writing for some time yet. She had a fine boy about a month since. The doctor thinks she will improve more if she is careful, which I hope will prove true. I am very sorry to hear of your losses but hope they wont prove serious. I am always find it bad to trust business out of my sight for long at a time and I believe it is so the world over. Business with us is dull at present but we are looking for likely times in a month from this date if cotton will only keep up. Our business was better last winter and spring than it has been for years. It helped us in our debts very much. We have had some of the hottest weather this summer I ever saw, then it rained every day for two weeks. It has now cleared off and is very pleasant and agreeable. We have one of the prettiest Batterys in the world, with fine dives, promenades and etc. with a fine Band of music which commences at 6 PM every fine evening. Thousands meet there every evening and spend a couple of hours in diving, promenading dancing. It is really a pleasant sight to see how they enjoy themselves, particularly the children. Kate's cousin, John Ward, Sissy and me were there last night.

Politics are very quiet here, altho the outsiders are trying very hard to stir us up. I am very glad to hear you are not mixing them for I fully believe it is as you say "Dog eat Dog," at least as far as the Northwest is concerned, if we are to judge by the tone of some papers and letters received by the Editors of our papers from some of your Western folks. I was shown some letters written and some papers sent to one of our Editors the other day and of all the low cant and vulgar blackguardism I ever read they beat. They were from Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. Some of them appeared to think it would not be safe for a douglas man to come to the Charleston Convention for fear of being eat up by a mob. Others said they were coming by the thousands and tens of thousands all armed with Colts Revolvers, and Bowie knives to COW us under and all such d--- nonsense. The blackguardism and braggadocia I wont pretend to give

you an idea of. I did think once I would send you some of the papers but thought you saw enough of such stuff.

All I have to say is this, you can tell the sensible and respectable portion of your people (and the rest can go to the devil for me), that such a thing as a Mob has never been known in South Carolina, (and if it ever is it will I think, be an importation from the West, judging from those letters I spoke of.) Tell your people to come to the Convention, to come breathing the spirit of Sensible men and Gentleman and I will guarantee not a hair of their heads will be hurt. They will find the Sons and Daughters of the gallant old Palmetto not only brave but kind and courteous as any ever the sun shone upon. They can leave their pistols and Bowie knives at home, they wont need them. (I intend to take the delegates of old Richland County, Ohio, to my home) but on the other hand if they are hunting a row and are spoiling for a fight (as some of them say) tell them to bring on their Bowie and their shooting irons and they can be accommodated to their hearts content. They will find old Carolina can be as terrible in battle as she can be kind and hospitable in their drawing rooms. But enough of this. We are all in first rate health but Kate. Sissy has been some sick but is doing fine now.

I received a letter from our folks sometime since, they were all well. Our city is very healthy, only one white death the last week and 9 blacks, 10 in all. Give my love to cousin Nancy and the children. Kate joins in much love to all. Also remember us in love to John and family.

Truly your brother
Will Palmer