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**MC073: Folder 34: Catherine Palmer to Thomas Sharp Palmer 1861 March 1**

*This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record. Please note that this transcription has not been reviewed for final editing. Please contact us with any questions.*

Charleston SC  
March 1st, 1861

Dear Brother Tom

You said in your last that brother John spoke of Volunteering to come down South to fight us, well, I must say that we will give him his fill of it if he is over anxious -- perhaps you had better come along with him if it would be for your wholesome come on. You said my letter smelled of gun-powder, if it did it was only natural. I assure you Tom, that I dont wish to quarrel with you or brother John, but far, far from quarreling do I feel. I will be glad to see John, let him come as he will, tell him this for me. I am and always will love him as my Elder brother, come what mey. Tom, this is a serious time, the Crisis has come. Oh, I hope we will be settled somehow soon. I do wish they would fight or settle in peace. I am two feet taller since my dearly loved State has taken her sublime position. Oh, how justly proud we feel of her. Thank God I was born a South Carolinian, a Secessionist or Rebel as you Northerners call us. The Floating Battery that terrible instrument of Death, is launched. She is not yet quite Armed, several Dalgreen Guns and Mortars came yesterday to be put on board of her. May God guide us on to Victory. May Death and Confusion reign supreme in the Camp of our foes. May each hand raised to strike us, wither. If Justice and the Palmetto is not have Victory, we can with our own hand fire our Casket and teach our young to hate Republicanism as their fathers and mothers did. With our last breath, yes, we will teach them to hate you, hate the enemies of the South and her institutions. If our men all fall, for to a man all Old and you who is at all able to shoulder a musket, is ready and in the field, if they fall the women must and will take their place. Tom, if they are annihilated then our children will do as those before them did, -- but subjugate us never, never as long as one Southerner lives.

Enough of this. I get carried away when I think of how much we have submitted to for peace. Oh, that I had not been born in the United States. Oh, why did we not throw off the galling yoke before this. Wont you congratulate us on having a President who is not a Coward. He can come and go without disguises. I should think you all would feel particularly proud of the Rail Splitter's arrival in Washington, in cog. Oh dear, left his wife and children to come on a Train on

which he was afraid to trust his precious self. I suppose he must be ashamed of the good natured wife, who when she shakes hands say, hellow, how do you flourish?

Well, now brother Tom, suppose we stop talking Politicks to each other for I do not think it pays for brother and sister to differ so Goodbye, Polly. Now if you say any more about them, I woman-like, will have the last word, depend upon it. Give our love to Sister Nancy, why dont she write. Kiss the children for Uncle Will and Aunt Kate. Dont let Walter forget me, please. Our love to John and family, little Mary, how is she. Write soon, dear Tom, for it makes me happy to hear from you, so do be accommodating, Now I remain as ever

Your loving sister Kate