

Copy of Letter to
Henry Antetua
Dec 1st 1861

In Richmond Va.
A Prisoner of War

Detroit Dec 1st 1861

My Dear Brother

Yours of November 13th was
duely received. And warmly welcomed.
We are very greatly relieved to find your
spirits so good. And must acknowledge you
keep well. And that your situation will
be apt to clothe Liberty with a very pleasing
form. But all enjoyments are increased
by contrasts. Let us hope that ~~hope that~~
your (somewhat slow at present) will ^{be enlarged by the} ~~partake~~ of
the preparation. Above all things endeavor
to avoid dependency. It always astounds the
observer to notice the different effects of mis-
fortune on different persons. Some with a resolute
will. And an apparent determination to rise
above ^{surrounding} circumstances, ~~and~~ and to make the best
of their misfortunes. One always in good spirits
and shed a warm healthfull influence on
all around them. Others nearly always dependent
and always without cheerfulness. But I will not
paint the picture. I am well aware that you

Own reflections will teach all & more than
I have written. But there are some things
that it is well to be reminded of. I suppose
you are all at a loss to kill time. But
your ingenuity will not doubt furnish the
means. I suppose most of you will be
proficients in Chess, Draughts, and the
Languages. This last would be spending your
time to some purpose. You no doubt have
German & French who would be glad of
occupation, and a chance to earn a trifle.
Or if you can get books, there need be no
suggestions from me. If any of these things
or money can be sent, I will gladly
furnish them. As I wrote you. George
has given up his Hotel as a failure. But is succeeding
beyond my expectations in his new business. William
has sold out the Store and is now with me. Both
are in the best of health. Mr. Colton is in the
Oil Regions and doing well. He will remain
there till spring. Matilda is in the mean time
spending the time between
visiting with Mr. Coltons sister at Salisbury
and us in this place and her home.

John Swann is doing well and is in
the best of health. George is as usual. And
Maria no better ^{in health} than when you were here.
Her sister Mrs. Spence is dead. Mr. Spence
and the Children are residing at his Mother's and
are well. Ellen & Mattie are at home and in
their usual health. But Mattie will go with
Matilda after this week for the ~~rest~~ rest of the
winter in Dr. Johns. Maggie and the Children
are all hearty. The Children often ask when
Uncle Henry is coming home. Chas. & Jimmy
are two as sturdy little fellows as can be seen of
their ages. Henry & Ella have as many vicarries
as ever. Both go to School and learn as fast as
Children of their ages.

Your Brother
Jas. S. M.