

From Powell Clayton to John Halderman

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Headquarters U.S. Forces at Pine Bluff,  
Pine Bluff, Ark[.], Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> 1864

Dear Halderman[.]

Your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> is received. I am surprised to learn that you have deferred, still further, your return to this place. When you left, you remember, you said you would be here by the 1<sup>st</sup> of Aug. I am afraid you are allowing yourself to be too much allured by the "Flesh Pots of Egypt." Your interests here I think are being properly attended to by Mr. Benjamin[.] I suppose he has informed you that the cotton [worm?] is playing the devil with your crop. Everything here, in a military point of view[.] is action. [Magruder?] with 15,000 men has set himself down at Monticello and talks big of attacking Pine Bluff. I believe, however[.] that

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that his [programme?] is to distract our attention from Price[']s movements in Missouri, of which[.] I suppose, you have later information than I am able to give you.

"Bully" for Sherman, he is prosecuting the war "In Secundum Artem." I believe he is the greatest general in America. Your views with reference to the duty of Loyal men at the coming Presidential election coincide with my own. Had I a vote, I could not, with any consistency cast it for men representing a party, whose only hope of success, is based upon National disaster. At this Junction, it is the duty of all Patriots, independent of past party predilections, to vote for Lincoln and Johnson. Your letter upon this subject, so fully expresses my own views, that I will not dwell longer upon it. I agree

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with you in saying that slavery should die. It was the cause of the war, and now that we have it in hand, it should not be left to trouble us hereafter. We cannot further temporize with this rebellion. The day for conciliation has passed[.] These traitors should now feel the full weight of our arms, to the Extent of Subjugation, and if necessary, Extermination.

I would like very much to be with you and our old Leavenworth friends, for a few weeks, once more, but do not know when I shall have that pleasure. Remember me kindly to [text stricken through] all friends. I hope to see you [here?] soon. Don't let "Pap Price" get into Kansas.

Yours truly[.]  
Powell Clayton