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Taylor, Henry Clay, 1838?-1864
[s.l.]: [s.n.], [unpublished]

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Forest Home Sunday Nov 16th 1862

Dear Henry

It is almost choir time
and I have only time to send a
list of the articles we send you
by T. F. Strong Jr. who is to start
in the morning - They are as follows

1 pr. Drawers	Presented by John
1 Shirt	" " Ed
1 pr Mitten	Mother
1 " Socks	"
1 Night Cap	Mary
1 pr gloves	Father
1 plug Tobacco	"
1 Bottle Mustard	Mother & Mother-in

one silk Hockfr.

Also puts in fine cut & what do I
do not know - The plug is to carry
in your pocket to use when you can't
get fine cut.

We have left back 1 pr drawers 1 shirt
& 1 pr of socks to send by Capt. Green

I shall write you by mail and
 send the same list of articles -
 I hope they will all come through
 safe. The mail time has changed
 and I may not get my letter in
 so as to go in the morning - Mary
 will write, and mail a letter to
 night. It is growing dark and
 I can write no more. So good bye
 from Father

51 1/2

21
 10
 107 7
 24
 10
 4 36
 4 21
 5

718
 84 4
 43
 7 35
 1 37
 2 2
 7 16
 9 17
 4 40
 27 4
 116
 9 16

[1863, July 13]

Forest Home July 13th Monday Evening 1/2 past 9 o'clock

Dear Henry

I have just lighted Capt. Edwards into your Bedroom. He came in the cars this P.m. - I harnessed Willie into the old Buggy and drove around Town with him, come home had a pleasant chat - drank a glass of wine - wished Henry was here + c. I like him very much, and the fact that he is your friend makes him seem quite near to us. The evidence that he is your friend is very conclusive I think. I mailed a very short letter to you to day calculating of course to write by the Capt. But it is bed time, and I will write more tomorrow as Capt. E. intends to start tomorrow night -

Tuesday Morning July 14th 9 o'clock I have been mowing in the lot by Scribners - the Capt. has gone down to call on Mrs. Holabing - and I am to meet him at Agros shop at 10 - We are to dine with Mrs. E. A. Carry to day

The following are the prices of your outfit -

Sword, Sash & belt -	\$ 39.00	
Clothes at F. & E.	32.00	one for garters by Capt. E. \$ 2.00
Heat 3. Gloves 1.	4.00	
		75.00

All but the sword & were sent by Kelsoy and the Capt. takes that in regard to the sword I wish to remark that I think it too expensive an article for common use and if Agro had have consulted me before he ordered it I should not have been in favor of getting one so costly - at regular retail price the rig would have cost \$ 50.

- But it is bought & paid for and I will only say further in
regard to it, keep it as nice as you can, only make it do its
duty in time of need, but I do hope you may never have occasion
to draw a brother countrymans blood with it, although to for the
time being is in arms against his country. Dudley has not
charged quite a full profit on the clothes - on ac of old acquaintance
I suppose. The hat cost far more than the usual price of those
used for that purpose on ac. of its fineness, as none other
of the right size could be found & that was one or less than 7 in.
but I tried it on & thought it would fit you - I was much
relieved the night that Kelsey left by learning by the Capt. that you
had got straps with you - I must go and meet the Capt.
Half past four P.M. I have spent most of the day with Capt. E.
Self, Agis & Emma took dinner with him at E.^{ds} We have been around
& picked up some little things for him to take along. I came home to
help get in some hay and left him with Agis who is to come out
take tea at 5 - here they come. You will find I have put in
a pr of shoes, which makes all your requests except the dog skin
gloves which the Capt. will try to find in Chicago. The Smoking tobacco
- acc is from your old friend whos name is on it. The Shaving
& the ~~penicils~~ are from home. Supper is ready -
It is 6 o'clock we have all sit at the table with your
friend. The things are packed and he will be off in
half an hour. I could say much to you, but I cannot
write more now and will bid you a goodbye with a
 fervent wish that you & your friend may meet us all
again at our dearest home - Mother always sends
love to you. With much love from your Father
J. M. Taylor

Monday morning Aug. 17th It is a cloudy sultry morning
No far as I know the friends are all well. I have a little
trick of Abolitionism but I think I will direct it off before
night. I would like well to know how you are
this morning - and hope not to look in vain for
a letter which I send - Good bye from
Forest Home

Forest Home Monday Evening Aug. 10th 1863

Dear Henry

I sent my weekly messenger to
day, and have to go to bed again without
hearing from my son. This is unpleasant
but I must be patient and wait.
This has been a pleasant day, & quite warm.
I have been at my usual avocation, ^{filling}
Rollin Parkell called this P.m. Took I
with us. Rollin has been to Vermont
and it is the first time I have seen
him since he returned - He sold all
the friends there and had a pleasant
time, but says no money would induce
him to go back there to live - it looked
too much like Sunday there, all the week
for him. O dear - it rains again and
my wheat is out, and is like to stay out.
Mother has been out of town some
to day - nothing serious I hope -
I must go to bed with her - so good night.

Wednesday Evening Aug. 12th

I have been to the Post Office twice to day, and shall continue to go or send until Saturday. Then it will be one month since we rec^d. your last letter, and if I do not get an other by that time - I will - - well I will wait as patiently as I can until I do get one. But I have done watching the Carrs. for the present, for I met Deg. Cane yesterday and he told me he rec^d. your compliments by way of a friend of his the 2^d. inst. - That cured me of looking for you this week - Well - My colt got hooked yesterday & I have taken him away from the horns - after the horse was shot the door was locked & A bad gash in the rump - if it had been in the side or belly it would have ruined him up - I have been doging Gease out of my lot almost every day for a week, and to day I used 2 charges of small shot and there were 3 gees that could not go alone so I brot them up sent one to Arzo one to Em, & one for ourselves & you, if you will

Thursday Evening Aug. 13th A pleasant Evening
We heard by letter from Capt. Owen to Daddy,
rec^d. this Evening, that Henry was well on
the first inst. - This is well, but a line
from Henry himself would have been
more pleasing to us of course. E^d and
Mary dined with us to day 'right on the go'
Emma took Tea with us. Mary has
settled the question about your coming
home - She says 'Henry is just as likely to
come one day as another' - On that I
rest. I hear that the opinion is very
current in your department, that you
will all be home in a few months -
I wish I could think so - but I have
strong fears that much fighting must
be done yet before the leaders of
this rebellion give up - If the People
in the South - I mean the common
people - could have their say - it might
be soon ended, and I do wish it
may be so - Time will determine
But I think we shall want to see you home
before the troubles are ended -

Friday Pm. It is warm and I have
been resting awhile. I met Esqr. Mudgeley
this Am and he had just rec^d. a letter from
his son - by which I learn you were to
march Monday or Tuesday this week, with
a prospect of a fight ahead. Also that
you have thieves in camp - and that
E^d Gould had lost his money &c. If I
had command of that Camp I think
I should institute a Police force in
it is too hot to write and I will stop -

Sunday Aug. 16th one o'clock Pm
I have just read your Long & good letter
of July 9th which was rec^d. one month ago
yesterday, and the very last letter any of
us have received from you. It is
interesting to read a good letter any time
but more so when ~~you~~ one is under
the necessity of reading an old one
for the want of new one to read.
Well I do not know what to make
of it. that we do not hear from you -
But I can assure you of one thing - it
makes some Long faces here abouts -

1863 Aug 10

At Belvoir John & Emma have called
 since I commenced writing. Our girl is
 having a mad fit to day & threatens to leave.
 Volney Chapman was buried yesterday. He
 was married to a Miss Hawkins 3 weeks
 ago - his disease was inflammation of the
 stomach - you may imagine the primary
 cause. When I inform you that he has
 not or rather had not changed his
 former habits - another victim of poor
 whiskey - Poor fellow, an object of pity.
 I met Capt. White the other day and
 he said he was much disappointed in
 not having heard from Capt. Edwards.
 Mr Gould, folks too, are wondering
 why they do not hear from E. I
 don't Mr Fuller yesterday - he says
 French writes in his last letter that
 through some error on the payroll
 Henry Taylor did not draw his pay.
 I cannot imagine how this could
 happen when you was on command of
 the company - will you explain it?

XX

When a Woman is too loving constantly
 fawning, forgetting perhaps that she is weak
 & frail, it is often disgusting to a man,
 while a ~~with~~ proper reserve on her part
 might think well of her, and respect,
 of not love her. So among friends—
 sometimes perhaps too much feeling
 is exhibited in acts, words, and writing.
 My son; if you discover any thing of
 that in your Father, which you may have
 already done, you must overlook, in
 an old man, what perhaps would
 appear ~~and~~ worse in one younger. You
 are a man, but I can only feel to-
 wards you as my child. therefore
 inasmuch as I write a great deal
 to you — you must not expect it will
 all be entirely congenial to the
 taste of a man of your age and
 experience. — saying nothing about the
 many repetitions that must occur in
 my letters. But I do not know as
 you get my letters of late, for I hear nothing
 from you — When shall I receive with

the sincere love of your Father
 Wm Taylor

Forest Home Sunday P.M. Oct. 18th 1863

Dear Henry

This is a cold raw windy day - Emma called this morning lest she might not get a chance to call to day - John has been sick - had a 'bloody flux' the past 3 days - is about over it now. We hear by way of Mr Curran that one of their friends from Illinois a prisoner taken at Chickamauga has written from Libby Prison - and we are encouraged that we may hear from you soon. Capt Edwards has been in Town a week but has not yet called on us. I have met him once and Agn met him the other day. He told us both he intended to call - He acts rather strangely I think. This fall weather does not agree with me I have been troubled with rheumatism and am feeling rather old. I think I shall have to resign and retire to a more quiet life. But the trouble is I have no one to take my place, and I do not know when I shall have - I reckon I had better stop awhile -

Evening 6 o'clock E. & Mary took dinner with us this P.M. The wind blows cold; Willie came up and asked for shelter from the wind and I put him in the Barn. I have not been away from home to day - have tried to imagin how Henry is situated to day but imagination is at fault again. Four weeks ago this night commenced a new era in your life - from the best information I can get you were captured about the middle of the P.M. - I hope to hear all the particulars from your own mouth some time - I have often tried to imagine how you felt on the occasion, and how you were treated - and how you behaved yourself when you had to give up that nice sword. I hope that some one may get it that will in turn be a prisoner that it may in time come back to you - If a reasonable amount of money will restore it, it shall come back and be kept as a memorial of that day of desperate fighting. One thing consoles me you did not dishonor it. God night may God bless you this night -

Tuesday Evening Oct 20th One month my son has been a prisoner and I read in the papers to night, that the Commissioners for the exchange of Prisoners have got into some disagreement, and that all exchanges are discontinued for the present. This makes me feel quite sober to night. A world of trouble this is.

Friday Pm. Oct. 23^d We have had cold wind from the S. West the past few days - yesterday noon it began to snow, - wind north, - and this morning the snow was full 5 inches deep, so damp it sticks to the trees & shrubbery - bending, & breaking some. My nice white Lilac is broken down and many other ^{bushes} in the yard. Rather early to commence flogging and I fear my hay will give out before the first of June.

Well my son I saw you at home again last night, and among other things saw you combing your head with a fine comb and to my surprise you found no lice. We talk of the impossibility of your being in prison among such a crowd without getting vermin and it is not strange that we dream about it. But my son I am right glad you cannot know our feelings - for it would only make you the more unhappy. Then again, it may be well for us, that we do not know what you are experiencing there. We suppose you are in Richmond - still we know nothing about it. I do hope to hear from you soon, and learn whether we can do any thing to help you. But - Patience - and many more heavings of a Father & Mother born

Sunday Pm Oct. 25th This is a clear fine day, ground covered with snow the past 3 days. - I have a hard cold, all settled in my head - had the head & ear ache since bed time last night - am all out of tune - feel bad inside & out. E^d & Mary took dinner with us, Em, called a few minutes. I have written to E^d Gould to day, to send by Capt. Edwards tomorrow, requesting E^d to send your things home by express. Capt. E took dinner with us yesterday. I had a long talk with him in regard to Kelsey - who the Capt. says has been making reports detrimental to his - the Capt. honors in regard to company money matters &c. According to the Capt. Stony Kelsey is to blame - but let this all rest until I can tell you by word of mouth.

Wednesday Evening Oct. 28th I feel quite happy to night for I have heard from my son and he was well up to the 11th inst. I rec^d your letter dated the first, and one to Agro dated the 11th inst. and wrote to you to day I cannot express to you the joy it gave me when I read once more a letter of your own writing that gave the long wished for information of your condition. Tears of joy flowed from more than one pair of eyes. I go to bed to night with a heart filled with gratitude to him who has protected you from harm. That you will suffer in your present confinement I have no doubt - but hope you will bear it with patience and may the time be short that you will have to endure it. Mary is with us to night. We all feel better -
Sunday Evening November first.

I have been at home all day writing reading &c Mary is with us yet John called this Pm and Agro called this evening. I have been up to see Emma, found her well John has bought her a \$300. Piano. of course she had to play a little for father, it being my first visit since she got it. After playing awhile she struck up Home Sweet Home - In an instant my thoughts were on my son in Libby Prison, and before I was aware of it, a tear was stealing down my cheek. - And there is with me. I imagine I see you at night (after spending the day as best you can to drive dull cares away) sitting with your head bent forward, thinking of Home Sweet Sweet Home. O how happy we should be if you could sleep in that home to night - no stinking bug would venture out of his lurking place to disturb your rest. But no, for a time you must put up with Prison life, and we must submit for you are beyond our reach. Anxious hearts can feel for you and that is all. -
That you may bear up under your uncomfortable situation remain well and come out all right is our daily humble prayer - and now good night my Prisoner Boy

Copy of letter to Henry

Fond du Lac Wisconsin Sunday November 8th 1863

Dear Henry - It is now 11 o'clock A.M. a pleasant, cool day. The only inmates of Forest Home at this hour are Father & Mother - the rest of the family are at church. E. returned from New York last night - has been absent 2 weeks Mary has been with us during the time. They went home this morning. Agro has taken a partner, Mr. Morrison; they are doing a large business - in fact I never saw business of all kinds more lively, in our City than it is this fall. I have been compelled to leave my job of filling on account of bad weather, and to get other work done before it freezes up. We had quite a young winter in Oct. - snow 6 inches deep, but it did not stay long. Well my son; I wish I could know how you are feeling to day - yet it may be well I do not. That you are not quite as comfortable in Libby Prison, as you might be at home I have no doubt - and ^{it would please} your Mother very much if you could be allowed to ~~come~~ make her a visit. That you may soon be exchanged or paroled is our very earnest wish. But ~~we must all~~ submit to the fortune of war we must all submit. Our family friends are all well you will probably get the box I sent you before you do this letter. I hope so, for you must need the things very much. Remember me to Col. H. Coff E. &c. Accept with this your father's love

Jm. Taylor

Sunday Oct. 4th 1863

Friend E., I have read your letter to your Father dated the 23^d Sept. in which you confirm former reports in regard to Henry & others - supposed to be prisoners - The fact that we do not know whether Henry is alive or dead, of course leaves us in most painful suspense, and therefore we the more fully appreciate your good intentions to try every means to find out about him and the others missing ones. I know you will do all in your power to learn their fate - and until you know it, I wish you to take charge of the letters that may have come to him since the fight also a pr of socks, sent by mail, I do not know in what situation he left his effects, but I

wish you to take such care of any of his effects left,
as your judgment may dictate - do as you would
that he should do for you under like circumstances.
Unless he has destroyed them, he must have from 50 to
100 letters from Thomas - I would not like to have them
exposed to the gaze of strangers - they were written for
our Henry only. Hoping you may learn something
~~from~~ about him to relieve our suspense I write
patiently - as ever your friend

Copied & sent to Ed Gould
in a letter from his mother

Copied & letter
sent to E. H. Gould
in his mother's letter

[1863 c Sept.]

A word in regard to the subject
of your Prescott note

Capt. Edwards explained to me the
reason of his starting before the time he
first set and said he waited as long as
he could hoping you would get your
letter to him that night. If I remember right
he said he found after he sent the first
word that to wait until morning was going
to cause delay otherwise. He seemed
to regret that you he disappointed you -
In regard to the other matter, I must say
I was much surprised to hear such a
charge, and hope he will make all right
in due time. But your note brings
to light an other matter that seems
rather curious to say the least. One of
the greatest inducements I had in
going to Xenok to see him was to find
out how you had managed to get
money - having heard before that you had
not rec'd your pay - I told him this, and
said I would send you money if necessary

I said in Henny will get along well enough - I let him have money - of course I come home well satisfied for I supposed from the remark that he had furnished you with what funds you needed; until I rec^d your letter in regard to the Derusha Boys money - Although he might have had reference to the \$3% that you had, had of him before

I had formed a very favorable opinion of the Capt., and the fact that he seemed to be so friendly to you of course made my confidence in him the stronger - I feel sorry to have to think there is any thing wrong on his part. I will only add one word of advice to you - Be very judicious and careful in this matter. Try and not get yourself into any mess. Look on the acts of the Capt. with eyes of Charity, and after reading what I have written, light your cigar with the paper

One thing more; when Capt. Edwards explained to me about your not being paid, he claimed the credit of causing the correction being made by the Mustering Officer - and this is the only apparent weakness I have noticed in him - a show of Bombast. I did so & so - But let us be very charitable for he has been a friend to you I think

Forest Home Tuesday Evening Sept. 29th 1863

Dear Henry

I started for Town about 4 1/2 past 4 this PM and when I got to the Rail Road some invisable power induced me to go to the Deps and wait for the Carro - and about 5 o'clock I stood in front of Lieut Adams enquiring after my Son. He had not seen you since the time he was wounded, about 12 o'clock Saturday the 19th but said he heard from you on Monday Morning the 21st and that you was all right then. There were so many anxious ones around him that I stayed back and started at once to notify the family of your safety up to that time. Scars of Joy, and Thanks to God have been the result of this good news. We all breathe more freely now. Thus far have the prayers of friends & kindred at home - been answered, and I thank my Heavenly Father that it is so. Be Thankful my son, and render praise to him who protects you. I shall be anxious to read your account of those two days fighting - your position as commander of your Company after Kelly was wounded must have been a very responsible one, and I have no doubt you acted the Soldier in I shall expect a detailed account of it when you have the time to write. I shall go and see Kelly to morrow, as I had but a few words with him at the Carro - Capt. Goun is expected home to morrow, I learn he is wounded in the foot. Oh!! the Horrors of War. The leaders of this Rebellion must have some hot place to go to I recon. But no more to night.

Wednesday Evening Sept. 30 I saw Kelly to day, and he told me about your carrying him off a short distance after he was shot - says he thought the big vein was cut & it was all day with him, said he remembered seeing you return to the company, and that was the last he could remember that Chapin to him, until he was in the Hospital. He speaks in the highest terms of Henry as Adams says he understood he was reported missing. There is much anxiety about Mills, as Adams says he could inform us of. I learn to night Sunday night, you & Ed Gould were all Kelly could inform us of. I learn to night that Smith has a letter from Charlie Benton which will open in the Corn. Meath in the morning & that Ben Cole is wounded. This is the only letter we get -

Thursday Evening Oct. 1st Our county fair opened to day
I let George take Col. over and he was offered \$400 for him -
This is a 'right smart' price for a steen 20 months old, but
he is not for sale yet. I went in and took a look this
Pm and I found it a slim affair. It rains to night and
I think it will go up as our fairs have done the past few
years. With my son I left the post office to night with Col.
Ewen, and we both felt quite downhearted, for we had made
up our minds that some of the friends here would get letters
by to night. But not a letter yet. I told the Col. that if you
was alive you would write the very first opportunity - which
I know you will do. I also assured the Col. that you would
use every means in your power, to ascertain what had happened
to Milt. in case he was missing, as is reported. Capt. Green
got home this morning. I have not seen him yet. Mr Fargo has
heard that his son is a prisoner. I do not know where he
heard it. But I mention these circumstances to show you that
there are very many anxious ones hereabouts. But I have
learned to be patient - and patient I will be. - Good night

Friday Evening Oct. 2^d We have been basing our hopes on the
report of Kelby, that it was all right with Henry. But to day
we learn by a letter from Saml. Hotelling to his mother that our
son is missing - supposed to be a prisoner. Whether he is killed,
wounded, or alive we know not. We go to bed sorrowful to
night. When our suspense will be removed none can tell us.

Saturday evening Oct. 3^d I feel sad to night - Letters from Mudgett & 8^d
could not to night give us no information as to whether our Henry is
alive or dead. He is missing and they hope he is a prisoner.
I shall continue to write until I know his fate, and hope on -
It is a dark dreary night - and the feelings of a Father and
mother are much in unison with the elements without us.
We can only look to kind Providence for comfort. God is just

Sunday evening Oct. 4th 1863

Mary, Emma, John + E.^d have been home this P.M. and Agoo calls this evening. All but Henry, and whose is he? Oh! this horrible suspense! It is hard to bear. A tear drop will fill my eye, I cannot suppress it. — I have sent a slip to E.^d Gould, in his Father's letter, to day, asking him to take charge of your letters & E.^d writes — 'I shall try every means I can to find out about Will Ewen + Henry Taylor and I have no doubt he will do so. But how long; Oh, how long must we wait?' — weeks, & perhaps months. I am not in a proper state of mind to write to night, and I will stop.

Monday Evening Oct. 5th This letter does not go to the mail, for the reason that I have no knowledge of the whereabouts of my son. The probabilities are if he ever reads it, he will read it at Fort Home — When that will be, if ever, I of course have not now the faintest idea. I can only hope on and pray on that all will end well, that my Boy is safe.

Tuesday Oct. 6th We learn by the papers this morning that Lieut. W. C. Taylor is a Prisoner, whether wounded or not we do not know; But we feel somewhat relieved in mind — and feel a hearty gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his goodness. I have also heard a bad report about Capt. Edwards — but will not mention it yet.

Sunday 1/2 past, or Oct. 11th 1863 This is a bright clear day. I have been strolling about the lot, picking up nuts &c. My thoughts are constantly on my son. If I could but know that he is even half comfortable, it would relieve me much. But I read that there are a thousand ^{officers,} prisoners in one prison in Richmond, and I suppose you are among them sixty — & liable to disease with vermin that cannot be got rid of. My heart aches for you all. — Then again if you are wounded, you may be in a worse condition than to be in Libby Prison or Castle Thunder and well. — But if you are looking through the grates of a prison I think you must have some curious thoughts. — Still you have this to comfort you — your only crime is, that you have ~~been~~ fighting manfully for the Flag of Liberty — A noble cause —

Sunday Evening Oct. 10th 1863 E. & Mary took dinner with us -
Agro Emma and John called just at night; and all we can find
to talk, or think about is Henry. And what is the use, we
cannot help you - we know too that if you can you will
get information to us, of your situation. Agro saw a man
from Granada Miss. ^{the other day} one who is under the ~~protection~~ ^{protection} -
a Brother of our Lumberman McDonald. He is acquainted
with 'Bis' Dudley - he said he would tell him about you
and Milt if he saw him - Would it not be a fine
thing if by chance, for the sake of old friends and his
Brother's wife he should procure your & Milt's release from
prison, and you should both be paroled and come home
But this is only speculation - A drowning man will catch
at straws - There is but one, only one, relief for us that we
can depend upon - and that is to trust kind Providence to
comfort you, and relieve you in due time, good night -

Monday Evening Oct. 12th I dreamed of Henry all night - I ~~was~~
would wake up and think of what I had dreamed and go to
sleep and dream on. I had you on my left at the table, and
Grand Pa Benton on my right - I saw you walk about the
Premises - going to Town &c. But it was only a dream
This has been a fine day, and, as usual my thoughts have been
away down in Dixie. In imagination I see you among the
crowd in Libby Prison - thinking of Home
Friday Evening Oct. 16th I read a letter from Ed Gould to day, and he thinks
our Boys are to undergo many hardships before they are exchanged -
Mother cries and Father has to shut his teeth and force a smile and says
it is out of our power to render any assistance - therefore we must hope
our Boy will be able to endure all that is his lot to experience and
come out all right - The fear, that some fatal disease may be contracted in
that filthy prison - troublesome

Sunday Noon Oct. 18th 1863. I commenced this letter the 29th ult -
supposing it would be sent to you by mail as usual, but in that I have been
disappointed, I shall now end it and lay it aside - hoping you may some
time look it over at home. I shall commence another to day, and shall
continue to write for it is some relief to my mind to do so. With love from
your Father -

Fond du Lac Wisconsin Sunday November 8th 1863

Dear Henry

It is now 11 o'clock A.M. - a pleasant, cool, day -

The only inmates of Forest Home, at this hour, are Father & Mother - the rest of the family are at church - Ed ~~has been~~ returned from N. York last night - has been about 2 weeks. Mary has been with us during the time, ~~and her eyes sparkled at the sight of some fine presents that Ed brought her.~~ They ^{went} ~~have gone~~ home this morning. Azra has taken a partner ~~in business~~ - M. Bronson. They are doing a large business - in fact I never saw ~~our business~~ ~~the~~ business of all kinds more busy in our city than it is this fall - I have been compelled to ~~to~~ leave my job of filling, ~~for another season~~ on account of bad weather, & ~~the urgent~~ ^{it} ~~necessity of~~ ^{and} ~~order~~ to get other work done before ~~winter~~ ^{it} ~~comes~~ ^{trucks up}. We had quite a young winter here in Oct. - snow 6 inches deep - but it did not stay long. Well my son I wish I could know how you are feeling to day - yet ~~it may be well~~ ^I ~~do not~~ ^{do not} that you are not quite as comfortable in Libby Prison as you ~~can~~ ^{might} be at home I have no doubt - and it would please your Mother very much if you could be allowed to ~~come home~~ ^{make} her a visit. That you may soon be exchanged, or paroled is our very earnest wish. But you ^{are} ~~must~~ ^{all} ~~of course~~ ^{be} ~~subject~~ ^{to} the fortunes of war. ^{we must} ~~submit~~ ^{submit} ~~to~~ ^{of} ~~your family meditations~~ ^{with} ~~some company~~ ^{there} ~~is really considerably accommodated~~ - your thoughts ~~can~~ ^{do not} dwell upon those ~~same~~ ^{few} ~~people~~ ^{you} left at home - if so it may be interesting to you to know, we have some of the finest specimens of I ever saw

Our family friends are all well you will probably get the
Box I sent you before do this letter, I hope so, for you must need the things
very much. Remembr me to Col. T. & Capt. S. & c
Accept with this your father love" Jm Taylor

To Henry
Nov 8 1843

Nov 8 1843

Forest Home

Fond du Lac Wis. Nov. 12th 1863

Dear Henry

Your letter to Mollie dated the 4th inst. came to us the 11th and we were all very thankful to hear you are well. I wrote a letter Sunday, but did not mail it for the reason that Mary & Emma wished to write. Their letters went by Monday's mail. We have sent a box to you to night by Express, which contains one large can of butter & small do, do, one can of pickles, one can of Crackers, 2 pieces Dr. but, one package of Sausages 2 packages (4 papers) of Tobacco & pipes, packed in tobacco, 10 potatoes + 2 apples. The large can of Butter is your Mother's make, and is good of course. The 6 small cans are filled with the best we could find in market. You say 'Butter will get Bread.' It is too far to send bread ~~therefore~~ we send ^{the more} butter, and hope you may be able to get Bread or other necessities with ~~some~~ ^a part of it. My son; it is hard for me, after writing so many open hearted letters to you, ~~to be obliged to write only such letters as will~~ ^{to be under the necessity of keeping} a guard over my thoughts. ^{but I write something confidential} If I dare write one old fashioned long letter, ~~I would try and make you happy, even in~~ ^{it would relieve my mind some what if it did not} Libby prison. I think you must have recd. the first box we sent you before this time, if so you have had ^{one more} ~~some~~ of the homely things. I intended to send you a ham in the last box, but there were none ^{suitable} in market ~~strong enough to fit to~~. The pipes & tobacco Col. Even put in the pipe & tobacco for you & Mollie. Tell Mollie I called at Galloways this morning and they were all well. By the way I wrote to E. Gould about your things, and was informed that Col. might know ^{to} This is the 4th letter I have written you, I hope to hear from you again soon. ^{May god so direct the minds of men that you will soon be permitted to meet us at home in our common friends} friends all well except some very severe colds, of which your Mother has ^{her} share. With much love from your father.

J. Taylor

[1863, Nov. 17]

Contents of this Box

2 Shirts, 2 pr Drawers, 2 pr Socks, 2 Towels, Suds, pins, Thread,
Buttons & buswal. 1 Box Vingtintum 1/2 yr Note paper 1/2 doz. Envelopes
1 Cann Sugar 1 do. Sugar Chowder, 2 do Coffee 1 do Butter
1 do Raspberry Jam, 1 do pickles 1 Ham, Piece dried Beef
1 Package Salt, 1 do. pepper 1 do. Crackers, 1 do Onions & some
Loose ones 14 Potatoes 9 Candles 6 Cakes Soap Package Tobacco -
1 Hair Brush 1 Tooth Brush 1 Pocket Looking glass, one fine &
one coars Comb

Copy of what I wrote and sent in the
Box and by Mail.

Fort du Lac Wis. Oct. 31st 1863 Dear Henry These yours of the first &
11th inst on wednesday the 28th inst. and wrote you the same day
I now write to inform you that we have this day sent to you by Express
a Box of Sundries. I have made a list of the articles ~~just in~~
and put into the Box & herewith send you a copy. Hoping you may receive them in
due time. We are all well, and hope you may ere long be permitted
to meet us in our own Forest Home. Accept with this a fathers love

Lieut W B Taylor
Prison of War
Richmond Va

Jm Taylor

Genl of Gen Meredith
Fortress Monroe

Ps Mrs Orlando wishes to know if
you know any thing about her son Moses
Jm T

Copy of letter and
Articles sent to Henry
Oct. 31 # 1863

Ham + 3^d Beef 163

Sugar + coffee 290

Brush glass + crock 78

Express charges 700

\$13,31

Fond du Lac Wisconsin

~~my no newspaper in our house. I hope I had a better success~~
~~of the University of Wisconsin in regard to the movement~~
Forest Home Sunday Dec 6th 1863 Evening

Dear Henry

I have delayed writing to you for some time hoping to hear from you by ~~some of our returned~~ ^{who I suppose} ~~surgeons, I supposed~~ Doct. Reeves, would be here of course, but I learned a few days ago that his family was East, and that he would not be here. After giving up all hope of hearing from you by him, I was made quite glad by receiving a short note from Doct. Casse by which we learned you were well when he left that you had rec^d. the first Box we sent you &c. I think you must have rec^d. the second Box by this time - Col. Ewen is going to send a Box to Milt this week. By the way I learned by the Doct^r's favor, that you would write soon and send a list for another Box, but as yet we have not rec^d. it. ^{we rec^d. yours of the 1st Nov.} ~~I will say here~~ that any thing sent to you or to Milt is intended to be free for both - The Col. wished me to mention this fact. I wrote to E^d. Gould to take charge of your things, to use any thing he might ~~want~~ ^{not}, and send the rest home. He kept a pr of socks + a pr of mittens. Sent home by Lieut. Clark all he could find - the articles of most value were your letters, diary for 1862, Pictures &c. ^{of the contents of} of your dress suit he could learn nothing. By accident we found the coat in the possession of R. A. ^{he} also ^{had} the present that Ag^r ^{made} gave you ~~was with him~~. ^{we think} It is singular that he should have these things so long without thinking to let us know it. After he went back Mr Galloway sent ^{2 paper found in} ~~to me~~ ^{Kah's table} your appointment to ^{this was to the engine where is} Orderly + the paper mentioning you out as Orderly, Your Commiser;

or

I have not yet seen or heard of, Where did you leave it? I will mention here that if you had have seen Capt. & before he left you, ^{the} ^{time} ~~last~~, you would not have been deceived, as I think you was in regard to certain money matters. When I see you I ~~will~~ ^{can} explain it all. Mr + Mrs Lowery have called and I must stop and attend to them. Will we have had quite a chat about things in general and about Henry in particular. I will ~~now~~ say a word in regard to your money matters ~~with the government~~. You have now seven months pay due you, if you think it best, you can authorize me to draw six months pay for you and use it for your benefit. This is merely a suggestion. ~~I do not need the money~~ ^{am not in want of}, but it ~~can~~ ^{might} be earning something. But should you let it lie until you come home. I advise to purchase a draft on N.Y. rather than bring the money. This is all I have to say on financial affairs. Now about ~~home~~ ^{my} affairs, The family friends are all well, Agnes + Mr Frances called to day - Self, Mother & Mary + Lily dined with Emma to day. ^{it was wished that was the of course} E has four very bright children and one, to come along about Jan'y. - ~~Agnes children have been sick but are well now. William is some~~ ~~def.~~ Our family at home is reduced to three again - I have a fine lot of game fowls - the ~~fast~~ colt, and the best steer in the county, and I wish, ^{many times} every day that you could ~~come to us~~ ^{be with us, this thing far pleasant winter} - but you must abide your time I suppose - Now lest this gets thrown aside on account of its length, I will write no more ~~now~~ ^{this time}. With ^{much love and} ~~this you have the~~ sympathy ^{from} ~~and love~~ of your affectionate Father

Sicut. H. C. Taylor
Business of war Richmond Va }

Jm. Taylor

Fort Home Tuesday noon Feb. 16th 1864

Dear Henry

We are all froze up again - Yesterday forenoon it thawed some, began to grow cold in the afternoon. This morning at 7 o'clock it was 20° below zero - and now 12 o'clock it is 14° below - It is a clear bright day with strong N. West wind. This is the hardest of all the western winters I ever saw. Will my son I read in my paper last night that some 400 Prisoners from Johnson Island were on their way to be exchanged - all Officers. This gives us a faint hope that we may see you ere long. - Dinner Pa -

Wednesday noon 17th Clear & cold, N. W. wind 28° below zero at sunrise 10° below at 12 this noon - I remained at home all day yesterday, went over to the Post Office last evening, and learned that Curran had recd. a dispatch from Capt Hobart, that he had "escaped from Libby Prison" - Read in my paper that over 100 had escaped and some 20 had arrived in our lines safe. This information causes some excitement here among the friends of Prisoners, of course - I wait anxiously for further information on the subject. That I should be happy to have you out, even though you did come out in a tunnel, I cannot deny; but whether it is advisable to take the risk I cannot say - We shall remain in anxious suspense until we hear from you

Thursday evening Feb. 18th Clear & cold, This day your Mother is 58 years old; and this day 37 years ago I married her, It has been our practice to leave our children at home, on this day annually - but one of them here to day - Ed & Mary called awhile this evening. We are all in suspense about "our boys" - hope we shall soon know whether you have left your Hotel + if so whether you have to return to it again. Hope if you care out, you will keep out

Sunday P.m. Feby. 21st 1864 Azro, ^{Jane,} E^d + Mary have called today
Of course we have had much talk about the probabilities
of Henrys whereabouts. Mother has decided that he did not try
to escape Azro thinks he helped make the 'Tunnel' and went
through it. Father thinks, if he got out he is out yet &c.
Will we have all been in suspense since we heard of the
escape. and there are many anxious ones waiting for further
news. All over Town I hear the remark made "I hope our
Boys are out" Meaning Willt & Henry. I expect Col. Hobert
will be here some time this week, when I hope to know
more about you. As the matter now stands I shall not
send another letter until I become convinced that you are not
yet in some hiding place in 'Dixy' lest the fact that we
have not heard from you, might cause more vigilance on
the part of your pursuers. But I would give something
handsome if I could know you are free. If you escaped
and have been recaptured, I fear we shall not hear from
you very soon, as I have no doubt you will be refused
the privilege of writing to us for awhile. I have a faint
hope of seeing you, this week. John has come and I
must stop.

Evening. Strains, Mother has gone into Mr Goulds -
I do not know why it is so but I feel quite downhearted
to night. Still I have no reason, that I can give for feeling so,
but so it is. There are times, that one feels dejected and he
cannot help it. It is common to all. As for myself, I
have very much to be thankful for and ought to be
contented & cheerful. But my thoughts flee away from
the comforts of home, and imaginative tries to find the whereabouts
of a loved one far away with no satisfactory result. - good night.

Forest Home Fond du Lac Wisconsin Sunday Evening Feb. 28th 1864

Dear Henry

It has been two weeks since I wrote you and have not heard from you since your letter of the 20th of January. I have been expecting to see Col. Herbert the past 4 or 5 days, but he has not got along yet. You have of course heard that the Col. & others have been "sundling" - I have been very anxious to see him since I heard he was out, as I expected to learn more of your situation than you can write me. He will be here in a few days - probably before I mail this letter. This has been a cold raw day, I have been up to see Emma found her quite smart. Mollie Cary & Mollie Henry called this P.M. Mollie H wished to be remembered to you. Mother is into Mr Lowrey - he is sick. Mrs Gould has got over the effects of over dose. Now for a little "Romance in real life," also a little scandal. Em. & Em. Bronson wanted to marry Bronson thought his daughter was going to send her An. to a poor market & objected. Two weeks ago yesterday they met at Helen Frances and called in Esqr Bridgely & were married - slept there that night, Em. went home Sunday & "owned the corn" - the old folks wanted it kept still until they could get up a wedding and have Parson Eastman do it over again, It is said that the Parents on both sides were horrified at the idea of their children being married by an Irish Justice - Will report has it that all things were ready on Thursday

but poor Tim. was reported too - Sick at a certain
soloon to attend to the ceremony & it was postponed
I learn to day that the wedding came off yesterday morning
making 2 marriages in two weeks - they may need to
have the ceremony performed every 2 weeks to keep Tim
in mind of his obligations to forsake all other women
Poor Tim. I pity him. I pity his father & mother too. But I
learn he has made one more Resolve; hope he will keep it

Copy of Letter
to Henry in 1848

[1864, OCT. 23]

Fond du Lac Wis Oct. 23^d 1864 Dear Henry I have heard nothing further from you since Lieut C W Morgan's letter of the 2^d inst. We are in a state of intense anxiety in regard to you, and I am in readiness to start at once to meet you if informed that you are in our lines. I allow myself to hope I may yet see you - Still I have strong fears, ^{you are too long to be moved} ~~that it is too late~~ & I hear that arrangements are made to remove ~~existing~~ ~~of prison~~ which I hope is true even if ~~you cannot~~ ~~for humanity's sake~~ are waiting with I only write these few lines to inform you we are all well at home and ~~hoping to hear~~ ~~with all the patience we can possess ourselves of to hear from~~ ~~you again~~ ~~more from you soon~~ ~~with~~ ~~much love~~ from your affectionate father Jm Taylor

Forest Home Fond du Lac Wisconsin Sunday Oct. 16th 1864

Dear Henry

As I have written you before, we had heard by letter from Capt. Owen to his father, that you were recovering from your long sickness - But our hearts were filled with grief + sadness, on the receipt of a letter from Lieut. C. H. Morgan, dated the 2^d. inst., informing us that your disease is settling on your lungs and that there ~~is~~ are strong fears that you will not get well. "Charlie" wrote, you was "very low indeed" - that you have a "good friend" in "Lieut. Mason - 21st O.V.I." who thinks he can move you if an exchange of the sick is made soon &c. I feel ^{very thankful} ~~much obliged~~ ^{to} "Charlie" for writing the ~~truth~~ ^{fact} in regard to your situation; and shall ever feel under obligations to Lieut. Mason for his kindness to you. Oh! my son if I could come to you I should have ^{seen} ~~been on the way~~ ^{you} ere this - but as I cannot, I am going to enclose this in a note to Maj. J. F. Lay of Gen. Jones Staff & ^{C.S.A.} Agent of Exchange, and ask him to allow you, if ~~the~~ ^{you} ~~alive~~, and able to be moved ~~to allow you~~ to be sent to our lines - Should this request be granted, and you live to reach any point where I can meet you, have me informed by Telegraph, and I will come to you at once. If this cannot be, and it is God's will that we see you face no more - O God if consistent with thy holy will let it be otherwise - Then we will bow our heads ^{in humble submission} ~~and submit~~, knowing that God is just, and that for some wise purpose he afflicts us thus

Henny; one word in regard to your future welfare. I would have you
confess your sins to God; Repent truly & sincerely, ~~make your peace with~~
of all your sins; and be prepared to meet your Heavenly father
in peace. and be assured you had to the last, the true love and
affection of your father, Mother, Brothers & Sisters, all of whom
^{God grant} may be prepared to meet you in Heaven after fulfilling the
their duties here on Earth. Good by my son, good bye; and
may Gods blessing ^{rest upon} you

From your Affectionate father

Jm Taylor

Maj. J F Lay

Gen. John Stoff } Dear Sir Enclosed please find letter addressed to my
and Sgt. of Exchange & Co. Lt } Son Lieut. W. C. Taylor Co. A 21st Wis. Rec Voluntes - who I
learn is in first S. C. Hospital sick ^{and cannot} ~~not expected to recover~~ I address this
note to you Sir, with a request that you if consistent with your duty
to your Government, you will allow my son - if living and able to be moved
to be transferred by flag of Truce back to our lines, that I may meet
him, & if possible ~~and~~ get him home. ~~I want my son~~ Please cause
~~to~~ ^{his} letter to be delivered and if it is not asking too much of a stranger and
a Constructive Enemy - will you take the trouble to inform yourself
in regard to my sons situation, and write me, ~~by granting them~~ ^{in doing this} ~~lower~~ you
will place ~~affair~~ a father under great obligations to you
I am our most respectfully on obt. servt
Jm Taylor