

## Introduction

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Confederate Major General Lovell writes to his son concerning his belief that the Emancipation Proclamation would create dissension in the North and ultimately aid the Confederacy. "I think Lincoln's proclamation will produce dissensions and trouble at the North, and will thus indirectly benefit our Cause. The Democratic party there is not willing to go headlong into any abolition war." Comments on Joseph's improvements in arithmetic and tells him to be a good boy and take care of his mother.

## Image

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Dolly Springs - 30 Oct 1862.

I received your letter, my dear Jos. with those of little Marnie and Ned a day or two since. I see Mother she must put you all to school, no matter what it costs and that she must have you escort her to table if it does take thirty dollars a month more. I am glad to hear that you are improving in arithmetic, my son. You do not take to it easily or naturally and for that reason will have to apply yourself more studiously, than you would to anything that you learn without trouble. The greater the difficulty of any study

## Transcript

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Mansfield Lovell to Joseph Lovell, October 30, 1862 (The Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC03790p.1)

[Excerpt]

I received your letter, my dear Jos....Tell mother she must put you all to school, no matter what it costs and that she must have you escort her to table...I am glad to hear that you are improving in arithmetic, my Son. You do not take to it easily or naturally and for that reason will have to apply yourself more studiously, than you would to anything that you learned without trouble. The greater the difficulty of any study the greater exertion you must use-

I think Lincoln's proclamation will produce dissensions and trouble at the North, and will thus indirectly benefit our Cause. The Democratic party there is not willing to go headlong into any abolition war. And the elections will show that Lincoln's policy will be condemned. Give my best love to your little brother and sister and write to me as often as you wish. It will help to improve you in writing in expressing your thoughts. Be a good boy and take care of your beautiful mother while I am gone.