

Nashville Apl 23d 1865

N. F. Moore

Dear Friend

Your truly interesting letter of the 21st reached me this morning, making it seem to me an uncommon quick trip, coming in about 48 hours and I am thankful to say it found me well. but far from happy, for he who can be happy after hearing the Sad news of our Beloved Presidents death must be a wretch indeed. But I am sorry to say that there are some and I fear many here who are pleased at this event that causes us so much sadness. I do not remember of any event that has caused me so much sadness. it seems as though our Nearest Dearest and Best Friend has been laid in the Silent grave. No man ever gained in so short a time the entire confidence of the People that Mr Lincoln has, by his Honesty Virtue and Fidelity to his country. You may truly say I think that he is a Second Washington. For no two men ever lived so entirely for their country. I am sorry to say that so many of our Public men live for Sealfish motives and Sealf egandizement but these Motives were entirely unknown to him and foriegn to his nature. he seemed to live in the Noble belieaf that he was an insterment in the hands of an over Ruling Providence, to carry out some destinay in behalf of our beloved Country. I dont believe that we posses another man in the whole area of our Country That possesses the Noble attributes all so harmoniously combined and so eavantly ballanced, as were found in Abraham Lincoln, and there is no part of our Government that will more deeply mourn his loss then the Army. there is not a Soldier but what had the utmost confidance in His Honesty and Abilites and all looked to him as they would to a father for incuragement and Fraternal care. People in the North tell us to use the Rebels mercessly. There has been no one who has advicated more firmly then myself the doctrine of useing mercy to these deluded people and I belieaved that this was our only way to gain their affections. I have belieaved it would compell them to join hands with us in friendship and for the Union, and time & time again I have heard our Soldiers using hard talk to the Refugees and Citizens of the South while traveling through their country, and have often entreated our Boys to treat them kindly, belieaving it was our only way to make them love and respect us.

But they have shown that the more mercy we bestow upon them the worse they talk and act, and this last cowardly & ignoble act of theirs in Killing our Beloved Presidant has proven beyond a doubt (in my mind) the truth of my assertion, for they was well awair, for they have since claimed it, that there is no other man that would have been as leniant with them, and they claim themselves

now that we can not find another man who will do as near what justic demands, and it will yet prove I hope the dearest shot they ever fired. But I tell you that they are not capable of receiving mercy. they do not know how to appreciate it. they (the Rulers) are to Wicked & revengefull to allow it to benafit their people. They have shown that if we take them by the hand and endeavor to be friendly with them that the moment you turn away, they will stab you in the back. I would show them just as much mercy as I would to the most Venimous Reptile that lays sculking in the grass, ready to sting me with his poisnous fangs, and no more.

If you was living on our Western Borders with a Wife and Children, and at night while you are all asleep How much mercy would you show to the Sneaking Indian who comes stealing into your house, and you awaken to find him with his Tomahalk raised high in his blood thirsty hand and about to bury it into the heads of your loved Wife and Children. I am inclined to believe that we should not be disposed to exhibit much mercy then, for it is life or death with one or the other. Eather the Indian must fall or you & your Wife and Children all must fall. How much mercy would these Rebels show us if we was in their power. They have proven how much mercy they will show by the worse than Barbarious treatment they have inflicted upon our Soldiers, while prisnors in their hands. the murdered bodies of our Brothers call to us from the lothsome dungeons of Libey and Andersonville for Revenge.

Norman you and I differ very materialy in respect to showing mercy to these Rebels. we both have good reasons for belieaving as we do. no two can believe alike on all subjects. But I do honestly believe that the only word we can use now for the safety of our selves and for the next generation is subjugation, extermination. I would not have you believe that I mean the whole people, but evry political and Military Southern leader.

hoping this will find you well. give my respects to all. I have written more then I intended to but I hope I have not failed to interest you, But if so excuse me, & remember whare it comes from, write often to your Friend

Newton A. Chaffe

Nashville Tenn

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