

Chicago Sept 14 1861

My dear friend

I beg to announce to you that communication is again established between Brooklyn and Chicago. The first message received for three weeks came through safely, and reached here this morning.

And now Annie to come directly to the point you must either have utterly failed to understand my letter or I did not know what I was about when I wrote it, which last supposition I may be allowed to say is altogether improbable. I wonder if you have any recollection of the letter which you wrote previously. I wish I had it now that I might send it back to you but unfortunately for such a purpose I destroyed it in less than five minutes.

You did not exactly forbid my ever writing to you again, but it came very near to it - and in return for this I immediately

admits

answered your letter though at considerable
inconvenience to myself, and assured you
that I would write anyway unless you
positively prohibited my doing so. Why I
was now foolish enough to expect an
immediate answer complimenting me
for my generosity and good-nature, doubt
instead of this I waited three weeks &
got — what I did get. True I suggested
as a sort of peace proposition that it
might be better to have our correspondence
less frequent and for this reason, I knew
it would be impossible for me (in connection
with the new duties which would probably
soon engage my attention) to devote as
much time to correspondence as formerly
and I presumed that any such failure
on my part would be taken as an
indication that some great change had
come over me. But I tell you now that
I shall be no less glad than formerly to
receive all the letters you are willing
to favor me with provided you will

allow me in return to write whenever
I can and I wish I could convince
you that my friendship is not of the kind
that "dies out by gradual Extremement"
I hope I shall always be your friend under
any circumstances and I shall probably
continue to communicate with you as
long as you will allow me to do so

Your request concerning the disposition
of your old letters has already been com-
plied with. In arranging matters for
what may prove to be my final de-
-parture I found I could not take
them with me and I did not care to
leave them here to fall into other
hands should I never come back
So the only letters of yours now in my
possession are the first you ever wrote
me and the one received this morning
The former I desire to keep always for
it is valuable to me for its associations
and in case I never come back will
burn nobody's; the latter will be destroyed

now as there is a fire built in the
morning and probably for some time
at least this will be the fate of all letters

I receive from you and my body else

You didn't write a word of your worldly
pleas & prospects for the future. I am
anxious to know what you expect to do

I can't tell you much in regard to
my own except that I am going to the
war somewhere. I shall probably know
more definitely very soon

Now Annie I have written all of this
since ten o'clock and I am not able to
write more tonight. If you don't know
it forthwith I will send a guard
down there and have you placed
under arrest for refusing to obey orders
from a superior Officer

Always Yours friend & brother

Old Moody

How do you like my patriotic envelope?