

Louisville Sept 11 1844

Dear Father

I have just been reading the letter of Mr C. M. Clay and your note relating to it in the Lexington paper. I have but little doubt that in Mr C's remark that those most under your influence approximate him in sentiment he means me among others. Now I have great reluctance and unfeigned diffidence in expressing any opinion of mine on a political subject at this crisis. But I entertain other feelings much stronger and more decided such as the most profound regret that any opinion of mine should be used in any the remotest degree to your injury or annoyance and an entire disapprobation of such use but above all when such an opinion seems ~~to~~ to have been misunderstood by the gentleman who has thus used it.

These remarks I hope will excuse me to you in adverting at all to opinions so unimportant in their influence as mine. In a conversation which I had with Mr C. M. Clay at Maysville I felt a desire to know if he was really an Abolitionist. If I understood him he declared that he was only in favour of legal and constitutional means of effecting a gradual emancipation of the slaves of Ky. I agreed with him in expressing a desire that this might ^{at some time or other} be brought about and further in considering slavery a great curse to Ky. I think our conversation extended no further than as to these two points. I listened rather than lead in conversation for