



Mr H. T. Duran jr

Cambridge

Massachusetts

Livington Feb 26th 1856

My dear Son

Your letter from Cleveland to your Mother was duly received we regretted to hear of your vexatious disappointment in failing to make your connection

I got off from Ant^e on Saturday in time to save my distance, the getting cold and breaking up on Saturday night - I crossing over a friend drove me over in a light Buggy - as we approached the Conington Shore we were near coming into a place where the Ice had been broken up & slightly frozen over - as we approached it, those on the ^{shore} hallowed us of our danger which we could not understand until the horse broke in.

with

are foot up to the knee - Mr
Shoubergen who was driving
me with an active well broke
horse - with a wonderful pres-
ence of mind - drew the horse
suddenly to the left - his left foot
resting upon firm ice & the
act of wheeling extricated the
right fore foot & with the
guidance of a man we
got out safe & he returned in
safety to Ctr - One length of
the horse would have made
our situation most critical
& perilous - but escape we have
great cause of thankfulness
& gratitude for -

The river is breaking up
that night destroyed much
property & some 10 Steam Boats
with their cargoes

The snow has entirely dis-
appeared & we have bright
warm beautiful Spring

weather - nothing new or of
interest - I hope you have
had a safe & pleasant trip &
as the Yankee says a nice time
of it at Pittsfield - finding us
leaving your sister well - we
shall look daily for letters from
you - giving us the particulars of
your trip - though the mail
cannot cross the Ohio now
this I hope may cross to Morrow

With the love of all
you have left wishing

I remain

Your devoted Father
H. T. Shuman

I see from your letter you
stick to the signature of
Shuman jr - quite it is not
the custom of our country

He deserved what he got - ~~but~~
as to time place & manner
Brooks was wrong & should
be made an example of
If Mr Sumner is a Non Combat
= Can - He should behave as one
and not insult others and
hope to shield himself under
such a plea

From present appearances
the Democratic Convention
will be elected - I greatly give
for Fillmore - But if I am
satisfied before the election
that he stands no chance and
the contest is narrowed down
to the Democracy & black Re-
publicans - I should feel
inclined to vote for the
former - as little as is my
confidence in them, all
said in love to your Sister &
yourself - Yr devoted Father

Lexington June 12th 1856

My dear Son

Your Mother received
your letter of the 8th inst. & to
day - This is one subject re-
ferred to by you - about which I
desire to say a word of advice
The Sumner & Kansas affairs
Whatever my Son may have
your opinions upon these
subjects - avoid all disputation
or controversy about them
not that upon proper oc-
casions - you shall withhold
a manly expression of opinion
but avoid their fanatical
meetings & all angry dispu-
= tation & wrangling

The posture of Massachusetts
since the days of her Webster

are
humiliating & disgraceful
How noble and different her position - when to a man they endorsed the noble sentiment of her great and Patriotic chief, proclaimed in his memorable conflict with Gen. Hayes in the U.S. Senate. (a proud day for this great Nation - a proud and glorious day for Massachusetts) that noble sentiment dear to every American heart & devoted to Union, now & forever, one and inseparable!

How strange the spectacle now before them in the lead-in support of the Union against such a question - now rapidly under the influence of evil & fanatical urging on this great Country to disunion & civil conflict. But let us hope that their

are yet patriotism enough to save us from so fatal a consequence.

Now all this outside fury about Sumner - is only to subvert and promote sinister purposes. It is a pity that South Carolina & Massachusetts the hot beds of the fanaticisms of the two extremes could not fight this out between them - without disturbing the general peace. But why all this fury & effigy burning in Cambridge - about Sumner - the only cause of just complaint is - as to the plea of Chastement Had Brock met him in the street & then resented the outcries & indecorous assault upon Butler & South Carolina it would have all been well