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Ashland 27th Dec 1863

Dear Josephine,

I received yesterday your favor of the 20th inst, and regret that you should have been so slow in writing to me. We have heard nothing of you since your letter in October.

This cruel war has brought great distress and suffering to the whole country, and although yours have not been the least, still you ought not to forget that you have sacred duties to perform towards your little children, nor abandon yourself to grief and despair.

Our family has suffered much in this war, besides Eugene, Henry Clay has died in it and many of our relations are still engaged in fighting on both sides, and others have lost