

30 January 1851

[Letter from Simeon Locke Doggett to his cousin Aristides Doggett]
Mendon [Mass.] January 30th 1851

Dear Cousin,

I have just received your favor of the 21st. '51; and as I have an opportunity, as you have requested me, as I wish to reassure your doubting mind, and as I feel it to be my duty, and as I am impelled by a kindred feeling I therefore take up my pen to address you.

I am very grateful to you for your kind letter, for it assures me that though among the least, and though forgotten by, others, yet I am remembered by my Dear Cousin Aristides. You write that a friend in N Orleans informs you, that my brother, "still remains in that place, teaching a public school." You state that he does not answer you, and for this reason you conclude that may have forgotten.

Now I assure you, that your friend is as much in error, as you are in uncertainty.

The fact is, my brother resigned his professorship in the N.O. Creole institue, and joined Quitman, Henderson and some other choice spirits, in their project of invading Cuba.

But after having expended much time, talent, and money in that expedition, and the Cuban hunt having been defeated by the interposition of our government he went to California, and arrived ~~there~~ at San Francisco last June. In crossing the Isthmus he had a perilous time. It was soon after the Panama Riots, when poor Temple (I think this was ~~Ed~~ ~~de~~ his name) was killed in the office of the "Echo." My brother and two comrades in going up the San Juan river, were attack by twelve (12) natives armed with carbines. It was a desperate struggle. However thanks to the intervention of "Revolvers" they taught these savage robbers, that Americans ask for nothing but what is right, and will submit to nothing that is wrong. As soon as he arrived in San Francisco, he wrote me as follows. "After much tribulation and traveling &c. (see letter)

After he went to Sacramento City. He wrote me, stating that he had fine opportunities to ~~go~~ employ himself as an attorney at law or as a politician in ~~either~~ San Francisco or Sacramento City, but he preferred going to the mines as a business more honorable than years spent in law and party squabblings. He has met with indifferent success, and is spending the winter away up on the Sierra Nevada Mountain, in company with a Gentleman named Pringle Esq. of Charleston S.C. and with Dr. Forney of Carlisle Penn. They have thus sequestered themselves to avoid the sight of miserable scenes. For he declares that there is a great deal of suffering among the miners, and if there was a chance for all to leave the state who wish to ~~go~~ return, that California would be depopulated in less than 6 months. He suffered much from sickness during his residence in N. Orleans but now enjoys vigorous health, which will greatly compensate him for the hardships he has undergone. If you desire to write to him, you must direct your letter thus "Samuel W. Doggett. Sacramento City California"

I remember when he lived in Jacksonville, he wrote me a letter wherein he spoke of you, who You were at that time in the Mexican war. He stated that many soldiers in your company was sick and some had ~~peres~~ died, but he rejoiced with exceeding great joy to know that you were among the exempt. He said your constitution was strong, and that your mind was as excellent as your constitution. He observed that he had taken a deep interest in your education as a teacher, and that you had ~~a~~ sincere affection and regard in your heart for him. Do you then think that he has disregarded your letters? No indeed -- banish from your mind that thought and never entertain it more.

Rather be assured that he has not received them.

I hardly think that there is a necessity for such strong language as I find in the latter part of your letter.