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Dear Brother,

We heard of you by Mr. Smith from Washington. We expected you to take a (french?) [French leave?] and come up but you did not come. Father would have liked very much to have seen you. He expected you to come home. He has had a hard spell of sickness before harvest. He has been poorly. He is now getting as stout as ever, gaining strength every day. He stashed all the wheat and gathered all the wheat after the reaper with the umbrella over him. He lost no time only in haymaking. We made 20 loads of hay without any rain on it. We do all our harvesting and haymaking with the reaper. Hands are scarce. We only had one hand the whole time. We can cut 12 or 13 acres of wheat or grass in a day with it. It is a self-raker Marsh machine. Father does nothing now but tend his cucumber patch and bring roasting ears in. The corn crop in this county promises from 60 to 70 bushels to the acre according to the soil. We don't look for any season at all. We have had rains every night and in the day time for the last week. The wheat crop in this country is very poor. It was struck with the rust. The smooth wheat was not worth cutting. Some was not cut at all.

We are all tolerably healthy now and are living on the batchelor order. We have the same colored woman yet keeping house for us. We are getting along in the house on the rough and tumble. Things are very gloomy here to what they once were. Father still talks of getting out to see you once more but it is very doubtful. We cant trust him.

We have plenty of fruit this year. We make cider every couple of days. We have not built up our fences yet. We have no advantages in pasture. I am raising up a stock of horses again. I have seven head, little and big, of the best kind in the country and as fine stock of horned cattle as good blood as the state can afford.

We are sorry to hear that you have lost your wheat crop in the west.

I suppose you are satisfied with the Nigger war. I suppose you are satisfied that you helped to whip Jeff Davis and company out. Mr Smith gave us a history of your travels down south with Gen. Sherman. They lost no honor only property. They fought all the combined powers of Europe and the damned Abolitionists of the North and the Nigger to boot and come very near whipping out after all. The Democrat Party are all disfranchised in Maryland from the right of suffrage. The Yankee Abolitionists have destroyed the property of the people better than they (dare?) be for the purpose of freeing the negroe and establishing Negro equality, a race that never ought to be free but to be held as servants from generation to generation. This party of abolitionists can only hold office by driving honest men away from the poles by (- - -?) nation and power. You cannot pick a meaner set in hell to compete with the Yankee abolitionist, that as

many as old Abe has already sent in yonder who are now quarreling with Old Abe there about Negroes equality.

I must stop. There's no more room to write.

Your brother

Samuel Michael

Please write.