



## [William Crosfield Letters](#)

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136 New York - 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Saturday Nov 26/59

My dearest Maggie,

I cannot help  
writing again to you as a recompense  
in some measure for the long and  
interesting letters with which I  
have been so regularly favoured  
up to the last three weeks - and  
also to thank you for the one that  
I have not got - now lying in the  
far isle of Jamaica. I have been  
thinking lately that there must be  
an immense amount of trash in  
the sixteen journal letters that I have  
dispatched and though I have made  
13,000 miles it must be very verbosely  
related in 190 pages which as near as  
I can calculate is the quantity that  
I have written to Pake & have to say  
nothing of the remaining fourteen  
envelopes that have gone to Groves  
and else where. I may as well finish  
my catalogue at once and tell you  
that I have sent forty eight letters  
great and small from this country  
I hope to get some acknowledgement

from the Post Office when I get  
back.

Before another week closes, the  
only man in Virginia will have  
ceased to live the glorious old man  
Brown is to die on Friday - a sad  
day for the murdering State.  
It is however gratifying to notice  
that among the women there  
have been some noble deeds. When  
an officer of Marines could cut out  
of his prisoners with his sabre after  
a voluntary surrender of his arms  
when a body of troops could carry  
an wounded man to a distance  
from the scene of carnage and at  
a quiet moment coolly shoot him  
there were thank God! women  
near at hand with enough of the  
angel in them to stand between  
the helpless and the armed. But  
it is all to no purpose to rail about  
this matter, we must wait patiently  
for the end; for be sure of this "the  
end is not yet" some thing more  
must follow. An indignation  
meeting is spoken of in New York

which I hope will be held while  
I am here. Virginia will learn  
to laugh at her own foolish fears  
and I hope that the process of  
training will be assisted by a more  
intense degree of danger than she  
has yet experienced. When nineteen  
men can raise an alarm throughout  
the length and breadth of the land  
from Boston to New Orleans, from  
Chicago to Savannah surely a well  
weighed effort by men of mark could  
not fail to effect something; but such  
is not the wish of the more moderate  
party which is naturally that from  
which most is to be expected in the  
way of real action -

Three weeks (or nearly four) seeming  
a long time to be without news  
from home I do not dare to expect  
any waiting at P.D. & Co. if there are  
any I shall have them in the morning.  
I had the intense pleasure of "the Daily  
Post" at Mr. Yarnall's with the account  
of the Mayor's Ball and noticed  
many of my friends that I should  
not have looked for in such a place

I have not seen a Spool paper since Chicago till this one.

About half an hour after my arrival I was looking out of the window wondering what prodigy would turn up first - sure of something or this would not be New York - When I recognised the spasmodic shake of a delicate umbrella and soon was "kitched" to my old school fellow Chas Mozley now on his way to Japan & China; from him I find that Geo left for N.Y. five days ago. There is now a good deal to see in this city in addition to summer sights - Church's Cinders has to be hunted up.

I spent the first three days of the week very pleasantly in Baltimore. Oh stars & stripes! what lovely girls that city contains! I had looked upon the floating rumors that I had heard to that effect as the mere fanciful formations of biased minds, but no! it is a fact. You ask are they anything like Mrs. or Mrs. -? They run rather hard on the brilliancy and freshness

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of the former's sweet face, but you look at them (or I did) in rapture "Oh how exquisite!" strives hard to escape through our closed teeth "and what a fashionable bonnet" following instantly on the former thought spoils the fine effect which the simplicity of Mrs. - 's dress always enhanced - For the other; they try to attain a dignity of bearing like bean ideal number 2 but conceit or pure pride shaves it to so fine a point that it breaks off short and becomes lost. When I started from Charleston and got my face towards the Northstar I felt uncommonly "good" and as if I was getting home quite fast and now we are neighbours only 3023 miles of water separate us we will ignore "ould Ireland" protest. I am quite inclined to see N.Y. for I am more than ever pleased with this house. I have a most luxuriously appointed bedroom, rich crimson curtains lined with yellow, and still lined with white net; a great



institution shaped like a  
low chair soft cushioned and  
covered with the same warm colored  
damask stands on a tasteful pile  
carpet. The low and inviting bed  
is looking at me and the furniture  
is made of walnut wood, the dressing  
table and writing table are topped  
with marble slabs and the former  
has a fivefoot looking glass which  
deserves to occupy a good deal of my  
time for it looks so handsome. The  
room has one fault; it is large, &  
the clothes closet is as large as the  
little place where I hope to stow my  
new Year's day, the hooks would  
be enough to fix a tailors store.  
Add to all this only the third floor  
and you see my inducement to  
see N.Y. The food of course is not to  
be grumbled at but he who has a  
taste for "Squirrel à la Royale" must  
feed on this recollection and cast  
longing glances at the Mississippi  
while he satisfies his appetite with  
mallard ducks and vulgar dishes  
of that sort. Things begin to grow

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in my "English Runty" as they  
call it here and I have to keep  
my stock of clean clothes up to the  
standard or I am overpowered.  
What I am most fearful of is  
having no room for my friends  
for I must make offers of carriage  
after the way I have been treated.  
Nothing could exceed the kindness  
of Mr & Mrs G during both my visits  
for I spent "tanks, giving" with them.  
Mr G has exhibited several curious  
traits; his friends in England would  
hardly give him credit for carrying  
a market basket to and from  
town would they? The idea seemed  
rich to me at first - but when I  
saw the harmonious flow of matter  
at his house I should have been  
surprised at nothing. If Mr G  
were to ask him to watch a sirloin  
of beef and see that it didn't burn,  
while she looked after baby, I guess  
he'd do it. I like her more the more  
I see of her and look forward to welcoming  
her to "her own country" next April,  
with much pleasure. I was also pleased

with his sisters who spent one  
day there. The elder is a thorough  
American one of the free & easy sort  
as soon as one is introduced to him  
his companion and she says just  
what she thinks and as she thinks  
it, whilst he returns the compliments  
or if it does not happen to be of that  
pleasant kind he gives what he gets.  
It is perhaps hardly "the thing" to send  
the above general description of  
an individual, but I assure you  
it belongs to the sex, she was much  
amused with some of our prejudices  
customs as - a gentleman not being  
able to call upon a young lady - It  
is quite common here and the mother  
is neither seen nor asked for. Tell  
est la vie! Send a reassurance that  
M<sup>y</sup> was good enough to give me  
I accepted it for you with many  
thanks. I shall not be able to mail  
this before my journal as there is  
no intermediate mail. How's Eccle-  
-astis? My long love to David and  
yourself. Your affectionate  
brother

Sunday. A small  
love to Master B.W.  
from his uncle

H. Crossfield