

Block & Co. 16 U. S. Military Prison  
Johnson's Island Ohio Dec 19<sup>th</sup> / 64

Mrs. J. C. H. Sands:

My very Dear Cousin:

Your very highly esteem-  
-ed favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. has been received. It afforded  
me the greatest pleasure to hear from you, & your kind  
offer cannot be too highly appreciated. My health at  
present is not very good, but as a general thing, I think  
I have reason to be very thankful for the health which  
I have enjoyed since I have been a prisoner.

In regard to your kind proposal to supply me with  
such clothing as I need, I will state that clothing is  
not the thing I need worst. And allow me to say that my  
experience teaches me that suffering from cold sinks to in-  
-significance before that of hunger. I am in need of  
some clothing, but I need provisions so much worse that until  
I get the latter my efforts to get a permit for the former  
will be comparatively feeble. Provisions are allowed to pris-  
-oners by getting a permit from the Chief Medical Officer of  
the Post. A great many Boxes of provisions have arrived without any  
permit having been received & they have all been delivered. I hope the  
restrictions will soon be removed now. We are allowed to write 3 times  
a week & we are allowed to get News Papers in any quantity. I think  
the Sutter will be allowed to sell provisions soon & if I could get some  
money I could then supply my wants in a very great degree.  
My hopes for getting a permit for provisions are very faint, though I will do my  
best. Please write to me again as soon as you get this. Your devoted Cousin  
all interest reading matter will be very  
thankfully received. Books are not at present allowed

Geo. W. Melvin