

University of Virginia  
December 15<sup>th</sup> '60

Dear Pa,

Yours of 28<sup>th</sup> ultimus  
came to hand a few days  
ago and as I had just  
written a short time before its  
receipt I thought there was  
no need of answering  
to answer. Now as at home  
there is a great deal of talk  
about secession & revolutionary  
movements; but still, nearly ev-  
ery candid, unprejudiced  
man expresses his mind  
as in favor of secession  
unless certain rights of the  
South are established, and  
these they think will never  
be given them -

I am unable to comprehend

why the South has not taken a  
more determined stand in years  
gone by; why she did not con-  
tend for her rights when those  
14 Northern States passed their Per-  
sonal Liberty Bills, and not to  
have waited until an Abolitionist  
President was elected. Then was the  
time to act, and by one bold  
stand free ourselves forever from  
this incessant contention about  
slavery, and which shall be slave-  
holding & which non-slave-holding  
territories. The acts of the Abolitionists  
at the present time in the  
Orders of Kansas & Missouri are  
enough to exasperate & drive  
every Southern State out of the  
Union.

I wish Pa. that you would send  
\$100 (one hundred), sometime between  
now & the 15th of January as  
I will then want money to pay  
up for my quarter commencing

1<sup>st</sup> day of January. My expenses  
this year will necessarily be between  
\$400 & \$500 - thus ranging some-  
what higher than either or myself  
expected. Write soon. Love to  
all -

Sincerely Yours  
Wm. Brown

**Broun, William. William Broun to Edwin Broun,  
Charlottesville, VA, December 10, 1860.**

**FileName:** ua24-19\_cwl\_18601210

Handwritten letter from William Broun to his father, Edwin Broun. December 10, 1860. References Southern secession. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, Virginia, United States. 3 pages.

**Subjects:** American Civil War (1861-1865); Broun, Edwin, 1819-1904; Broun, William, Captain, 1842-1908; College costs; College Students; Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; Personal correspondence; Secession; Slavery--Political aspects; Slavery; University of Virginia; Virginia--Northumberland;

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University of Virginia

December 1st, 1860

Dear Pa,

Yours of 28th ultimo came to hand a few days ago and as I just written a short time after its receipt I thought there was no need in hurrying to answer. Here as at home there is a great deal of talk about secession & revolutionary movements; but still nearly any candid unprejudicial man expresses his mind as in favor of secession unless certain right of the South are established, and these they think will never be given them.

I am unable to comprehend...

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...why the South has not taken a more determined stand in years gone by; why she did not contend for her rights when those 14 northern states passed their personal liberty bills and not to have waited until an abolitionist president was elected. Then was the time to act and by one bold stand free ourselves forever from this incessant contention about slavery, and which those be slave-holding & which non slave-holding territories. The acts of the abolitionists at the present time on the orders of Kansas & Missouri are enough to exasperate and drive every Southern State out of the Union.

I wish Pa that you would send \$100 (one hundred) sometime between now & the 15th of January as I will then want money to pay up for my quarter commissary...

[pg.02]

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... 1st day of January. My expenses this year will necessarily be between \$400 & \$500. Thus ranging some what higher than [?] or myself expected. Write Soon. Love to all.

Sincerely Your Son,

Wm. Broun.

[pg.03]

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**Notes:**

1. [Personal Liberty Bills](#): The personal liberty laws of the northern "free" states, enacted between 1780 and 1859, protected African-Americans from kidnapping and from being claimed as fugitive slaves.