Gideon Welles to his son Thomas, 5 March 1865: transcript

Faithful transcript of a four-page handwritten letter. Page labels give the page of the original.

[[note]] Gideon Welles.
5th March 1865
Washington

5th March 1865

My Dear Tom

I congratulate you on your promotion and trust you will prove yourself in all respects worthy of the confidence of your General and your country. It is an important trust for one of your years. and I hope you appreciate and realise it.

I was pained to hear you had been guilty of some impropriety which delayed your advancement, but did not wish to allude to it until you had [[recovered?]] yourself by propriety of conduct. Let it

be a lesson to you forever. Only by correct propriety of conduct can you [[preserve?]] your own self-respect and the respect of others. I have made no enquiry into particulars - Likely young Dixon or some other thoughtless and brainless fellow seduced you into a folly which, but for the kind forbearance of Genl Ord, would have resulted in your lasting disgrace. Be guilty of no repetition of such disreputable and inexcusable folly.

You have now obtained a position [[when?]] you must exercise proper self control, and make yourself respected by upright, manly and virtuous conduct.

The inauguration passed off pleasantly and well. There was a great crowd - exceeding any previous one I have ever witnessed at an inauguration. Of the Cabinet it is unnecessary for me to say more to you, than that no change takes place in the Navy Departt.

We have a house full and more than full. All we invited to come are here and several more - so that we have not beds for all.

Genl Robinson called on us to day. He thinks some of going down for a single day to the front but it is doubtful - His leg has got pretty well.

Wednesday my letter was overlooked and did not go on Monday as intended which I

regret, Nothing new has occurred since. Julia [[Merritt?]] went off last evening, home,

We are all well

Yours with kind & [[grateful?]] remembrance to Genl Ord for his many kindnesses to you

Affectly
Gideon Welles

[[note]] 2018.35.2.6

About this transcript

Source: A letter in the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, published as two open access scans. Each scan shows two pages of the folded sheet side by side, so the scans are cropped here into four single pages in reading order.

Citation: Gideon Welles, Letter from Secretary Gideon Welles to his son Thomas, March 5, 1865. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Object number 2018.35.2.6.

Item: https://nmaahc.si.edu/object/nmaahc_2018.35.2.6

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Convention: Smithsonian Transcription Center general instructions.

Check: Each page was read in enlarged, overlapping strips before the Smithsonian Transcription Center volunteer transcript of the same letter was opened. One sentence of the letter had already been seen, quoted in the museum's catalogue entry. The first reading and the volunteer transcript agreed on 316 of 339 aligned words (93.2%), compared without case or punctuation. That figure measures agreement between two readings, not the accuracy of either. All 23 differences were checked against the image again: one word was changed and 22 readings were kept. A second reader then checked the whole letter against the image and one capital letter was corrected. Five words are marked as unclear.

Convention rules

- Spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitals and word order are typed as they appear on the page, mistakes included.
- Text runs as paragraphs. Lines the writer set apart, such as dates, greetings and signatures, stay on their own lines.
- A word split by a hyphen at the end of a line is typed as one word.
- An unclear word is typed as a marked guess, [[guess?]]. A word that cannot be read is [[?]].
- Crossed-out text that can still be read is typed between [[strikethrough]] and [[/strikethrough]].
- Words added above the line are placed where they read, with no caret.
- Underlining, bold, italics and raised letters are not marked.
- Stamps, seals and pictures are named in double brackets, for example [[stamp]], followed by any text they carry.
- Notes added in the margin or by another hand are tagged [[note]].
- Tables keep their rows and columns. In plain text a table opens with a tag such as [[5 columned table]], with a vertical bar between cells and a row of hyphens under the header row.
- Page labels we add sit outside the transcript text. A page number printed on the page is typed.