

1876

Dear friend

January has again  
rolled round, it is now 1876  
the year of Jubilee has come  
the much talked of Centennial  
Anniversary of our national birth  
Philadelphia is rightfully select-  
ed as the place to celebrate the  
birth of the mightiest republic  
the world has ever known, let  
the old bell of liberty that first  
sounded the news of freedom to an  
enslaved people, again ring out  
the thunder tones that has been  
heard around the circumference  
of the globe. The patriotic Henry  
Clay said "give me liberty or give me  
death"

I caught that key note whilst yet  
a boy and in my more mature  
manhood and now approaching  
old age I cannot depart from a  
principle that I believe to be  
for the best interests of man-  
kind, I have no feeling in com-  
-mon with that cowardly sentiment  
that would reprobate a fallen  
foe - nor with that other sentiment  
that would hypocritically praise  
a misdirected man or his values  
A true friend of individuals  
or country is the man for though  
his name be John Brown or  
John Smith, in short no man  
or woman shall ever receive a  
vote from your friend Russ  
who raised a hand against  
the banner of Liberty - nor