

From Joshua Speed
Lincoln's friend

Louisville 20 July 1862

Dear Jimmy

Your letter to your Aunt Lucy has been
brought here to me for reply - She is quite sick with
one of her head aches - She desires me to say, that
she wishes you to act upon your own convictions of
duty to yourself, your Country & your God, always
remembering that you have a Father whose ripen
judgment should be consulted - Fortified with the
approving judgment of your friends and of your own
conscience you can not err -

She also desires me to say that she will give you
one thousand dollars as an outfit -

As to the place of enlistment I have a word of advice
both for you & for John - Unless you can get some
position above that of high private, with a gentleman -
one known to be such, do not enlist in Illinois -

Come to Ky - I feel sure that no can do better than
that for you here - perhaps make ^{you} a first Lieutenant -

Come at once if you make up your mind -

In all things you should consult Mr. Bauger &
be mindful of your engagements -

Affectionately

Your uncle

J. F. Speed

I have seen Genl Boyle who says

you must come to Ky & not enlist in Ills, in which I fully concur