

pistol at my breast, which I knocked out of his hand  
seized him by the throat, for I could not strike down  
his back, and in the act of falling he caught my right  
fore finger in his mouth, and bit it to the bone in  
2 places; - I choked him with my left hand until  
he hallowed like a calf - I happened to have no other  
friends by, and they pulled me off without doing him

23  
Denton May  
July 12<sup>th</sup>

Colo Thomas A Russell  
Leaving for  
Fayette County  
Kentucky

any injury, my friends however rallied when they heard  
of it, and we picked up a big row, I struck an other  
man and my friends backed out the other opposers  
so for the time being, but not for good till under my  
fight - Our friends are enjoying their moral battle  
- We had a fine rain a few days since, and the prospect  
for two months, crops of hemp entirely ruined, and  
look terrible - Write me soon - Give my love to sister  
and all other friends, and as I believe you are  
- Colo Tho A Russell & Affectionate Brother  
Wm A Russell

Oakland July 12<sup>th</sup> 1836

Dear Brother

I believe you are indebted to  
me one letter, but as Gaenette has informed  
me that she has but a few days since  
written to cousin Tom, and as you two are  
the only persons now remaining in our  
old neighborhood that I am altogether confi-  
- dent a letter from me, would be entirely  
satisfactory or acceptable, and as my  
thoughts this evening have run upon the  
scenes of my childhood; - I have concluded  
to trouble you with a brief account of my  
actings and doings since I last wrote you -  
I have been riding the political hobby  
most furiously, and almost exclusively, for  
the last three months, kicking up a dust  
and producing an excitement among the  
people equal I am sure to any thing you  
ever witnessed; - My opponent upon the  
stump is a lawyer of Gutter, an old representa-  
- tive and at one last session the speaker of