

Lexington, Va.

19 Sept., 1870

My dear Nephew

My letter on the Dog question has been unavoidably delayed. I thank you very sincerely for recollecting my wishes on the subject & your steps to comply with them. First I must inform you that it is not my purpose to put my dog to towing canal boats or hauling dirt carts, but want him to play the part of a friend & protector. His disposition is therefore of vital importance & he ought not to be too old to contract a friendship for me, neither is his size so important to me as a perfect form—In the secured place I am promised by our connection Genl. Bur(?) of Md.: A St. Bernard and Newfoundland puppy which I have been expecting for some weeks. He can come from Goshen in the stage, but how can one mammoth dog be accommodated? His place would be to go to Lynchburg on the cars Monday, Wednesday or Friday & take the packet boat that week & reach here the following week. The expressman must request the captain in my name to take charge of him.

Now having the whole account before you, you have full authority to act & judge for me in the matter—I shall be very happy to get the dog & hope that he may reach me safely—either draw from me through Mr. Burke & the Bank of Lexington for the price of the dog & cost of transportation or let me know the amount & I will remit you.

We have had a pleasant visit from Fitzhugh. He just called here the other day but left his wife & boy with us. Robert is also here. I wish you were with us my dear nephew & could gratify us in the same way that he has—you & Custis must set out to do something credibly for yourselves—I give my love to your mother—all would join me did they know I was writing. Remember me to the boys. I have been much interrupted by the students who are coming in fast arranging their studies--boarding houses & c.

Goodbye with prayers for your happiness. I am most truly your uncle

R.E. Lee

Genl. Fitz Lee--