

House, Sept 10th 1863

My Dear Father

I received your kind letter last Friday evening. Uncle Lyman and Mr Collins came the same evening and went away Sunday evening to join the second Louisiana and then get a furlough to go on the Island and when they come, we will go with them. Mother speaks of going up to St Martinville to get ^{the} piano if she can find a cart to bring it down. Mr and Mrs Randt are on the Island. Mr Randt has a little girl 12 years. She cannot walk. She had a spell of fever and ever since then she cannot walk. Mr Hoff went with the negroes to Abbeville or Lake Charles to put them in jail. The army is going to Delaf because the yankees are going there. We have had great hopes of France helping us but Mrs Stafford came up from the city ~~she~~ she heard ~~nothing~~ nothing about it but Mrs Tom Willcoxon also came up from the city and said that Texence has recognized us. Low-grade money is worth 80 cents on the dollar in the city. Mother received your letter mentioning the death of poor Everard Meade but the letter did not say what he died with. Try and bring Otto home as soon as possible and come with her. Mr Tom Willcoxon son. Tell the servants I want to see them very much. Come home very soon. Alfred sends much love to

Town this evening. Write soon in haste

your ever devoted
daughter
Lilly

Dear Dad.

Lilly has at last finished her letter, and a wonderful undertaking it has been. She has given up in despair several times, but has persevered until it is finished. She is anxious to know what your opinion will be about it, and wonders if you will find her improved in letter writing -

We go this evening to New Town on our way to St Martinsville to get Lilly's things. Mr Moss left yesterday for Lake Charles or Abbeville to place Guy and Peter in jail when you must continue to send for them, immediately as neither place is very secure. She was undecided about Fred, but my advice was to put him with the rest. Mr Moss is much depressed in spirits, and does not enter ^{into} capturing and securing these negroes as you would suppose. He has been very sick, and is much worried about this conscript law. I never saw one have a greater dread of going into camp, and I fear soon he will be obliged to go. Do send his exemption if such a thing can be had. I think he can get an exemption on account of his shot hands but we are both afraid to risk it as they may laugh at it, as they do many others, and put him in. I advise you to return home as soon as your business will admit.

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I fear our team will be much used up with this hauling business. Mules and Oxen are both now very valuable. Mules are worth more than other species kinds of property now a days. I have no opportunity of seeing the mules, but, hear numbers of the Oxen have died. Ellis boy that was with the carts has run away.

It is generally supposed our country will soon be invaded again and you may be cut off from us altogether. There are many things requiring your attention here before that takes place. If there is some one here to assist Mr. Moss and impress upon him the danger of delay here, will be very little difficulty in capturing the negroes. Letting Margaret escape and many others was the greatest piece of carelessness I ever heard of. Arnold's too was equally so. Having no hand cuffs or any place of confinement makes it very difficult to keep them after they are caught. Mr. Moss does the best he can but appears so worried about this camp business that I feel sorry for him. Mr. One boy has left the Island was afraid of being sent to camp so took the horse that one of our negroes stole from some one and rode it ^{to} Concordia parish. It is necessary that the houses on the Island, by preference should be occupied. So William Garrett will occupy the C - M - house and Mr. Head the Island house at least for a month. His wife I hear is too low to be moved. The deserters still get their supply of water from the cisterns. They say they will not touch or harm a thing belonging to us, nor have they ^{done any} that I heard of. I heard to day that Fort Sumpter ^{has been} blown up and of course the news of the fall of Charleston will soon follow.

Still every one seems to be hopeful or pretends to be - Henry Collins & Lyman are to be here this evening but I cannot wait for them - must go and see about Ally's things - The man has not yet arrived to see about the sloop - I have sent for Tony to cooper the barrels and will have everything ready if he comes - Mr. Mass will return and see about this, and if it is necessary he should be here to see about the rest of the negroes - They think he has gone to Texas and by returning sooner he may get them. He cannot manage more than two or three at a time -

We are suffering dreadfully for want of rain - How glad we shall be to see you again so do make haste and return before the yankees come, and separate us perhaps for ever - Aunt Sib speaks of returning home. Her place has suffered a great deal from the Tories, not a pin left on it and the house ruined - I sent the power of attorney by Mr. Brown to be mailed or given to some reliable person on the road - It is so strange you do not get my letters - I write so often - I shall look for you very soon - Charley G. has not yet arrived Poor Ally do persuade her to return home as I fear something may happen to her - Poor Mrs. Huff they say is dreadfully worried and has much to annoy her. Her negroes give her a great deal of trouble. Ned shot two very badly the other day. He has been extremely ill with them a cage of the lungs. Is still living but very low - Do come home we want to see you. My health is now very good and wish often you were here - Good bye must ~~write~~ start

Yours affectionately
— M. S. G.