London Aug 7th 1863

My Dear Sister

On the 25th ultimo I wrote Mother acknowledging the receipt of all communications from home to that date. Since then I have received your letter of the 15th June, an interesting but sad letter, all your predictions about the fall of Vicksburg have been realized and I fear you are hardly safe in Selma. Our information here is derived from the New York papers from there we have dates to the 25th July, and through them to the 28th from the South. By which we are informed that General Johnston

had been compelled to abandon Jackson and cross Pearl River on the 16th, that General Bragg was still at Chattanooga & that Charleston still held out. I hope if General Johnston ~~can~~ will be able to make a stand in the neighborhood of Meridian which would not only protect Mobile but all west Ala. - Bragg I think will be able to hold his position at Chattanooga if so Selma will be about as safe a place as any in the Confederacy. The northern papers report that 27 000 soldiers, exclusive of Citizens, were captured at Vicksburg. I did not think that General Pemberton had half that number

and hope this statement is not true — we have no details of the names of the killed wounded and prisoners, and I have not been able to learn what has happened to Brother James & Taylor but hope soon to receive letters from some of you giving full particulars. I reached Paris on the 14th of May and although I did not enjoy myself as much as I hoped to do, yet the news from America for two months was of such a character as to give great confidence ~~to our friends~~ ~~to all~~ to all confederates in Europe — and up to the 18th of July we were all in high spirits — on that day we received ~~got~~ the news that Grant

had been repulsed at Petersburg and
was on the retreat to the Potomac
it was also stated but not confidently
that Richmond had fallen - since
then we have had a succession of
bad accounts causing many of our
friends here to despair of ultimate
success - I am not among that number
but I never spent a more miserable
three weeks - I regret deeply that I
came abroad and if I could abandon
the pest without disgrace I would
leave by the steamer which takes
this - I think I could do more good
at home at least I would be with
the family & might offer some
protection -

I stay most of my time in Paris when I have my new appartments at No 6 Avenue Matignon near the Champs Elysées – a recent commission from the War Department authorising me to examine the accounts and vouchers of the Major Caleb Huse the principal agent & disbursing officer of that dept abroad – has brought me to London and will probably keep me here two weeks – The business of the Commission will keep me in Europe until the last of September – I shall return by the very first conveyance after that time.

Aug 8th

I wrote the foregoing last night this morning we have the news from New York to the 29th ult - giving an acct of the repulse of the Federals at Fort Wagner on the 24th July, and that General Grants had evacuated Jackson on the 23d & retired to Vicksburg - This is the most favorable news we have had for three weeks and the spirits of the Confederates will be up today, and I close my letter under more cheering auspices than I commenced it - I send this by Mr W H Pratt an old Mobile friend who goes out by today ~~by the~~ steamer to Halifax

and thence to Bermuda from there he must take his chances to get in on one of the Block-ade runners - He goes on to establish himself at Charleston as the agent of a line of these ships - one of which will leave here direct for Bermuda in about ten days, by which I will send the articles ordered in your letter of the 14th March say to Mr Gardner that I will send the articles for Mrs Gardner by the same conveyance. I have been writing since 8 O'clock this morning & it is now twelve at night so I bid you good night - The cars are just off

Yrs Brother

Cyrus Reed