

Folly isld. Jan. 12th 1864

My dear Nellie,

I arrived here safely this morning and am now writing in the General's tent by the side of a blazing fire. It is raining quite hard and the heavy drops falling on the tent roof have the old musical sound that reminds me so much of past campaigning days. There have been few substantial changes since I went away although the island looks rather more "habitable" than it did two months ago. The trees & bushes have been cut away and the camps are more open to the sky. I found everyone glad to see me and even the horses seemed to know their old master. Bramhall looks finely and nearly got the better of me this afternoon when I took him out for a short ride. Of course there can be very little to vary the monotony of such a quiet life.

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as we had here. I have seen in the camp today the old familiar routine & hear tonight the same ceaseless sound of the surf, and, every fifteen minutes or so the distant booming of the guns that carry our compliments and good wishes to the good (?) people of Charleston.

We reached Hilton Head yesterday at about 10 AM. and had to wait until midnight before we could get away. Our passage to this island was very disagreeable. A narrow berth on a dirty, rattle trap steamer with privations and discomforts I wasn't quite prepared for. It was a stormy rainy night & the chains creaked with such a dispairing sound that I could scarcely sleep at all. However here I am, a fixture for some time I expect. I shall give myself up to duty and French literature & the delights of an extensive correspondence and am determined to have a good time.

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William has just brought in a letter for Thomas. I am afraid he doesn't like the change from Portland to rebeldom a very attractive one. However he is quite satisfied to stay here for the present. He talks a good deal about his visit North.

I wrote to Mother on board the Arago and the letter will probably go North by the same mail that carries this. You mustnt fail to write to me by every steamer. The first after you receive this letter will be the Arago will sail on the 23^d every eight days after a steamer will sail, you see you can easily calculate the dates. Letters mailed at the General Post Office on the morning of the day before the day of sailing will be sure to come. I wish also you would save the Daily Times and send all the numbers; it will be better than if I should subscribe. It wont be much trouble to preserve them and they will be very interesting to me

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I want you to keep me informed about your doings in NYork. Tell me about the new plays & operas, in fact about everything. Give my kindest regards to Miss Rice & Miss Nelson & tell them both that they ought to give me their photographs. Tell Miss Rice also that I was very sorry not to see her at breakfast on the morning I came for I was obliged to leave without making my adieux.

So all others who are kind enough to ask after me remember me kindly. As for Father & Mother & yourself you know that words cannot express one half of what I feel.

Your loving brother
Jack

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