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Date: Jan. 11, 1861

Description: Capt. John Curtis letter from Mobile, Alabama

## Mobile Jan 11<sup>th</sup> /61

My Own dear dear Wife as I set down to write you the guns are sounding in my ears from all quarters, saluting the secession of Alabama from our Union it is broke it is gone I fear never to return it drives all other thoughts from my head I with hundreds of thousands of other good americans are heart broke and I still hope that something may be done to bring us all together again but it appears like hopeing against hope for the settled determinnation that is settled upon the face of every southern man face says plainer than language can speak that they will have there rights or die in the conflict and nothing will stop it but god in his alwise providence and my prayer is that he will yet keep a guiding hand over us and lead us safe through this is the hour of need I never thought that I should live to see this day the city is nothing but a milatary depot and the streets are filled with nothing but soilders merchants and clerks leave there office and shoulder the musket to so milatary guard duty at the Forts and in and around the city, it is awfull to see americans armed against americans and ready to shed the last drop of blood to defend there houses and fireside and did I not have you and those dear ones to look after I would court a death in this ruin and chaos for now you are all I have to live for / country friends and friendships all wrecked for what for nothing but a few miserable being who have not one doll at stake and have all to gain from the ruins May the curses of an avenging god cast

proton get to bear them like the store supposed hora they then Frank and clearly and him don't may as exercible and my abily warrer is that show that there consent this while they be the first hall with the wortey but wo this lathern weather Wall from sevel for a While air other win they have malle your River good litters have come duty to Though and in the 5 feel emeded to think & Some one faithfull their without get once & The ching to come theirs it in they been with the will Quet of a content for its in fact gard blag you all could I month given what would & not you to her you here you may whather army ements to go wither the on they return duit goverhelf as to there for if I contract of the daine Minet of and chair and the country stends in the serve thate That sel show is the arrivance is une in it I shall go, north and rate for mit on a war a Dre mile fick such total the mout to deep from our stack in 3 and put the west up it another and then clock an chouse and his addin to perenicular the another work of it untile these mobiles one sudere and is won't you to let the first and bush lefor you truck air abildres to thate and abolition preson as he mould a surpent and proint the figure of seem out their as the distroper of this our books union of ours and 5 prog god that lepon may be The flat to the children by every good for therau Advisor open and from an and if The home to post aptiles lefter the commenty the will keep there All Mations this town is now Ifull of assured durin and deven hundred More arrives to Moreons day und take the first from Deneadle which is helle

upon them and therrs and may there lives be prolonged to bear them till they have suffered more than ten thousand deaths and now civil war is inevetable and My only prayer is that those that have caused this ruin may be the first to fall into the vortex but no those lothsome creatures will now revel for a while in the ruin they have Made. Your Kind good letters have come duly to hand and in them I feel consoled to think I have one faithfull heart to trust yet and I will cling to and nurs it in my bosom with the tender care of a Mother for its infant god bless you all and I would give, what would I not give to have you here you May Make arrangements to go withe me on my return suit yourself as to them for if I continue of the same mind I am now and the country stands in the same state that it now is our residence is done in B I shall go North and take you with me and we will pick out what we want to keep from our stock in B and put the rest up at auction and then close our house and bid adieu to america or the northern part of it untill these troubles are ended and I want you to let the first and last before you teach our children to hate and abolition person as he would be a serpent and point the finger of scorn at him as the destroyer of this our lovely union of ours and I pray god that lesson may be taught to the children by every good southerner & union man and woman and if we have to part from a port of our country we will keep those reptiles before the common gaze of all men and all nations this town is now full of armed men and seven hundred more arrives tomorrow [?] and take the fort from Pencacola which is held

by the unite & doles at and a few there Land shed and the first shape of it is spiled will constant to to the solut shed she have shad to here it is hereful aning for a alettech seemed it is I uncling a on the hear and aching heart thate the country is wayall to or traplate, shell down I I have taken is a finde anigor and thall be give to loud in se few cluys und shall herry away to get to go the doe will take our growters on house of the Mity and there are will stong tratile him suttels this great and gloon of accountion to her are how the and and a perior to store and compared & have all of In fr at the furthings which is a fine of and Will pay me well but god only discours whenthe will get and office of there is the feet hope on hope ever commerce thereof air of it were all multions will be the sufferior is Draw out to see This Alexander gesterding and found her say dick orarch diched The to Send has been and dong to you that she gotters Settle corrate and mo of raise The mere not gotel Eury and the Mould not devil Them imis Swall to Will and This new Much pleasest When the got her luce but has a driet heart on title the boys plange to semilature country and they have forces Their to go to the for to faith in ever there is any orghing to be done of I hack there is a great grayer at present the title houserister full of soiling wind a general of their strem are at every subrance it is a surgestur looking Light Such Bright There dres a company of as fine going show ris sents Jens Carrie year the country Bence 3 Mas tolke

by the United States yet and I fear there will be blood shed and the first drop that is spiled will cause rivers to flow I feel glad oh how glad to know you are in Europe away from all these scenes it is heart rending and the heavy and aching heart that is in this country is awfull to contemplate. Well dear L I have taken up a full cargo and shall begin to load in a few days and shall hurry away to get to you and then we will take our quarters on board of the N.Y. and there we will stay untill time settels this great and gloomy revolution Fts here are now two cents and a penny to Havre and Liverpool I have all of my ft at three farthings which is a fine ft and will pay me well but god only knows when we will get any thing more to do but hope on hope ever commerce cannot die if it doze all nations will be the sufferers I was out to see Mrs. Alexander yesterday and found her very sick Sara K wished me to send her love and say to you that she got two letters wrote and was affraid they were not good enough and she would not send them Mrs Swain is well and was very much pleased when she got her lace but has a sad heart for both her boys belong to a milatary company and they have forced them to go to the fort to fight in case there is any fighting to be done of which there is a great prospect at present The Bottle house is now full of soilders and a guard of two men are at every enterance it is a singular looking sight last night there was a company of as fine young men as I ever saw came from the country and I was told

The middle of class and hundred there and The mile bright the could duit Canker abolition is at not All was that the tell you are the idea of the feeling here taph so to a hail a so sharrow excape With his life fore he this on I want of his ship Wellout his sop is a not dad to sleep on fourt of a deferent ship every on ght while to in Thisty one hight it gap browning to that he has coming less win to detail his house and the hundred Men Montell the mouth want fift Ment on South of the heat after him and to be not during iron in the freet high he mos out there could then the got up a counce to go after him down the way cut ald merchant such a hout claim on sunder Morning and Towned fine to Lea and he got clear and a am stack for his families Dake & heur that Liney langhes at it but had they cought him They Mould have left him 20 The House not here sur here and it here now That all northern shew have to be very, carefule who to the yeary for fine of herry peder nothing when if a count of tax aunt fette de they get to he de part de rele as the black republicion de ctron Mon deur I accept the of your own arier this band area kelo there deer boy's for father and love to Jener detter from Jun Otohn

that there was a [paper torn] in that company worth one hundred thousand doll and some worth five hundred thousand they were all fright the Capt said that there Was Not a Man in his company but what could kill a deer at one bound a Hare at two bounds and a d—d Yankee Abolitionest at no bound at all so that Will give you the idea of the feeling here Capt Boutelle had a very narrow escape with his life here he was on board of his ship ten days before he left and had to go away without his papers and had to sleep on board of a different ship every night whilst in the Bay one night it got hroumered that he was comming up town to settel his business and two hundred men maned the warfh and fifty went on board of the boat after him and broke into every room in the boat but he was not there and then they got up a crowd to go after him down the Bay and old Merchant sent a boat down on Sunday Morning and towed him to sea and he got off clear and I am glad for his family's sake I hear that Lucy laughes at it but had they caught him they would have left him so she would not have laughed and it is so here now that all Northern Men have to be very carefull what they say for fear of being picked up and nothing short of a coat of tar and feathers do they get who suport Lincoln or the black republician doctrin Now dear L accept the love of your own dear Husband and Kiss those dear boys for father and love to your sisters from your John