

National Hotel
Washington Oct 4./64

My Dear Somers,

I thought when I wrote before that I should leave here in a day or two - I have been here now 8 days, & don't know when I can leave, but hope to know to morrow.

I recd your letter yesterday - I can well imagine your feelings, & shall be delighted to see you & explain all - I left home the 8 Aug. by rail to Okolona - in the vicinity of which place I remained till the 10. Sept. - That morning I left mule back & made my way into Tenn. & then to Memphis - which I reached Monday forenoon the 19th Sept. - then by Steamer to Cairo - & from Cairo, by rail via Indianopolis, Crestline, & Pittsburg to Phila. The cause of my leaving, was a musket

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 99430

Date: Oct. 4, 1864

Description: K.B. Sewall to Somers Sewall on escape from Mobile

& the entrenchments - or confinement
in a crowded Guard house without
communication with my family
or friends indefinitely - I have
fortunately foiled my enemies &
escaped from the worst despotism
& tyranny that ever existed - It was
very hot weather when I left Okolo-
na - & I suffered here from expo-
sure & anxiety - I was obliged to
lay by me & take medicine - This
detained me two days - I also
stayed one Sunday 15 miles out
from Memphis - I rode six days -
At Memphis I was on the point of
going down to N.C. thinking you
were perhaps there - but finally
considering that doubtful & the
passage down somewhat hazardous
from Murrells, I determined
otherwise - I am anxious now
to go back to Mobile on account

& the entrenchments - or confinement
in a crowded guard house without
communication with my family
or friends indefinitely - I have
fortunately foiled my enemies &
escaped from the worst despotism
& tyranny that ever existed - It was
very bad weather when I left Okolo-
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passage down somewhat hazardous
from [?] I determined
otherwise - I am anxious now
to go back to Mobile on account

of the family, but can only go
under the stars & stripes -

I was arrested the day I left by
an armed squad because I would
not join a Military Company -
It is the second time I have been
arrested for the same cause within
the last 2 1/2 years -

They would not let me remain
quiet attending to my family &
my own affairs - but compelled
me to take sides -

They will rue the day - I am
not of a revengeful disposition -
but I can never forget the injuries
which I & other northern born citizens
have received at their hands - and
I will yet be in my power, perhaps, to
heap coals of fire upon their heads.

I shipped down for the family a good
supply of flour - for meat & other things
they will have to depend on what they
can get in Mobile. If I only knew
they were well, in good health -

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be happy - but there is no means
of communication open - unless
you can write & get a letter through -
But you must not mention my
name - nor allude to me as
in the north - for the letter
will pass through the Provost
office & if it is Rumor that I
am out of the Confederacy,
the family might be annoyed
on my account
or injured by the infernal rebels -

I hope, however, to be with
you in a few days - & can more
fully relate all & advise as to
the future - Give my regards to
John, Sarah & the family - & Henry
& his wife, if you see them - but let
them understand they are not to
speak of me to others - If you
write again, address as before -
Truly & affectionately your father
K.B. S

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