Wilton Head, S.C. Nov 11th, 1861
Monday 8 o'clock 7 AM.

Dear Mother,

I received a letter from you
and it is about a week ago. It is not necessary
for me to say that I am glad to hear from you.
Instead of that, I will proceed to tell you where
I am and that I am well. You see by the date that
I am on the Sacred soil of S.C. and I have the pleasure
to inform you that I agree with me very well or has
so far though I do not know how long I may think
different. I write father a very imperfect and mixed
with account of our operations since leaving Horton
Head. Last Friday, our fleet
bombardeed and took Fort Walker on Hilton Head.
The fort is named for the Rebel Secretary of War. He also
bombardeed Fort Beauregard at Bay Point on Philip's
Island, I think it is, the name of the Island is Hilton Head
Islands and is about 15 miles in length and will
average 5 or 6 miles in width. But I am saying that
our fleet paid their respects to Fort Beauregard. Yours,

This did not take possession till the next morning.
Fort Walker had 13 guns mounted and Fort Beauregard...
The guns at Fort-Maches are very large, four of them rifled. The fort was surrounded by a wide ditch at the bottom of which were stakes driven into the ground and sharpened. Beside this at each angle were rifle pits. These rifle pits are pieces timber drove into the ground making a sort of pen through the walls which are holes for rifles. They are in the ditch itself and take it. The ditch is about 15 feet deep, 15 feet wide at the bottom and 20 at the top. The Rebels had perfect confidence in their ability to hold their position and thought they could sink a hundred ships but the tremendous fire of the Monitor assisted by the Seminole, Poncanee, Suquehanna, Mississippi and the gun-boats they could not stand. All this part of the island was thus uncovered with the shells which they threw. I wish I could send you some of the fragments of which lay scattered around some of the two and one half square miles of the fort. The island is level and they were able to discern the Rebels in their flight. Large numbers were killed. I have heard some one say that a hundred have been buried by our forces since we landed but I do not know the truth of it. You will learn particulars better than I can give them to you by your papers as I have not the opportunity to ascertain facts and figures. I know that we were picking up dead men in all directions for several days after.
The island was taken - the ground was saturated with blood in and around the Fort. One gun carriage was completely demolished by a shell and one half of a musket head on it. We lost 8 killed and 5 wounded. The last engine of the Pawnee had its head shot off by a canister ball - The Wabash received 36 shots and the other 27. No material damage, however -

Three Rebel gunboats witnessed the engagement - they were inside of the islands and commanded by Commodore Tattnall late of the U.S. Navy and Commander of the Wabash. As near as can be ascertained there were 1800 men on this island and 800 at Camp Point. The contrabands say that 500 came down from Savannah to see the battle. I rather think they went back in a hurry, if they were all lucky enough to get back at all. This was a very wealthy place - large number of "contrabands" from the mainland beside those on the island of which there are a great many. Those that came ashore secured large quantities of things such as swords, matches, pistols etc.

We came ashore late and marched to our present encampment, which is in a cotton field. So the boys have had their long expressed desire of being in the land of cotton, gratified.

The cotton is in its maturity. We have plenty of sweet potatoes for the digging. I could send some of the fine large oranges of which large numbers are brought into Camp daily. Our boys get most any
thing here. They have brought in horses, mules, oxen, cows, sheep, hogs, turkeys, geese, chickens &c. My post is not at these places today. Henry is plenty here. Large quantities of provisions of all kinds, and clothing such as blankets &c. was sent in a large box filled with medicines that were left. I presume there are other boxes. The clothing and provisions such as flour were taken by the quartermaster's department. I presume that all the property on the island will be as we have received orders not to sell any more. Some have gone into houses and taken almost anything they could lay their hands to.

I have a newspaper or two; one of which I sent to David and home. I took a copy of the 'North American Review' and one of the 'Quarterly Review'— the day last night and the night before as their shelter, but the flary decked houses just tonight we have put our tents in the same tents that we had at Augusta. We left them at Long Island and have seen the river since then. We have just been here to supper which consisted of pork, beef, bread, veal, pork, potatoes, and hard bread. Tomorrow we intend to have a chicken stew. We have got a good Shanghai on the spot and plenty of corn grows near by, when we are hungry, the boys are to have their breakfast on goats' meat. They enjoy these things highly. One of our boys was out with a party of New York men who killed 14th.

It is quite warm here yet, and once in a while I see a mosquito, but I think it is going to be pretty healthy. The boys fought with desperation and were kept at the gun by loggers, but the Chivalry of S.C. had to run before before the devoted Yankees. They have left the Island entire and have also deserted a large boat 19 miles above here and left all their property to their enemies. The boys left our cow well. We had a letter from Augusta. The boys left us and well, went to see their relatives, which I shall forward. I received a letter from