The letter begins:

"Oct. 19 - I was down to New York today. It looks pretty bad. The water is as usual, with boats and wharves all kinds of things going on.

Would like to hear from you. How are you doing?"

Signed:

E.A.
19. The guns at Fort Mole are very large, four of them. The Fort was surrounded by a wide ditch in 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, 5 feet wide at the bottom and 10 at the top. The Rebels had perfect confidence in their ability to hold their position and thought they could kill a hundred ships but the tremendous fire of the Monitor assisted by the Seminole, Penrose, Suquehanna, Mississippi and the gun-boats they could not stand. All the part of the island was covered with the shells which they threw. I wish I could send you some of the fragments of which lay scattered around some of the town that were from 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 the papers as I have not the opportunity to ascertain facts and figures. I know that 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 man's head on it. The list - 8 killed and 5 wounded. The last engineers of the Paroon had his head shot off by a canister ball. The Wabash received 86 shots and the others 27. No material damage, however. According to three rebel gunboats witnessing the engagement, the men inside of the islands and commanded by Commodore Patrull, late of the U.S. Navy and commander of the Wabash, as near as can be ascertained they were 1800 men on this island and 800 at Bay Point. The contrabands say that 500 came down from Savannah to see the fighting. 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, besides those on the island of which there are a great many. Some that came ashore secured large quantities of things such as swords, match pistols, &c. We came ashore Sat. and marched to our present encampment, which is in a cotton field. 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 need not say how many 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 postal that two goats today. Money is plenty here - large quantities of provision of all kinds, and clothing such as blankets, &c., in a large box filled with medicine that was left. I presume they even other times. The clothing and provisions such as flour were taken by the quartermaster 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 most anything they could lay their hands to.

I have a newspaper or two, one of which I mailed. I saved some. I took a copy of the North American Review and one of the Quarterly Review. The day last night and the night before with no shelter but the flimsy decked structure. But tonight we have put our tents - the same tents that we had at Augusta - the left them at Long Island and have seen that since. They now - the have just come to newspapers which consisted pork, steak, fried, liver, peaches, 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 grown near by. When we get to town, the boys are to have their breakfast on goat meat. They enjoy things here. One of our boys was out with a party of New York men who killed 140 thieves.

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 guns byLOGO, but the Chivalry of S.C. had to run before before the Confederate Yankees. They have left the islands entirely and have also destroyed a large fleet 19 miles above here and left all the property to their enemies. He had a letter from New York. The boys left out don't well. I write this today which I shall forward. I received a letter from