

No 20. Charleston, S.C. Dec 29, 1864

I arrived here Sunday this afternoon having come in re-
sponse to a telegraphic Order from Genl Hardee. A few
moments since I reported for duty, but the General was
not in his Office. I will do so again tomorrow, as I am
anxious to know upon what kind of duty I am to be
placed. Genl M'Lane left at Proctor's. He regretted my
leaving him, and has written Genl Hardee requesting
my return to duty with him. - This City presents a
desolate appearance, and the prospect of making this
doomed and shelled region our "head quarters" is not
very charming. - Since my arrival there has been no
shelling, and I learn that since the evacuation of
Ponoono, everything has been very quiet. - I have not as
yet visited the "shelled District" as it is technically
called here. There, I understand, desolation and silence
reign supreme. Each of the houses to the right and left of
the one in which I am now staying has been
shattered by shells. - In fact there is, I believe, no
part of the City entirely exempt from their reach. -
I am with my friend Col Waddy. He leaves in the

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Charles Colcock Jones Jr. Papers

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morning en route, In Alabama, and will probably re-
main a few days in Augusta. You must have him
to dinner or to tea. To his keeping I enclose this letter.
I trust I need not show you are still cheerful and happy
despite the gloomy circumstances which attend us on
every hand. It fills the mind with the gloomiest appre-
hensions calmly to contemplate the Present, and weigh the
Probabilities of the Future. - In truth we have to shut
our eyes and ears to all save the immediate do-
mestic which lie before us. I long my sweetest wife
to be with you, and in person assure you of all
the tenderest truest love which this loyal heart
can cherish for her who has in the darkest hour
and at all times, blessed me with her love, and
made me the happiest of men. - Separation from you
my Lord, is the most grievous of human trials. - Would
to God that we could always live together for many
many years. - in the full fruition of all divine sa-
- And joy and privilege which are born only of the
truest, purest and most constant love and devotion. -
Rich indeed will I be, if everything else is lost, if
you, my Darling, and my little Ruthie are spared. -
I wish that I could swap places with Waddy in his
trip to Augusta. I will not say I hope to see you soon,

for
less
you
men
for
we
be
see
me

M

Oh I never create an expectation which I cannot fulfil,
but I will say, that if I can, I will be with
you on the 1st of Jan, New Year Day, dedicating each
moment to God.

God bless you, my precious wife, and preserve you
from every fear and harm. Endowing you richly
with every favor and when this short and tempesty
season is over granting you a blessed and peaceful
rest in that Eternal Haven when there will be no
more storms, but joy and bliss eternal.

In all love,

Your own,

D.

Mr. Erast Jones.

Augusta, Me.