

#188.

Savannah August 18<sup>th</sup> 1863.

I desire to prepare you my darling, for the receipt of intelligence, in its very nature unwelcome, so that when it does transpire, you will not regard it as unexpected, or attach too much importance to it. - What I say to you now, you will not mention at present: for certain prudential reasons it should not be made public. - Fort Sumter is now not actually abandoned, and therefore will be of no avail to us for the defence of Charleston. For some time Genl Beauregard has been quietly and secretly dismantling that Fortification, and removing its guns to other positions in the Harbor where they can be more safely stored. - and judiciously used. Few guns remain there at this moment. Some were dismantled.

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Charles Colcock Jones Jr. Papers

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led by the fire of the Enemy yesterday during that terrible bombardment, which you will remember we heard so distinctly while we were at the plantation. Those 200 lb Parrot Guns which have recently been placed in position upon Morris Island by the Abolitionists, throwing their powerful rifle projectiles over the heads of Battery Wagner, have already very seriously damaged that face of the Fort which looks towards Morris Island. In fact it is impossible for the walls of this Fort to withstand the effect of such shots. They were never constructed with that view, and it is now impossible sufficiently to strengthen them. Since the inception of this Revolution, all the established theories of fortifications, and beaching ranges - as well as the character and power

of siege guns, and heavy mortars, and cannon, have been materially changed. Consequently what skilful could once have done under the old rules, she cannot accomplish in the face of these modern improvements. Under such circumstances, and in view of the selected and valuable character of the armament, it became necessary to remove the guns - and this removal has been progressing slowly but surely for some time past. The Ammunition and Ordnance stores thus obtained, will be distributed among the other batteries in the harbor. The Army will now never enjoy the satisfaction of possessing and occupying that fort for so long as it becomes necessary. We will, upon our fi

had evacuation. How the entire thing  
live to atoms. Now even this is  
a sad necessity to contemplate.  
and acids from the position left  
which we will experience in the  
destruction of that Fort, it will  
be a matter of sincere regret and  
humiliation, to think of the joy  
which its banner flew will cause  
in the hearts and voices of these  
infamous invaders of our soil. —  
It would not very much sur-  
prise me if that Fort were not  
this very night entirely aban-  
doned and blown up by our  
forces. — When you hear however  
that Secotan has fallen, do not  
doubt for a single moment  
its loss involves that of Charles  
Fort. The Enemy will not  
wait, but fairly entered up  
the commencement of their there.

5  
be an undertaking. We have shown  
our Batteries which we trust  
will successfully resist all at-  
tempts to enter the harbor and  
the fear of evolutions which  
will burst from the southeast  
lips of the besiegers, as they  
see the smoke ascend in un-  
wonted volumes above the cum-  
bling walls of Secotan, will, I  
confidently believe, and spare, be  
converted, before the siege is over,  
into a commingled hollow sound  
of Chagrin and disappointment, re-  
gret, and mortification. —

But, my dearest, my eyes are draw-  
ing tears, and I must seek my  
lonely couch. You know I did not  
get much sleep last night. I  
will leave this letter open un-  
til morning, and at an early  
hour, perhaps before you are at

wake. I will not spare any  
material devotions. Meanwhile, good-  
night my own best-beloved. Would  
that I could tell you how dear,  
how more than precious you are  
to

Yours own  
C.

Miss Elizabeth

Augusta, Ga.

Best love to dear Cousin Phil

Thursday Morning Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>

Good morning, my sleeping Beauty,  
How I wanted you too early! -  
It was cruel to disturb that  
sweet slumber, soothed by the  
gentle accents of those falling  
rain drops. - Now my darling is  
awake. - I promised you last  
night that I would, in pray-

ing my earliest devotions acquaint  
you with any ideas of intellec-  
tual genius which may have been  
received from Charleston unmedi-  
ately. We have nothing of intel-  
lect from any quarter, and are  
ignorant even of the effect pro-  
duced by that terrific bombard-  
ment of yesterday. - I had no

business waking you decreed, to  
tell you only this, had I? -

Well let us kiss you good-bye,  
there is a plenty of slumber  
yet in your dear eyes, and you  
will soon forget that you have  
been wakened too early this  
morning, by your  
C.