

1st 2nd Squad Artillery

Jones Island Sept 1st 1863

My very dear Mother,

Nothing of an unusual character has occurred in the progress of the siege within the past two days - with the exception that the Enemy this afternoon paid some attention, with the cannon and a few shells, to our Suction lines, shelling and thus retreating - Heavy firing still continues between the hostile forts on Morris Island, and our Batteries at various points on this Island, are endeavoring to annoy the Enemy. As you view Morris Island from the Battery in advance of our Quarters, and from Secessville, you can almost imagine that you are looking upon Staten Island. There is such an aggregation of shipping of every sort and description, and such a collection of tents etc, that the Island presents the appearance of a continuous village. I have assumed Command of the Squad Artillery on this Island. If any attack is made by way of Jones Island, I will have my hands full.

There is not a moment of the day or night but the boom of heavy ordnance the smoke of our Batteries and the bursting of shells can be seen and heard. I regard the face of

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Charles Colcock Jones Jr. Papers

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not to agree as a mere question of time, and
think the policy of holding it longer a
questionable one.

I am ever, my thoughts and affec-
tions, as always with you my dear sister,
with my precious little daughter, and
with all kind. May God mercifully pro-
tect you all, surrounding you with His
special favor and blessing.

Our present location is very filthy - you
now find such quantities of flies - and bad
smells are very common.

Should anything unusual occur I
will write you at once.

Do kiss my precious little daughter
for me. Give her love to all, and believe me ever
my dear sister

Your affectionate son

James M. Smith

Mrs Mary Jones
Natchez, Miss.

There is no saying when the ship will
arrive. We hope for the best.

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