

Florence May 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Mark.

I have been very busy of late, as I should have replied to your letter sooner.

Her bark can come any time she likes before the 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

The news to day, is most cheering. New Orleans - as good as taken, and all the forts destroyed. I don't see how - after this, communications are to be kept up twist & turn down - on the opposite banks of the Mississippi, our forces will have open the river the whole way and this will prove a fatal blow to the Rebels.

They have burned their cotton to the value of \$14,000,000. I wish they would burn the rest of it throughout the South, and if the traitors would get one top of it, while in flames - it would be still better.

I hope that McIlhenny will redeem his reputation - by some good generalship. You it cannot be denied, that his Stanzas below are just wrong - but we should consider how much he has had to do - to prepare an army - I am not disposed to judge him yet, but give him a trial in the field - It would be a serious thing to be defeated at York Town - but that would not ruin us - It would teach us another