

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,

Washington, Aug 9th, 1865.

Friend Wiley

Yours of the 4th inst. came duly to
hand this morning, and was gratified to hear from
you I had been waiting patiently to hear from you
for some time, but "many tidings" and I write you
a few days since directing to Brookfield Vt. supposing
you were at home. The same will probably be forwarded
to you. I am happy to hear that you have found
employment, and should judge you was very pleasantly
situated, and if your business should call you to this
city I should be very happy to see you. The Office is
Cor. 19th & J. (where the Provost-Marshal's office was formerly)
and I am boarding at present at Felt's No. 137 1/4th St.
In my letter directed to Brookfield I wrote you to
forward me all the information you could in relation
to our Files that was sent us while we were "in absence"

write," and I will try to find them if possible
don't know as I can do anything but will try.

There was a large lot of unclaimed Express Boxes & Packages
sold here at Auction a few days since but did not see
our name on the list.

I am very pleasantly situated and like very well
thus far I have Herati's Restaurant for my roommate
he is now on a visit to Rome and I am keeping old
Bachelors Hall. and have reduced it to a science.

I. If your humble servant has "eschewed" (how is that for
language?) Vini gallici, Spiritus (you will find that in the Med-
ical Dictionary) and anything of that nature, together with
Wines, and read two Chapters in the Bible every day,
and speaking in reference, you might say that we are
very exemplary young men, and belong to the Princely
Circle, Sons of Temperance, or "any other man". we indulge
in an Ice Cream occasionally and go to the Theatre about
once in two weeks that is the extent of our dissipation.
This being the City of "Magnificent Distances" you cannot

See the point without the help of a Field Glass. I
now thought I should like to live here, but must
consider it the Garden of Eden and be satisfied.
I have formed but few acquaintances ⁱⁿ and don't intend
to. This is a very rough Coast. to guide One's Craft. but
think if I stick to the Helm and give my mind to it I
can steer clear of the rocks & sandbars and bring my
craft in better safe.

on visit to President's grounds Wednesday afternoon to
hear the Music by the Band. There is always a great
display of Water-falls and Shikho traps and young
gallants with their Dulcianas, cane and Poodle attachments.
owing to the intense heat the gallant is obliged to make himself
useful as well as ornamental by the energetic use of his fan
upon his Dulciana and Poodle which renders him very interesting.

I met many old Prison acquaintances here on the
street. I met Harris (the man with cigars and small
crew who was quite anxious to let his Oar to get into the
good grace of his fellow prisoners. so he could keep a Steamer

Stand at Savannah he is a dashing Cavalry Capt.

Pool & McCutcheon "have done good
and committed matrimony", and settled down in
a house of their own, under their own vine and fig tree.
The former is a Doctor and Ed I suppose it sticking.
I wrote him some time since congratulating him upon
the second event of his illustrious life, but have
heard nothing from him in return. Think his mind
is taken up with love in a cottage and has not time to
write his friends. I received a letter from Pierson, he
is giving his mind Agricultural pursuits. Have you
heard from Maj Willis; and has he committed to you;
and is he at Fiddesford Maine? I should like to hear
from him about twenty dollars worth. Please inform me
in relation to Maj W. in your next.

There is nothing new of importance in this vicinity. "all quiet
along the Potomac" please remember me kindly
to Mr Brown & family and write again soon
yours &c J. A. Duran