

New Orleans June 14th 1848

My dear Mother

Our barge arrived & his arrival will have reached you long before this gets on its way I did not write to you on our first arrival, for I was not able to hold a pen. I went ashore to a house where I could have a good attendance. & thought I would write when I got better. I have now got quite smart again. & thought in right you should know why I had been so silent I recd a letter from you Mr Short. & SS & ? ?. on my first arrival Should I get so as to return to duty, soon I think there is a very good chance of my ~~le~~ getting a better berth. I am well otherwise than I am weak. & I can see that I daily gain strength. This is a borrowed pen & not a good one, as I would write so that you could read. The rests of the father must excuse my writing. I don't know that I can say any more, but, that as I get better I will write. I would say that on our passage out I was perfectly well untill we had nearly arrived into the Balise In a few days, I expect to be on board. Remember me to Godmother & her household also to Uncle Abner. Remember me to All

Yours affec Son Stephen

Envelope addressed to:

Mrs Ann E. Blake

West Cambridge, Mass.

(Note added in another hand writing: Written in Circus St Hospital