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New Orleans February 7th 1866

My dear Sister

Last week my Mother sent me your letter that you had written her, I assure you I was truly glad to hear from you and to find you were well, and anxious to hear from us, I assure you dear Sister we have had very many trial and troubles since I wrote you, for I suppose you heard, that we were in Mobile when the city fell, ^{Shannon} was doing very good business, but he thinking the Yanks would do as they had done in other cities, (to burn down nearly all the houses,) so he sold what he had, and then we had all Confederate Money and we went to Pascagoula he thinking he could go into the interior and lay out all this Confederate Money which is \$10,000 - but we were not there 3 days when we heard of the surrender of the Army and no one would take the Money, so there we were with not one cent to dress ourselves, fortunately we had laid in 2 sacks of Corn Meal some flour and fat Bacon, and we could catch fish potatoes and Crabs so we lived in this way for 5 months, we had no rent to pay, but you know this could not last we wanted clothes and the people would want their property - so my Brother who lives in the city of New Orleans, he wrote a letter to A telling him (there was some money) to come up to the city and see what he could do and that we could all live to his house until he was able to take care of us - and this has been now nearly 5 months and we are still living off my Brothers hospitality he commenced business but had to get everything on credit and I assure you it is very hard, as soon as he gets paid for his work he has to spend it for something in the store, and so it goes. I tell you what, I just feel as if I was about 60 years