

New Orleans Jan 1st

Dear Preston.

I leave in a moment on
this for Live Oak having been down
here on a visit since Wednesday last.

We have neither seen or heard any
thing directly of Sister, though I learn she
is still at Mrs Humphreys' on the coast.

Father has written you I believe that
some twenty negroes may shortly be expect-
ed down from N.Y. I hope you will put
hands at once to getting out pickets
not logs so that boats may be ready
for them by the time they arrive. They
are unacclimated negroes and will
not therefore bear much exposure.
The pickets ought to be cut about 9 feet
and they make by all odds the

cheapest and best ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~had~~. About eight of
the negroes will be first class hands and
three or four more full hands in Cotton
picking.

I expect to leave New Orleans on Friday
for Yazoo and in case I do you may ex-
pect me sometime Sunday if the Packet
connects with the Port at Vicksburg.
If however, I do not leave Friday I
shall not do so until Monday and
in that case you may certainly
count on my being with you the
succeeding Wednesday. It is possible
Father may be with me.

If you think it would be cheaper or
better in other respects, to put up the
6 cabins by contract then do so, only
they must be put up at once as the
negroes will be down in less than
a month. By the way among them
is a first rate Blacksmith and
a rough Carpenter both young
men.

If there is anything I can do for you
in the City drop me a note at once
and I may get it before I leave
though it is hardly probable. Direct
to St Charles Hotel.

May I see you in but see to your
self and Elodie. Your Brother
with sincere Affection
Hart, Liban