

Head Quarters District of Savannah
Savannah, Ga., April 28th 1865

My dear Friend

Your letter of the 21st inst came to hand this am., and I take the opportunity to write you by the morning mail.

We are all terribly disappointed that Booth and his accomplices are still at large. It is to be hoped that someone may yet succeed in ferreting them out. You have but little idea how excited our soldiers were when the news came. We had to put an extra Regt on duty as guards to prevent them from injuring property either by fire or other means.

We had an immense mass meeting of the loyal citizens in the square opposite our Hd Qrt. I sent you a paper containing the account. I do hope that our people will be able to give President Johnson their support but it will take time and circumstances to endear him to us as our late President was.

I called on Mr Weed whom I found to be very pleasant. I consider to be loyal to our Govmt, notwithstanding his having two sons in the Rebel army. He is going north in about a month. I shall assist him all I can. He has a magnificent place here, the next house to the Sorrells, relations of Mrs Roosevelt and Miss Bullock. Speaking of them reminds me that Mrs Elliott who is related to them—Miss B. and Mrs Roosevelt—has appeared before me and subscribed to the amnesty oath of allegiance as published in the President's Proclamation of Dec. 8 1863. I enclose you a copy of our order relative to the mail, which has occasioned hundreds of the citizens here to subscribe to that oath, as also a letter explanatory. I am of the opinion that Mrs Elliott and her sisters will not appreciate my zeal for the Govmt, in writing the last paragraph of the order which was not contained in the order from Dep't Hd Qrt. The Genl told me to write the order and I put in, for the reason that I knew of many who intended to procure their mail under cover of their friends' address. In the letter of Ap. 24 I inserted the age of 18—so a young lady says—to cover her case and prevent her getting her letters, she being a trifle over that age. I think Mrs Elliott is really loyal, though the oath taking was a "bitter pill," as they have brothers in the Rebel service. I am very much pleased with her and her sisters.

I found the office as I had expected, rather mixed up, but I hope soon to have it all in good order. Then I can have some leisure to look about for a Plantation or some other arrangement.

I will send you the papers here, as I think Mrs Roosevelt will like to read them. I was glad to get the pile of New York papers, as we are shut off from all communications—reliable—excepting via steamers.

I was surprised at Sherman's action, what could he have been thinking of—is he really crazy—our soldiers are considerably disgusted with that action of his. I know I for one am.

I suppose the boys are as busy as ever. Please present my regards to your family as also to your brother Theodore.

Very Truly
Yours

Oliver Matthews