

Please let Mrs Belcher know that
I am going to the front

On board Steamer Bertha

May 30th 1863

Dear Mother

One hour ago I was sitting in the office - now I am on my way to Port Hudson & beyond. I had but abt. 20 mts. to pack & get ready & of course have left every thing I want & have got all I don't want. It won't matter for I expect to lose all & every thing in less than a week, especially if we go into the fort with our baggage as I hope we shall. I take up 24 heavy siege guns, sand bags, spades & picks &c, &c. so I expect the place to be reduced gradually. We have so few men that we can't afford to throw any away. I go now to Springfield Landing & from there to the front. Don't expect letter for 2 weeks at least, & don't worry if you don't hear for a month - I shall not have the least chance to write. am using a 9 inch gun now for a desk & my

last bit of paper. Am quite well & hope to keep so. Give
love to all at home - had I time would write more.

Have not heard a word from any of my friends
for several ages - from some not for 5 weeks.

Your loving son
Appleton

Mrs Rowell Shurtis
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New York City -