

9-26-1864

Letter from J. C. Clemson to Anna Clemson, 1864 September 26

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Johnsons Island
Sept 26 Block "4" Miss "1"
1864

Dear Mother

Your letter dated the 15th of this month informing me of your intended visit to the old lady's & the pleasing news of your satisfactory arrangement with Uncle E is before me, & when you get this doubtless it will be answered. The day before or rather night before last we had a terrific tornado which tore the whole roof off of our house carrying away at the same time ~~the~~ rooves of block "g" & five. Trees were torn up & the quarters outside were also damaged: the track of the hurricane was not over 50 yards wide & past right through the middle of our pen. To try to describe the what transpired would take a Dickens to do justice; rafters, shingles, bricks, rain, & mud, filled the air. When I left the house I was picked up & lifted by the force of the wind & deposited at a distance of 20 yards^{more} where I left terra ferma; I had nothing but my shirt & drawers on for it was about 10 at night & I was in bed: I lay in a ditch about a foot deep, but finding that it did not afford shelter enough I went towards the dining room, when the guards commence firing on us finding it to hot^{to} out side for we not only had the storm in front, but the bullets in the rear we returned to our blocks safe & sound. Your devoted son
J. C. Coleman