

9-26-1864

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

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Johnson's 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 "9" & 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 host. 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