

From Alex M. Bedford to Mary E. Bedford

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Hilton Head S.C.

Jan[.] 26th 1865.

Mrs[.] M.E.B.

My Dear Wife[.]

yours of the 21 of Dec[.] & yours of the 8 of Jan[.] was recd 4 days ago[.] this letter came through in quick time[.] I am glad you are trying for a Special exchange. I hope you will succeed but I have lossed all hops of Special or Genl. exchange & if you find out you cant get it I am ready for your advice what to do[.]

I must get out of prison or I will soon go to my long home[.] I am leaner in flesh than I ever was[,] would weight a bout 155[,] my usual weight from 165 to 180[.] I am so weak I reel as I walk & nearly lossed my eyesight[.] we are here for retaliatory purposes[.] I have seen the elephant in all his forms[.]

if you wish me to come home write a mediately & send me the check[.] you can get another one as the one you got for me never came to hand[.] we will loose the dollars worth of stamps[.] notify the house of the fact of loosing the check[.] if you think I cant live at home & had better stay here let me know[.] I will be governed by you[.] you can see the neighbors to see if it would be safe for me[.] has James Bohart returned home[?]

if I stay you can send your box to a firm in N.Y.[,] Sag[,] H.C. Hardy & co[,] 47 Trout Street[,] New York City N.Y. having it marked to me[.] write & instruct him to reship & send him the money to pay A.M. Bedford freight. I close[.]

Your Husband[.]