

Washington City, D. C.
July 2^d 1865.

H. V. Wetton Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 20th ultimo came duly to hand, and I immediately commenced making inquiries as you requested. Indeed, on reading your letter, we all felt anxious to do the best we could in the matter.

I have delayed writing to you until to-day, hoping each day to see, or hear of some one in Washington from Macon or Atlanta. But, though persons had been here from those places, or from that part of the country, I could ~~could~~ hear of none after the receipt of your anxious inquiry. I next inquired of & consulted the Agents of the Sanitary Commission, who have intercourse with all important

places in the Southern country. No information however could be obtained from that source.

At General Howard's Office, who was in command of a division at Atlanta, I could hear of nothing to the purpose.

Next I called on the general who has charge of the Department in relation to prisoners, all military prisoners, &c; but he could give no information in this case.

At the War Department I met with no better success; nor could I hear of any one, who could give, in any way the desired information respecting your Brother; or how I could obtain such information.

Finally, it was suggested, that, as no regular mails were yet forwarded to those places, perhaps I could send letters, through the Military department, & with the War office

letters, to the military commanders, both at Macon and Atlanta.

Accordingly I wrote yesterday, & handed to the Mail Clerk at the Adjutant General's Office, a letter addressed to each of those Commanders: the rough draft of which I herewith enclose to you.

It is briefly what I supposed you would have me write; & it was the same addressed to each Commander. And I requested answers to be directed to me, in the Internal Revenue Bureau, through the War office.

This seems to be the best that I can do; I can truly join with you in hoping for some favorable result. Still all this is so uncertain, that any other opportunities of inquiry, I think, should not be neglected.

Aside from the above deeply interesting subject of inquiry, both myself

I & Mrs. S. were glad to hear from you & yours, & by your own hand.

What you wrote respecting my son Floridus S. & his wife, was indeed more than we had heard through them, as you intimated might be the case; and coming from you, it was the more gratifying to his Parents.

We shall ever remember the kind hospitality which we experienced in your family, when last in Connecticut.

My general health is much better than it was last year; but I need some relaxation. Still, ~~this year~~ my duties in Office are pleasanter than ever before. For which, and all other mercies, God's Holy Name be praised.

Remember us in love to each of your family -

Yours truly -

P. S.

A. Steele

My daughter is going North to permit ^{to gain} strength, & may pay a short visit to her Mother & Wife. I may have leave of absence for a short visit, for the same purpose.