

Feb 23

Adm^{rs} Messrs. July 23rd 1863.

My Sisters,

I wrote you both a long letter and also one to Hines which I sent by Mr MacFadyen who offered to take them in for me. but as I learn failed in his attempt to run the lines, I now make use of another chance which offers itself, though on account of busy times cannot find time to write as long a letter as I should like to. I received two letters from Mother and one from Sister Ann. not long since and the pleasure of reading them has not yet subsided. and as I read them over and over again I am only sorry they are no longer and that I cannot see the dear ones from whom they came. I still hold my office as Inspector of Customs under Mr Hatch, but without a salary at present which situation I like very much and think of leaving it when we get back to the City which time I hope and pray and firmly believe is not far distant.

I have paid the draft which I gave to James M^r Fadyen Esq. who as I said above had again attempted

to run our lines and get to the City.

Diggins 9
is well and sends lots of love to all. Mrs Addams
is here with her baby who is a large fine little
fellow. He also wishes to be remembered to you
all. Mr G- has gone to Baton Rouge, under
a flag of truce, to receive a lot of prisoners,
he will probably be back this evening.

Tell
Harriet in your next letter to him that I
wrote him a letter of four pages just as tight
as I could write it but that I am afraid
he will never get it. I would write him
again by the present opportunity if I had
time but I have not so ^{on} you must do
it for me. Enclosed is a letter from George to
Mother, but as he did not fill up the sheet
I will write a few lines to Mother on it.

Oh how I would like to step in and kiss
all the little ones, and the big ones too and somebody
else who lives on Dauphin Street. You must
give my love to all of them here and tell
them that the time is not far off
when I can deliver that message myself.
Remember me to dear Brother Ned and until
we meet good bye.

Your loving brother
E. M. Mudge