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"Pavilion House" Savannah 5th mo 6th 1857

My dear Sister,

How I should like you to be transported, without suffering or accident into the beauties of this southern clime, and see how nicely we are accommodated both with weather and indoor conveniences. At 7 o'clock this morning my thermometer stood at 72° and now with open window sitting in a small cane seat rocking chair if not the exact counterpart of my own, about equally comfortable, inhaling the soft and balmy and at times perfumed breezes it seems as though I ought to gain an accession of strength in due time; and already a home feeling has stolen over me, which induces me to hope that near 5 weeks may be happily spent here. Thanks to S Richards for sending us to this Hotel, it met the approbation of our good Captain, who insisted upon introducing us here in person, his attentions when under his care were quite fatherly, but I regret to find he is to be superseded in his command. How much are we indebted to the kind offices of our friends the Mencks &c. it is difficult to say, his sympathies extending to those in the steerage ~~although~~ I believe he feels bound to all his passengers. The room which E and I occupy is in the second story after the basement, overlooking a pleasant street, planted with Pride of Indias and other beautiful trees so that if my situation very much obstructs the ground view, from my chair or off the sofa I can look out on a back ground of fine blue

sky, and see the swallows performing their beautiful evolutions in  
the air, and once a Turkey Buzzard sailing majestically before us. The  
Landlady tells me they <sup>latter</sup> are confined very much to the outskirts of the  
city now that they have scavengers. Scarcely in a condition to catch a  
glimpse of the ocean I noticed no sea birds, but hope on our return to  
be more favored; far from wishing to complain we ought to feel  
thankful for our preservation on the ocean, for never perhaps <sup>so much</sup> as when  
we feel in danger can we realize the fullness and all sufficiency of  
the protecting arm. I do not know that our risk on first day when  
encompassed by a dense fog was so very imminent; but when we consi-  
der that the return steamers take very much the same track, and  
the Captain <sup>feared of a collision,</sup> so much it was natural to feel some little <sup>stupidation</sup>.  
He observed that we had God to look to, and the only way we could serve  
them, would be by our prayers: on calling again perhaps an hour and  
a half later he reported the mist dispersing; that they could see  
10 or 12 miles distance; that he had made an imperfect observation  
of the sun, which nearly corresponded with the reckoning,  
making us some 30 miles short of Cape Hatteras. This was  
quite relieving, North Carolina looked on the map to be a very  
unpromising shore to be wrecked upon, and the soundings  
at the time, indicated we were about 30 miles from it.

Sickness and exhaustion prevented my answering R Collins  
very kind sea letter, until the last afternoon, when it required  
some resolution to cross the state room for it; & being then  
very much prostrated, ~~and~~ I have since read it to comfort

and hope not without profit. As Anna has given so many incidents of the voyage, it is needless to repeat them. To day she has put in press some Pride of India blossoms: this is a predominant tree here, so I enclose a sprig, the name given in her botany is Melia Azedarach or Beed Tree, we hope to send some flowers next 7th day by "Charlie" in the green box. Captain Hardie called this morning and we mentioned it to him, he has some prospect of taking this Hotel the beginning of the sixth month! I have no recollection when from home having so spacious & suitably furnished a room: a good mattress, two looking glasses attached to beams, a wardrobe providing ample accommodations for clothing, a centre table, sofa, stove, and two comfortable rocking chairs, thus combining the advantages of Chamber and parlor. The landlady called very soon and enabled me to make an arrangement for early dinners, which with other meals are brought to me. A Preston took a walk yesterday and was so forcibly struck with the beauty of the place, that she remarked it seemed like one of those scenes of enchantment where naught was vile but man. Tomorrow I hope to be able to confirm her, as we propose taking a ride, and shall probably enlist the services of the driver to get some specimens for drying the trees look so unlike ours. The difference of trees in various latitudes and circumstances I think one of the most interesting departments of botany. Strawberries, Peas & Asparagus

<sup>(at least I have had Ashanger.)</sup>  
are brought to the table, and quantities of roses were blooming as  
we entered the house in the front garden quite artistically displayed,  
but the back part of the premises had quite another aspect, and  
appears teeming with the colored race of various ages and gradations  
of color, the landlady told one of our party that we might give  
them something for little services if we pleased, but they would  
not expect it, she is a New Yorker a resident here for 19 years  
and considers her health improved by the change.

I scarcely know what else to add excepting that we  
have plenty of indoor occupation to fill up our time;  
we have commenced Cosmos, and as I have been a good deal  
interrupted and am at present writing on my back feel it too  
great an expenditure of nervous vigor to continue much longer,  
do not expose ~~it~~. With much love to Richard, Aunt F. and  
kind regards to Ann and all enquiring friends  
thy truly affectionate sister  
R. White

I hope you are well at both houses and will soon  
let me hear from you, please direct to the Pavilion  
House. I feel it a favor to have such nice companions.  
E says she feels well satisfied with the joint motion ~~of~~  
all the sickness."