New Orleans, 23 August 1812

My dear parents,

The subject of my present letter is to recount to you a scene of horror & devastation, which the Crescent City experienced on the night of Wed. Nov. last the 19th at about dusk we were awed by the bell with the news of an intended invasion of the city. Their plan was to set fire to the town in its usual quarters to rob the Betsy's plunder the inhabitants. I remember those who shied at the thought of it. They left their abodes in alarm. The plot however was timely discovered & stifled in embryo, a white man with his head severed. Blacky was immediately taken up & put in prison. This evil was thus happily averted. But another awaited us - the weather was rainy & stormy but at about 10 o'clock the wind began to die down & the rain cease. For the hour whereof the hour we were up all night I was not aware of the destruction of the city. At least unawares, we retired to the grounds below. The windows were broken, the railing, tiles, brick, &c. watered about & the whole house inundated.
The next morning the scene, particularly the streets, presented a most lively picture of the night's destruction. Many houses, fences, trees, and other things of this description which had been flying about in course of the night, were now quite exposed to view, as houses were blown down about 30 times the number unroofed. Not ten in the white city of Washington but what had received damage the two theatres unroofed, the Market house, a large, new, elegant brick building supported by piles of the same material was laid in ruins, and all with the same—many times were lost by the fall of this other buildings. The plantations in the neighborhood, particularly those near Alexandria, were swept away. Everything about with them—had this storm 

the same effect in the town of the city's being, had the whole. The water would have been laid under 

water in its entire extent, including—Of so Captain Major, at the town and the streets through met a sight and a scene of despair. The Cherry had got her stern knocked in, her long, carriageway.
...sent with her crews, nothing but her crew. Her crews gained on into Africa.  

...the Caroline with a cargo of flour sunk. 

...with a small cargo, shared in various descriptions of support. Captain Joyner is much injured.  

...war the Viper driven from the ship and a half to which she was made fast and carried up the

...with the hulk on the rope and cable above, the hulk sunk with the crews preserved. 

...the Viper, which were on board her, the Viper has nothing left but her hull and that very much injured - the A. D. Peregrine after being

...knocked upon her beam and was down in high wind. 

...The ship, having gone from New York, being about 20 miles below 

capacity, fell down with its passengers, among which was the Captain. The crew with the sailors of two, 

...one of whom was on shore, the other saved himself by getting 

...upon the hulk as it floated by being while the ship was going down. 

...then the 28th of March. Contrary to my expectation, the Jury will not 

...yet decide his new wish for a reorganisation of Ministry. It is far far 

...Agreement from the Bank. The City is as healthy as any part of the World he goes.