

Norfolk Va Sept. 30th 1873.

Dearest beloved Anna,

At last it is possible for me to write you a full explanation, yet much to my regret I can communicate nothing pleasant.

Healthy in body, I arrived in Richmond, but how did I find every thing! Every where the greatest disorder, unheard of extravagance, and my business carried on in the most careless manner. This with my mental condition, was enough to run me crazy.

Oh my dear Anna what I suffer, what I must bear is dreadful.

You know that I cannot conceal my feelings, and yet, God knows, I must not do otherwise, for I soon find out what is the matter with me, especially when your name involuntarily escapes me, as

it has done several times.
Day & Night my thoughts are
with thee; my love & desire
to be with thee constantly in-
creases. Now I truly realized
what I have lost in thee.
Oh how happy I could be!
It is a good thing, that I am
little at home. The day after
my arrival, I came here, &
have been home but seldom.
I am, therefore, at least alone
with my grief, & need not
conceal it, & I can think un-
disturbed of thee, how it will
be in the future God alone
knows; - for peace & content I
do not hope.

Since she has found out how
things stand, I hear the
eternal complaint that I
do not intend to make her
my lawful wife, & give her
child a legitimate father.
Unfortunately she has found
out too much, from whom I
do not know, but can only
conjecture; and so much has

become public, that I can stay here no longer.

I am nearly crazy with thinking, and have tried kindness, yet find no outlet especially now, - but I will tell you how things stand.

Here in America every thing is up side down. Most of the Banks have broken, consequently all papers have fallen very low, there is no money, & business is stopped. You can therefore see I am in a deplorable condition. That I am unhappy, yes tired of life you will & must see.

Unfortunately I can communicate nothing agreeable, & reluctantly I have imparted this to you, for I well know that with your good heart you take sincere interest in my welfare.

Oh my dearest beloved one, how are you? I hope that you are well. How do you

bear our separation? At all
events you can bear it better
for you have that happy
peace in your heart, that
results from a clear conscience
and the knowledge of your
innocence.

Will you not, dear Anna, be
true to me? If you will keep
me as lovingly in your heart
as before, it will be great con-
solation to me in my deplorable
situation.

What is Alois doing? Greet him
many times for me. Have you
heard from Charles? Greet your
friend for me. Write to me
under this address as soon
as possible, & send me your
dear picture. Sending you
many greetings, I kiss you
as your

devoutly, eternally loving
Alois

My address
A. R.

Care of Robert Henderson
Main St. bet. 8th & 9th

Richmond
Va.

Anna R. Rick
Alois Rick.
Exhibit A filed with Bice.

Sept. 30, 1873
Lester
Hamilton