Dear and Respected Parents,

Thinking a letter would be acceptable although Susan will receive one of the same date and it begin Sabbath evening. Everything still is quiet and just cool enough to be comfortable, but I do not know how I could spend half an hour better than writing you. I received your letter upon my arriving and all several papers. And it was with sadness that I read of the deplorable state of things in our Country, whose Government has been held up by Foreign Powers as a model Government for the World to go by: How can the low debasing act of Civil war continue? Where will it end? Who can tell? What human being can tell the time that must pass, many might end and how lost in this brawl is settled? And when settled who can tell whether it will be as a United or dissatisfied Government. And when returning home from Europe I know shall I be unable to do do with the Stars and Strips on my flag, that flag of which I have always felt proud in whatever Port or County I chanced to be, or will it be with another Flag flying that every true American will feel loathing & abhor to gaze upon.
I am the least wise supposed at the Southerners gaining the victory still at the same time it was nothing more than what I had been prophesying the whole passage that if they had a pitched battle the death would which and as it has turned out I am afraid the North South has held the death in 15 hour estimation and if now they have found out their fault they will be better prepared for them in the future. If they should have another battle better that the Northerners should lose their bone to blood & whiten on the battle field than show the white feather. I was greatly disappointed to hear of the death of Philander Croom. The there is no satisfaction to his friends if there can be satisfaction in the death of a friend that he fell in the defence of his Country right. I was also greatly surprised to learn of the loss of Charles C. Reed who was a fine almost intelligent youth of sixteen & 61. Almost a youth as I generally fall in with. I had taken a great liking to him & was in hopes he would shipped by the Ship in Liverpool but he claimed direction to get busy.

Thursday 16

As the mail closes tomorrow it is about time that my letter also came to a close, we are getting along very slow discharge in have had two or three blow ups & yesterday commence once and in hopes that we shall be able to get discharged without much trouble but it is uncertain needing enough
In discharging of cargo especially such a large one as we always have, to have what people done me that cant tell English but here we weigh the cargo out at the rate of 2 Cwt. to a bag and have the master of the Company to look out for it. it is rather warm & have work for the crew but they do finel. Captain Olive has read me his letting freight to the owners. He does not think like the change there has been effected in the Captain of the ship & New Zeland and I for one do not blame him day for not liking it as the money were him they have no fault to find with his son & he has done any thing to those entire satisfaction. After such an example as that what chance is theirs of my getting it they are not much as I can see. however I will try awhile longer perhaps something may turn up in my favor

He arrived here on the 39 of September after a passage of 100 days from Port to Port. There is but one ship that has been at that wharf or at a near the time that we did.

From your dutiful Son,

[Signature]

[Stamp]
Bombay  October 6th / 861

Dear & Respected Parents

Thinking a letter would be acceptable although Susan will receive one of the same date, and it beign[ sic] Sabath evening, & every thing Still, & quiet, and just cool enough to be comfortable, did not know how I could spend half an hour better than writing you. I received your letter upon my arrival and also several papers, and it was with Sadness that I read of the deplorable State of things in our Country, whose Goverment has been held up by Forign Powers as a model Goverment for the World to go by; now Sunk to the low debasing act of Civil war. Where it will end, Who can tell. No human beign can tell the time that must pass, money Spent and lives lost ere this brawl is Settled. and when it is Settled who can tell whether it wil be as a United or disunited Goverment. And when returning home from Forign Climes Shall I be enabled to do so with the Stars & Strips waving aloft, that Flag of which I have always felt proud, in whatever Port, or Country, I chanced to be, or will it be with some other Flag flying that evry true American will feel loathing & disgust to gaze upon [over page] I was the least mite Supprised at the Southerners gaining the victory Still at the Same time it was nothing more than what I had been prophesying the whole passage that if they had a pitched battle the South would whip and so it has turned out. I am affraid the North has held the South in to low estimation and if now they have found out their fault they will be better prepared for them in the future. If they should have another battle, better that the Northerners Should have their bones to bleach & whiten on the battle feild than Show the white feather. I was greatly Supprised to hear of the death of Philander Crowell. Yet there is on Satisfaction to his friends, if there can be Satisfaction in the death of a friend, that he fell in the defence of his Country's rights. I was also greatly Supprised to learn of the loss of Orlando C Wood who was a fine Smart intelegent youth of Sixteen & as Smart a youth as I generly fall in with. I had taken a great liking to him & was in hopes ye would Stoped by the Ship in Liverpool, but he Seemed desirous to get home. Thursday 10th

As the mail closes tomorrow it is about time that my letter also came to a close. we are getting along very slow discharging have had two or three glow ups & yesterday commenced anew and am in hopes that we Shall be able to get discharged without any more trouble, but it is tiresome & tedious enough [next page] In dischargin a cargo especially such a large one as we always have, to
have white people & Some one that can talk English, but here we weigh the cargo out at the rate of 2 Cwt to a draft & have the natives of this Country to look out for it. It is rather warm & hard work for the crew but they do fineley Capten Chase has read me his letters from & to the oweners. He does not like the change that has been made in the Captain of the Ship. Mr Glover and I for one do not blame him any for not liking it. as the owners write him they have no fault to find with his son & he has done evry thing to theire entire Satisfaction. After Such an example as that what chance is their of my getting a Ship, not much as I can See. however I will try awhile longer, prehaps Some thing may turn up in my favour.

We arrived here on the 30 of September after a passage of 100 days from Pilot to Pilot. There is but one Ship that has beat us that Sailed at or near the time that we did

From your Dutifull Son

Alpheus Baker Jr