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**Letter, Charleston, to George A. Gordon, 1865 December 2||Letter,
Charleston, South Carolina, to George A. Gordon, 1865 December
2**

B.R. Riordan

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Charleston Dec 2, 1865

Dear Gordon: I write this letter with serious fears that it may never reach you. Although I have no specific authority to do so, I think I may say to you, informally, (& Budd agrees with me) that your old place is open to you on the Mercury & that, if you want it, the sooner you get here the better. The case stands thus: Rhett engaged me to come here on the 18th Nov & start the paper. But he has met unexpected delays in getting his material & the first issue has been postponed from day to day & is not yet out. Everything, however, is now

nearly ready - in fact everything is ready, except the press, which we are now expecting every hour by Steamer. Rhett is not yet returned from the North, but we expect him by a Str due tonight.

Now, owing to circumstances connected with my health wh^{ch} it w^d take too long to explain here, I am compelled to recede from my arrangement with Rhett and will leave Ch^m within two or three weeks. He must have somebody to take my place as you know & from his own words I know that his preferences lie between you & I. If you come down I am confident you'll find the tripod all ready for you. The prospect of the

papers are first-rate - there being an univer-
sal disposition to give it a hearty sup-
port. Budd, & Burgess &, I believe, Ha-
cey are still to be connected with it.
I think the place is a good one & no-
thing but my health induces me to give
it up. I have thus written you frank-
ly & hope you may come down with
the least possible delay. If, however,
for any reason, you cant come, please
lose no time in writing Budd, to
that effect - for I may be gone when
yr letter comes. This is written at
Budds' solicitation.

Very sincerely Yours

B. R. Riordan

Geo A. Gordon Esq

Immediale }

George A. Gordon Esq

Dahlonaga

Georgia

