

Jacksonville Fla. Mar 19th

Dear Wife:

Today is my birthday. Perhaps you have thought of it. As I am not very busy, I thought I would write a few words today. We shall probably be quartered here for a time, there is no knowing how long, perhaps as long as we are in the service which I hope will not be long, not that I am home sick, but that country needs peace. I should like to see my precious wife and babies, and probably shall before cold weather again.

Jacksonville is a very pleasant place, and I should rather stay here than in any other place that I have seen yet. It is called a very healthy place, and I should judge that it was. If we are stationed here we shall be able to correspond as easily as we have done before I left Hilton Head. And you shall hear from every few days. So you keep up good courage, and "wait a little longer" I want you to tell me all about how you get along at home. How my rose bush and flowering almond, stood the Winter, and every little thing that happens. I have fallen in love with the mocking-birds here. [A*] and took a walk this morning for the purpose of finding one to send you.

There are ^a great many kept in cages here. I found an old negro who has a splendid singer, he says it belongs to his wife, but thinks she would sell it. She has gone away but he will let me know tomorrow.

I would not mind any trouble, if I could get one to you, it would more than fill the place of little Ned.

Evening. Your letter dated Mar 7th arrived today. Is it possible that you have not written, before, since you sent the childrens minatures.

That was more than a month ago. If you dont do better than that I shall have a word to say when I get home.

You must not feel jealous of my writing such long letters to W. I don't think that I should have written some things that I did if I had thought you would have seen them, And I always feel when writing to you as though I did not want to talk about anything of the kind, that I write to him about. But you can go and read his if you want to know the particulars before I get home. We hear great news of the success of our armies in other places, but do not think that their success. has been greater than ours, although we have fought, no great battles. We have taken every place that we wanted without. Our movements on the coast has done as much towards bringing the war to a speedy close, as that of any other division. From what we hear now, we think that the war will be over before many months. I hope to be with you before next fall. I am very sorry that you are in want of money, for we have not been paid off yet, but expect to be soon. I will send you some as soon as we are. About the minatures, I will not trouble you to get another taken now, I will make these do for the present, and I will have the original soon. I am sorry to hear that my little Annie is not well, but hope she will not be very sick while I am away. † Tell Mrs Brewster that the last I saw of her husband little more than a week ago, he was alive, and in good health. His Co. has gone to St. Augustine. How long they will stay there I do not know. I think he is getting a little more reconciled to his situation. But still he would rather be at home. It is too warm to write tonight so I will put this away till some other time. Dearest I have not anything new to write today and as the mail goes out soon I will close this and write again soon Good bye darling write often.

Leander