

[Letterhead raised imprint: "L.L.B & CO"]

P.S. I think that I shall send you the book that I have been reading, By express, perhaps, unless I have some better way

St. Augustine Fla May 9th /62

(Tell father that I have got a piece of wood cut of the private^e

(Jeff Davis, to make him a cane

My Dear Wife,

It is quite a long time since I have writen but there has been no chance to send since I wrote last, and there will not be likely to be any for two or three days yet, but I thought it best to have something written to send when there is a chance.

I havent anything to write of any consequence, but then, we are expecting a mail to-day, when, if I get a letter from you, I shall have enough to write about after reading it. I have not received any letters from home, of very recent dates, the latest was dated Apr 7", the last Mar 24" But it has been arranged now, so that we shall be able to get our letters more regularly.

There will be a steamer run bettween this Place and Port Royal, every week, so you must write often so that I may get a letter by every mail I shall be very much disappointed if I do not. There I have made a beginning. and now I will put it away untill the mail comes in.

Saturday Afternoon May 10th

I have been straining my eyes seaward every half hour fore several days past, to get the first glimpse of the steamer that is to bring your precious letter, but have turned away disappointed so far, I still have hope that it may get in this evening. It has been expected since last Tuesday. I am learning to be very patient, and many other things besides, that will come in well when I get home, My health is excelent, but I am getting rather tired of this lazy way of living although it is very pleasant I have a plenty of books to read and plenty of time to read them, but would rather have a letter from you than the best book that I ever read There are any quantity of splendid flowers here, and everything has put on its most magnificent Summer dress, but to my mind, it is far more pleasent in N.H. at this season. I hope my wife and babies enjoy themselves very much ~~Th~~ this Spring I do not hear much from Clara and her family Hope you wont let them forget me and give my love to them every time that you have a chance There I will put this away again, for I shall not have anything to write about untill I get a letter from you

Sunday Afternoon May 11"

After waiting and looking, another day, the long expected mail has arrived. It brought your letters dated the 8" & 20" of Apr. besides several from others. One from Elmer, One from Mr. Howe, who went home with Hall, and also the one from Lewis and Ruth, but none from William. Ask him if he has got tired of my long letters. Tell him that I have not received one from him since the one dated Mar/6" It is quite a disappointment not to get a letter from him by every mail but I suppose that he is too busy to write much now. I have begun to write as soon as I finished reaching my letters in hopes to be able to answer them all so as to send, when this boat goes back. Your turn is first, of course, but if I do not get time to write to Lewis and Ruth, tell them I am very thankful for their favor, and will write again by the next mail I wrote to Mother not long since, and dont

think she has any cause to complain of neglect, from me, as I have written quite often.

I suppose you have been to church to-day, but for my part, I sat on the piazza this fore noon, reading a very interesting book, by Thackery, (which, by the way, I wish you could read,) and this afternoon, have been out sailing. The Dr and his wife attended the Catholic church this morning, but did not feel much edified by the services. I think I had the best of it. dont you?

You are a darling to write so often to your husband and he will try and repay you when he gets home if not before.

I am very sorry to hear that you have got the “mumps.” How I should like to kiss those swollen cheeks! dont you think it would cure you? Hope the babies will not have a bad time with it. But it is getting dark and I must stop for a while.

Wonder if you are not writing to me at this present minute I rather think you are

Well, now I will try and finish this I suppose you will have received the money that I sent you before this reaches you, but if not “dont fret.” The Pay Master. came down on this boat to pay off again, perhaps I may be able to send you some more when the boat goes back, but if not, by the next boat sure. I am very glad to see by your last letters, that you are a little more hopeful about seeing me again, for my part, I have lived on my hopes so long that they seem like certainties now. I dont hardly understand your feelings in regard to those pleasant Spring evenings, for my part although I miss them very much, yet the thoughts of them are one of the greatest comforts of my life at present. We have nothing like them here, but still it is very pleasant, and the nights are quite comfortable, the climate would suit you to a charm, but it makes me to lazy for any business, it is fortunate that I do not have much to do. In regard to my wishing that I had not enlisted, I can truly say that I have never for one moment regreted that I was with the Reg^t, nor have I seen the time that I would have taken a discharge, had it been offered me. You must not infer from this, that I am in different ^{to} or do not appreciate the blessings. that I enjoyed in my family, for that you know is not the case. I think that there is no one that loves his wife and children better than myself, but then, if I had remained at home during the past hard Winter for business. and with the excitement of the war on my mind, that I should have been so very uneasy, that I should not have been capable of enjoying the blessings that would have been mine, and the hardships that we have seen will only serve to make home so much the brighter. But I think that the worst has been seen for us. at least, for there is no prospect of our leaving this place. untill we are ordered home, and as long as we stay here the duties will be very easy, and no more prospect of any battle than there is in Hampstead. Take that and console yourself with it, for no doubt. it will be a consolation to you, though I think that most of the men had much rather be in some place, where there is a little more war going on if there is to be such a place, I wish you to understand me in this, I do not mean to say, that I think that the men would like to have a battle here, for the sake of seeing war, but I do think that if there is to be a battle in any place, they would be very glad to be ordered to that place, and let some other Reg^t take their place here. In regard to the Dr, you can tell the people there, if you have occasion to tell them anything about him, that he has no thought of resigning his commission, or even asking for a furlough, unless the war should last longer than we have any reason to think that it will He is in excelent health and spirits, and seems to enjoy himself as well as he does at home. I see Brewster nearly every day. His health is good and he appears to be as contented as any of us. He called on me to-day I told him some time ago, how axnious his

wife was to hear from him, and he will probably write by this mail Our Dear little Ruth, wrote me a real kind letter for which you may thank her for me, although I intend to do so myself. Nelson & Hattie did not have a word for me, for which you may scratch them both, although I intend to do that myself, as soon as convenient.

Well I believe that I have got about through. for I dont think of anything more to say. You dont write anything about Clara's folks, so I suppose that they must all be as well as usual, but still I should like to hear how they are getting along, why dont you write about them? But I suppose it is with you, as it is with me, when you get to writing to me you dont think of any one else. Well, if it is so you may be sure that I will not complain. A kiss for my good little Annie and another for darling little Jo and a hundred for their dear little mother, and so good bye for a little while.

Leander

P.S. I beleive that I never have writen about our regimental band. That is something worth hearing. They play every evening, besides at gaurd mounting. and dress parade I dont think you ever ~~an~~ so good a band I am sure I never did another. How plesant it would be if we could listen to it together. But never mind "There's a good time coming"

L

Eleven o'clock P.M.