

Beaufort S.C. Sept 16th 1862

My Darling Wife

My last letter to you was dated at St. Augustine, but it was not mailed for several days after it was dated. I intended to have added a little more. but could not find time. We left Augustine on Wednesday last, and arrived here the next day about noon. We had a very pleasant voyage, of about 200 miles. As soon as we arrived here, the Reg^t was sent into the woods about a mile and a half, from the city. After leaving our pleasant and comfortable quarters at Augustine the discomforts of camp life seen doubly disagreeable. I believe I never passed a more disagreeable night, than our first night at this camp. We had no tents, and the ground was thickly covered with large scrubby bushes, with a scattering of large trees, just such woods as we see quite often at home, and such as we should not think of trying to walk through, unless, we were obliged to. and worst of all, there were swarms of mosquitoes. of the same kind as the specimen that I sent you in a letter, and on the whole I was just about crazy for the first night. The men have been busy at work, and have cleared the ground of the stumps and bushes, leaving all the large trees, and levelling the ground, and we now have the pleasantest camp that we have occupied since we left home it is on the bank of a beautiful river, and when we get our tents and get settled, I think we shall like very well. It has rained nearly all the time since we came here, which has made it still more unpleasant but the men are in good health, and high spirits, indeed. I think that the worse they are situated, the more cheerful they become. Last Sunday night it rained in torrents, and I have not heard so much laughing and so many real good jokes, as they had that night I believe I am thoroughly acclimated, I am as hearty as a horse, and never felt better in my life. I feel just like writing tonight, but believe I shall have to give it up, for those mosquitoes that I spoke of are here in crowds, trying to pull me out of my chair, so I believe I will say good night now and try and finish this in the daytime. God bless you darling. I wish that I could kiss you tonight, but I will be patient. I am as ever, truly yours

Wednesday morning 17th I do not feel a bit like writing this morning, but still I want to finish your letter ~~ye~~ You can always tell when I don't feel like writing, for then I always write worse than usual. You say the season has arrived that you have dreaded because it reminds you of the time when I left you. I can hardly make it seem that a whole year has passed, since I have seen you. I have hardly seemed to live. I have merely waited for the time to come when I can live again, and am still waiting, with perfect faith that the time will come, when I shall again be with those who are dearer to me than all the world besides I am sorry that you are so desponding in regard to the future of Our County. For my part I have no doubts, I ~~feel~~ feel that we shall come out of this stronger than ever. And if every man could forget his political party for a short time, it would be much better for all. I think that when the people of the loyal states, have responded so promptly to every call, for men, and submitted so cheerfully to the necessary taxes, they have a right to expect that something should be done, and they have good reason to be indignant at such reverses, as our troops in Va. have met with, and I hope, the people will make their indignation felt. by those in command of our forces. The fact is, the rebels. are in earnest, and have been from the beginning, and the sooner that all, who are in favor of maintaining this Government, are made aware of this fact, the sooner we shall finish the

work we have in hand There has been too much sympathy at the North with this rebellion. I tell you they do not deserve the sympathy of any one who has any regard for our Country Their only object in this rebellion, is personal ambition. The leaders I mean. They want to be something more than they can be under a republican country. There has been too many opinions in regard to the way in which the war should be conducted, some, are afraid that some of the rebels may get hurt, or their property be damaged, but they will find we have but two ways to choose, either to conquer or to be conquered, it will be time enough to determine the fate of the rebellions states, when we have got them in our power. I believe I have not written on this subject a great deal before and do not intend to again, as I generally have more agreeable things to write about, but this time I have a large sheet and must find something to fill it with. Now about yourself, I am glad you chose to write me about me wife and babies, you could not have chosen a more agreeable subject to me, for when I get a letter from you that is all I wish to hear about. I dont know what I should say about your having your hair shingled but you must be your own judge now, for you know you will be my own dear Emmy, whether you have any hair or not. I suppose that you and the children have changed some since I left, a year makes a great change in children, but I do not think that you have changed any that I should notice.

Evening 17”

If the mosquitoes will let me I will try and write you a little tonight. It begins to look quite pleasant in the camp again. I have been sitting in the door of my tent this evening looking at the lights, and listening to the singing, and could not help thinking that it was a very pretty sight, and wishing you could see it. We are getting settled down again, but it does not seem much like Augustine. Our new Ass't. Surg. arrived today, and says the Surgeon will be here soon, it is very strange he stays so long, and I am afraid he will find himself in trouble for staying so long as he has. Dr Cummings, says, he told him, that, his daughter Mary, was but just alive. Is that so,? or is it only an excuse for not coming: I thought it must be the latter, as you did not mention anything about it in your letter, and that was written about the time he left. I suppose the Dr. has been to see you, and told you how much he has done for me since I have been in the army. Well I have no fault to find with him, but you need not be too gratefull. You wrote that there was some talk there that he would bring out some one to take the Stewards place, I have thought of that myself. I shall be greatly disappointed if he does, but still I shall not fret about it, if he brings one, it will not be Nat Frost, or any one else in Hampstead, of that I am sure, for there is no one there that I know, that could discharge the duties of the place, without a great deal more experience than anyone that was there when I left has had. It is a more responsible place than you imagine. But you need not fret about me for I have got friends enough in the Reg^t not to leave me entirely dependent on the Dr's favor. Our new General. arrived at Hilton Head yesterday. I suppose you have heard that Gen. Mitchell, has been put in command of this Division, in place of Hunter. He came into our camp today, and made a short speech to the men. I like the appearance of him very much. He seems to have some energy, and I think there will be something done in this department, now besides guarding niggers. Our band has been discharged, which is a great loss to us all, but Congress, thought it too much expense for each Reg^t to have a band, but ours was allowed by all to be the best band in the Coast Division, and the Reg^t would have hired, them, and paid them out of their own pockets, more than they have been receiving from

Government, but they were all anxious to go home, and I dont blame them, do you? I mean to have my likeness taken very soon, and send you, perhaps I may get it into the next mail with this letter, but dont hardly think I shall. Tell Sister Ruth to write, and Hattie too, and all the rest, of them, tell them not to wait for me, for I do get tired of writing so much, and if you could see the accomodations that I have for writing some of the time you would not wonder. Your letter dated Aug 31st, is the only one, that, I have received since more, than a week before we left St. Augustine. We have had several mails since we came here, and not a letter for me. What does it mean: you have'nt "let up" in writing to me have you? Well I have got most to the end of my sheet, and so I will close this. Write as often as you can and direct to Port Royal. Keep up good courage. Don't be jealous of poor Dorothy, but beleive me, as ever, truly your loving Leander