

[letterhead raised imprint illegible]

Morris Island S.C.

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Dear Emmy.

It is but a few days since I wrote to you, but as I do not know what to do with myself this evening I thought it<sup>l</sup> would be well enough to write you a few lines though there is nothing to write about.

There was a mail came in tonight. but brought me no letter. I am very much dissappointed, as it is now sixteen days since the date of your last.

⊖ Can it be that you are getting tired of writing to. me? I do not think that it can be so, still it is certain that you do not write as often as you did when I first left home. But perhaps you are getting tired of this long correspondence. If you are not I am, and long to be where there will be no call for writing letters It is getting very dull here.

There is nothing being done here. on our part, except the labor on the fortifications The "rebs" keep firing as usual They do us some mischeif, but do not retard the work in the least. You would be surprised to see how coolly the men work under fire. They will move aside to let a shell pass, as quietly as though it was a horse, or any other harmless thing.

There was an alarm of some kind last night. The long- cool beat, through the camps. and all the troops got under arms and marched off, but nothing came of it that I can learn. I did not turn out, but laid quietly in my bed. (or rather on my box) and went to sleep. They will never get me out by a false alarm, when I am not obliged to turn out.

There is a report, that the fleet is going to try and get past the batteries, and the obstructions in the channel tomorrow. If they do, there will be some of the tallest kind of thunder heard about that time. Those fifteen inch guns, make things shake. when they get a going, and the rebels batteries are no small affairs. If they do succeed in getting by. there will be lively times in Charleston I'm thinking. But the attempt should have been made long ago. I am afraid that the best time is past, and we have got a great deal of hard work to do yet, before we get this job done. There is a great deal of fault found on all sides with the course of the Admiral in command of the fleet here. If he had shown one half the the energy that Gen. Gilmore has done, in this affair, this thing would have been done before this time. Well, we shall see what we shall see. We are haveing some very pleasant weather lately. It is rather cool nights. but that is better than it is to have it so hot. I do not know how it is. I have never been troubled by the warm weather here as I used to be at home. There has been some awful hot days here this Summer and through the hottest of it I wore a thick woolen shirt with a close fitting. knit undershirt. thick woolen pants and cotton flanel drawers, and a lined blouse. That is warmer than I ever dressed at home in the coldest weather at home. The cold troubles me more than it did there. I do not think I ever suffered so much with cold in my life as I did last Winter, and it was not cold enough to freeze over a tub of water thicker than window glass during the night Well I have spoiled this sheet of paper and now I guess I will stop.

The Arago. is due now, and will be in very soon, when I must have a letter, and I shall have to answer that, and this will not go till the Arago returns, so you will get them both at the same time. I dont ask anything for this. Good night darling.

Yours as ever, Leander