

Morris Island  
Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 1863.

My Dear Wife

I received yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. a few days ago, and it is such a good, kind, one, that I am really ashamed of the one that I sent you a few days since. This is always the way, if I get a letter from you that I feel inclined find fault with, the next one is sure to make me wish that I had not written. But never mind, if we cannot get to scolding nearer together than we do by mail there will be but little having done. I ought to have answered your letter before this but there is nothing to write about. and so I put it off. My health continues good, and that is about all that I can think of that will be likely to interest you much. There is nothing being done here at present except. the work on the batteries.

They are building batteries and mounting mortars, and evidently intend to do something to Sullivan's Island, sometime. I think, they are waiting for more ironclad ships, but when they do begin they will hear thunder.

As for Sumpter, that you mentioned in your letter, I do not think that there is any one here that cares whether it is taken or not, for it is of no possible use to us. or any one else. there is not a gun on it, and it <sup>is</sup> merely a heap of bricks and mortar

The firing that is going on, and which has been kept up for the past few weeks. is merely to draw the attention of the enemy, and to keep them from erecting sand batteries, and mounting mortars, in the old place. There is no doubt, but we could take it any day. but it would cost us some valuable lives, and it is not worth a straw. to us. or to the enemy. I think if the people at the North, who are so anxious to hear of the ~~th~~ taking of Sumpter, were called upon to climb up the side. under the fire of all the batteries that the rebels have about here, they would see the case in a different light

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> I was obliged to put this letter by. after getting so far with it, and, as I found there was no mail going North, I did not take it up again until now. Your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> ult. arrived yesterday. It gives me a great deal of comfort, to read your letters, when you write in such good spirits, and have no bad news to tell of our little darlings. You do not seem to get my letters very regularly, but the mail arrangements, at this place have not been very good lately, and to tell the truth I am getting lazy about writing again. We are encamped in a very uncomfortable place at present. There is no shelter from the cold wind that blows from the sea, and there is no wood to burn and it is very cold and unpleasant. But there is a prospect of moving before a great while. This has been the hardest job I ever had, writing to you but I am expecting another letter from you in a few days and then I will try and do better. About those handkerchiefs, - I meant pocket handkerchiefs. I need them very much, and there is no chance to get any here that are good for anything

There I will close this now I hope to be able to give you a better letter soon

Yours truly

Leander