

P.S. Direct to Port Rayla, when you write. L.

St. Augustine Fla Apr 17<sup>th</sup>/62

Dear Emmy,

It is some time since I wrote and, although the letter has not gone yet, I thought. it would be as well to send a few lines more by the same mail, as the chances for sending will be very uncertain while we remain here. I have not received anything from you since. that dated the 16<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>

There will not be any regular mail to this place, but you must write as often as usual. and "trust to Providence" for their delivery. There has nothing occurred of any importance since I wrote before. We live a very monotonous life. but then it is very pleasant here. and I think that I can manage to get through the Summer very well if we should happen to stay here, but I had much rather go to some place where there will be something to be done. My health continues excellent and on the whole I am glad that I enlisted, for if I had remained in N.H. through the Winter I should have been as fat as a porpoise ~~we~~ now, while as it is I only weight about 165 lbs now, and feel much better than I do to be so fat. Apr 19<sup>th</sup> I left off the other day. because I had nothing to write and there was no prospect of a chance to send it I had finished it then.

I suppose that it is getting to be warm weather with you now, and you are thinking of making flower gardens and other Spring work, I intended to have sent you some roots and cuttings of roses, lilies, and other plants from Jacksonville, but we left there at short notice and I had no chance to send them home I should really like to see how you are all situated at home. I suppose Annie & Josie play in the dirt most of the ple<sup>a</sup>sant weather, dont they? Father & Mother are digging in the garden some by this time. probably. Tell mother that she had better pull up those lilac bushes and set out some oleander bushes, for they are much prettier. This is a great place for flowers. I wish that you and Annie could go out here and gather a boquet. Tell father that people are hoeing here now, some of the corn is as high as my head We have salad any time that we want it. Most all if not all. kinds of tropical fruits, grow here, oranges, lemons, figs, pomgranites, dates, bannas and many other kinds, if we stay here till the season for them we shall live high. The weather is very warm, but there is a cool breeze every day which makes it quite comfortable.

The warmest part of the day is from about 10 A.M. to 2 or 3 P.M. I generally take "siesta" then if the others will keep still enough, in fact I am getting decidedly lazy, but shall be glad when I get where I shall have something to do. I have not written to William for some time. I have a letter partly written but shall not send it, tell him that I shall write soon I ought to write to Mother but dont "feel able" now, I wish I could get a letter from you. I have not had one for some time, but I read over the old ones once in a while. I have learned them all by heart, but that dont make any difference. I shall bring them all home with me, and read them to you, just to let you see what a little goosie you were to have so many fears for your husband. But really I prize them more than everything else that I have & intend to keep them as long as I live We never had any love letters ~~p~~ before we were married, but the love of a good wife is worth more than any other in the world I do not like this place as well as any other place where we have been stationed. It is so quiet, and so out of the way of any danger, that there is no excitement in being a soldier, in fact it seems too much like playing soldier I did not expect, when I left home, to see anything

of war, and did not think that I should wish to, but I have never felt so well in any place as I did in Jacksonville, when we were expecting an attack all the time. But I have made up my mind to come home without seeing a battle, and dont care how soon we get orders for home. A steamer appeared off the bar last night, and signaled that she had communications to make, but sailed away in the night without making any. We expect her back soon, I hope, but do not expect, that she will bring a mail, I dont know what kind of a mess I have written, but hope you will think it better than nothing. Give my love to all of your friends, for your friends are all mine. I shall write every time that there is a chance to send and hope you will write every week, at least. Kiss the babies for me, and I will pay you when I get home.

I remain truly yours

Leander