

Beaufort S.C. Sunday Dec 21st/62

My Dear little Wife,

Your letter dated Dec; 9th arrived last night, and I must write today, though there is nothing to write about, but the mail goes North tomorrow and I mean to send you a letter by every mail if it does not amount to much.

I believe I never wrote you anything about our new Dr. Comings. He is one of the best men I ever saw. Every - person in the Reg^t like him very much. he is at present sick with a billious attack, and Mrs. Sawyer is taking care of him in the city. He is doing well, and will probably be on duty again in a few days. I miss him very much and shall be very glad to see him in camp again. I dont know what I am writing about. It is very cold and we are in Mrs Sawyer's tent. Haynes Hart and myself, where we have a good warm fire. Haynes and I are trying to write. Hart is laughing and telling stories. I beleive I have never mentioned Hart in any letter, but he has been with us all the time since we left Washington. He is a pretty good boy about 17th years old. He is telling a yarn now, and I can neither hear the story nor tell what I am writing. But I think it is wasting paper to write such nonsense as this, so I will try and write something else to fill up with. for I must finish this tonight, and it is after "taps" now.

You wished me to write how I am situated here now. Dr Greeley wished me to take the old place of Ward master. but I declined to do that. I intended to have gone into the Co. but they all advised me to stay here, and Capt. Brown had resigned or I should not have taken their advice I have wished a hundred times that I had gone into the company when I inlisted

I should have been much better off at ^{the} present time if I had. You need not be surprised nor alarmed if you hear that I have taken my place in the ranks, though, at present, I have no intention of doing so. You asked too, how I like the new Steward. I must say I do not like him at all. He is what the soldiers call a "perfect piss pot." Not a very elegant expression, but it expresses a great deal as it is understood in the army.

He is, in fact just the kind of a man that I dislike, just no man at all. There is no one here that likes him any better than I do. He has not received his warrant yet, and if Dr Comings could do anything to prevent it would not get it. But it will probably be about as Dr Greeley says about it, and he is not here but very little, as he is in charge of a general hospital in the city. I do not worry myself any about the matter I am in good health. and ~~S~~ spirits get plenty to eat, and have an excelent appetite and am as fat as ever I should like to see my sweet little wife and our darling babies, but am very happy in the assurance of your love, which I know will never decrease while I am away, and I often think I had rather die here knowing that I should always hold the first place in your heart than to live and have any unkindness come between us again

But we will always guard against that carefully, wont we, my darling? I have thought a great deal of this since we have been separated. I think I shall be a better husband when I get back again We shall never agree in our views of the war question and we had better leave that out. Well I have nearly used up this sheet without saying anything and perhaps shall not do any better in this, but it seems as though your dear long letter deserved more than one small sheet for an answer

As names are so scarce and of such a very poor quality perhaps you had better not do anything | about the boy, till I get home, as I had much rather attend to it myself. I

suppose Eastman has got home by this time and is making a great spread. Well let him work. There are people here that can help him some when there is a good chance. You do not find any fault with my penmanship, so I suppose you can make out to read it, but I believe I shall have to ~~wear~~ take a few more lessons when I get home. Mr Howe told me once, "that to judge by our hand-writing, he should think you wore the breeches! But I told him it was not so, that you was the best little wife in the world. I am sorry that you did not have a pleasanter time Thanksgiving day, for my part, I found it duller than usual that day. The Reg^t was at Port Royal ferry, on picket duty at that time and there was hardly any one left in camp. It is very dull here and I hope we shall be ordered away somewhere I do not much care where.

It is generally believed that we shall be sent into Fla. but there is nothing certain known about it yet. Well there I will close now, and write again soon.

Give my love to all of our friends

Take good care of yourself and the babies. Write often, and so God bless you.

Yours truly Leander