

Beaufort S.C. Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Emmy,

Your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. has just arrived this evening and I will begin to answer it immediately. I am very glad to hear from you, but you write in such a doleful strain, that it always gives me a fit of the blues to read such a letter. I am very sorry to hear that Charlie Shannon is dead but you must not suppose that because he is killed that I am any more likely to be. I have no doubt but that I shall live my appointed time, and if I am to die here it will be so, all the same, whether there is any fighting or not, or whether I remain in the hospital, or go into the ranks. You say that you do not understand how I should have been any better off / if I had gone into the Co. in the first place. I meant that I might have had a much better position. that is all. I should have fared worse, and worked harder, but that is not to be considered much. You speak of my pay, as though that was considerable of an object, but I assure you that is the very least.

All the pay I have received, would not hire me to leave you, for half of the time that I have been away. But I wish you could <sup>^feel</sup> as little concern, for my safety as I do. I have not seem the time ~~go~~ yet, that I did not feel just as safe, as I ever I at home, and I seen the shot and shells falling around me, faster than it was any ways pleasant. I received a letter from Mother tonight. She sent me Emily's picture, the one that I liked so well, but to save expense, she sent it without the case, and the glass was smashed. I have taken the glass off very carefully, and I hope to get it fixed up.

You inquire for Joseph. Mother writes that she had just got a letter from him and that he was well, he had received a letter from me but I have not heard from him since I saw him. I forgot to say in my last that. I receive the papers you sent. I have not heard from William for a long time, if I could find anything to write about, I would write to him again But I will not write any more to night, So good night my darling. L.

Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. I left off rather short the other day, but intended to finish the next day. But as there was no mail going North for some time, I waited to get another <sup>^from you</sup> before sending this. The mail came in last night but your letter did not come. I was very much disappointed, but am hoping to hear from you in a few days. I received a good long letter from William, which must be answered. There is a prospect of a movement being made, by the troops here very soon, but the[re] is nothing definite known about it yet. It is not certain that this Reg<sup>t</sup> will go if there is an advance made. But I will inform you of anything that happens here, as soon as you could get it in any other way. So you need <sup>^not</sup> place any confidence in any rumor that you hear. Burly Mason has not got back yet I am glad you saw him. for it will be worth a great deal to me to see some one that has seen you if I can not The health of the Reg<sup>t</sup> is excelent. My own is as good as ever. Dr Comings has fully recovered his health and is in charge of the reg<sup>t</sup>. His wife is here, and several other ladies wives of the officers We have had very cold weather here some of the time. It has been an uncommonly cold Winter for this place I think I never suffered more with cold at home than I have here this Winter, and it has never been cold enough to freeze water more than half an inch thick during the night. But I cant think of much more to write. Eastman is not a subject worth wasting paper about I will tell you all about him when I get home. Give my love to all your friends. Kiss the children for me. Write as often as you can.

Ever yours, Leander