

Young's Point.

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> /63

Friend Elizabeth

I promised in my last to write to you more regularly than I had done for a few weeks past and having a little leisure time today I will improve it by writing you a letter. Times are rather dull with us at present we have been detached from the Reg. for several days and consequently know but little of the movements of the army.

I think I informed you in my last that were provost guard for this division our duty being principally to guard prisoners

My duty has been somewhat hard for a few days. all of our sergeants being on the sick list it devolved on «Leonard» to act as orderly for the Co. but as long as my health remains good I shall not complain. We fare very at present for soldiers. we have plenty of flour from which the boy's make fried cakes and biscuit which they think will compete with those made by «fairer» hands. Our meat consists of good mess pork and fresh beef, and I believe we have learned how to cook beef to make it palatable we get all the sugar and coffee we can dispose of with a small quantity of tea. There is however

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quite a scarcity of fruits and vegetables in the camp. there is hardly anything that we can get of that class except sweet potatoes and they are considered a poor excuse. We can <sup>get</sup> a few apples at 5 cts apiece onions the same and I paid the same price for a small raw turnip and thought it a bargain. We hear but little of the movements of the army at any point. The few newspapers that we get are from six to ten days old and sell from at 15 <sup>cts</sup> per copy so that you may easily judge that we are not well posted. We have had reports of a prospect of a war between the parties at the north. I should be sorry to see any such event as that but think there is some danger of revolution if the war is continued under the present policy.

Well, Elizabeth how are you enjoying yourself these days. I presume you have seen cold weather ere now and very probably have seen occasion to sing "O swift we go o'er the fleecy snow"      and perhaps you think I would not like to have been the present on that occasion but if you harbor any such thoughts just let me inform you that you were never more mistaken. I don't hear from home very often it being now one month since the date of my last letter I suppose the mail is delayed at some point on the river.

How does Mitten get along this winter does he attend school as regularly as he did last summer I think I understand why you do not enjoy yourself with

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some of the young ladies and gents of that community.  
If I mistake not you are not fond attending the dances  
and spices so common in many communities but I hope this  
will not be the cause of much sorrow on your part. For  
one I never considered but very little loss to be absent  
from most of the dances etc that have been held in our  
community.

You must excuse this poor letter and except the best  
wishes of your friend

Leonard