

Plaquimine, La. Feb. 24th, 64

Dear Elizabeth

I have been very fortunate to day having read one letter from home and two from yourself and my "patience" is not wearied in the least by reading them.

Our mail arrived at ten oclock A.M. when I rec'd yours of the 30th _____, and at 4 oclock P.M. our orderly very agreeably surprised me by giving me another one of the date Feb. 8 which had been sent to another Co. and returned.

We have been out in the river sailing this afternoon and had a very pleasant time. There however always seems to be a great lack of Company on any pleasure excursion when there are no ladies present. I wish some live Yankee would invent some mode of transportation by lighting. I would take a trip to Mich and have a sleighride with Elizabeth "that is if she would accompany me" and returning give her an invitation to come to Dixie and have a boat ride. This would be gay! We have been at this place a little more than three months and our Co. has done no duty except guard duty until quite recently the officers require us to drill about one hour each day. This is the Serpts. business and as our 1st Sergt is lame it brings Leonard into the harness to drill the Co. It suits him very well however and would like to have a Co. of ___ men to drill every day.

The boys have a large room in the Court House and this evening they engaged a fideller and the way they are "going in" is a caution to Shoe leather. Here again the absense of the ladies is felt very keenly. They manage that by some of the most feminine appearing acting the ladies part. As I dont participate in this kind of amusement it makes no personal difference to me. I think however if I should dance, some other partner than a "soldier" would be most agreeable.

Feb. 24th, 64

I think you have some specimens of true young America to deal with. It is a pity that those youngsters could not have the privilege of going on one campaign of six months and be in one severe battle it would learn them more than the remaining 6 or 8 yr's of their immority.

Our rebels have all been sent to N.O. at least all that would not take the oath of allegiance those were released.

Some of them thought it was wrong to be kept in jail by the federals after leaving the rebs. Their leaving the rebs however does not prove their loyalty unless they are willing to swear allegiance to the federal government.

25th. Our mail will not go out until next Monday and I will write a few lines this evening and finish my letter so as to send it by next mail.

I have been out in our sail-boat again to day but the weather was to still and warm for goodsailing so we returned to port after a short trip. Elizabeth you appear to think that I dont like to read of your mode of life. You are indeed very much mistaken. We get a large amount of public news, in fact this is the only class of reading that we get with the exception of Novels which I care very little about as I informed you in one of my other letters. Consequently it is a treat to receive a good long letter from a much esteemed friend telling all about their troubles and their pleasures their good times and their bad times. When you write all about the little affairs of life I feel assured that you are not afraid to place confidence in one who is far away bodily but whose mind very much of the time is near her to whom I am writing. I hope you will never again think that your letters may not be interesting because you dont happen to have a large supply of news on hand.

Feb. 24th, 64

Dont you think that wish of yours is a little hard? You perhaps would not think me quite so secure if you knew of the liberty I take to go and come nearly when I choose leaving the Corporal in command in my absence. I could not do this forever when the rebs were here because on me rested the responsibility of their safe keeping.

Good night "more anon"

Leonard