

Plaquimine La. Jan 3rd, 64 Sun. P.M.

Dear Elizabeth

I dont know but I am indulging a bad habit that is of writing too often and by so doing intrude on the good nature of my friends.

If however such is the case I hope to be pardoned the indulgence as we are so situated at present that we have plenty of time, room, and materials, for writing which is not always the case with "sogers" and it affords me much pleasure to write a few lines occasionally and a great deal more to have the privilege of reading a letter from your hand.

I rec'd your letter yesterday in reply to one written by me at N. O. six weeks ago and this is considered/^{very} quick time to receive a reply to a letter written from here.

Well "Elizabeth" the holidays are past and how did you enjoy them? The south is a gay place on such occasions in times of peace and the sorrows of war of nearly three years have not entirely driven this disposition for fun and frolic from the aristocratic "southren".

A large class of the inhabitants of La. are french or their descendants and they have either brought with them from France or inherited from their ancestry, and perhaps both, that love of wine and dancing of which they as a people are proverbial.

They had plenty of wine here for the holidays but as the "chivalry" are all absent on a grand military expedition against the "Yanks" the dancing was mostly confined to the "culled population". There were however numerous gentlemen dressed in blue who were said to attend these celebrated places of amusement and according to report had quite a time.

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The writer of this being no dancer and not being ambitious to join in such highly colored company stayed in his room during the dancing.

The weather for the past three days has been very cold for this climate the most severe that has been known for several years. The ice on New-yr's day would almost do to skate on which would be very uncommon for this climate. We feel the cold weather much worse than when we were at the north and if we stay in this climate until another winter we can be called real southerns and of no account at the north.

Elizabeth was you not a little careless in your experimenting in soldiers duties marching in mud and rain is not very healthful exercise. I must repeat that kind admiration you gave me to "take good care of yourself"

Your sister wishes me to bring her a live southerner does she? Well I have just the chap in my charge. He is about 5 feet six inches high fair complexion and tolerably good looking undertook to play a sharp game on the "Yanks" and was detected inside the lines. His name as registered on the books of the jail is Albert Marionaux? and belongs to Co. A. 2nd La. Cav.

He will probably find a home for some time in a military prison. Tell your sister if she thinks he will suit she can let me know immediately and I will try and have him forwarded by first boat.

I have no accounts to give of hard marches or pitched battles or exciting skirmishes as we have been here doing guard duty for more than a month and I hope we may have the privilege of staying here for the next three months at least. The boys are all satisfied with what they have seen of fighting and would as soon do garrison duty during the remainder of the term as to be sent to the field.

I wish you much pleasure and success in teaching the various branches and believing you will find time to write again soon to a soldier bid

you Good Bye

Subscribed truly, Leonard