

Plaquimine La. Dec. 27th , 63.

Dear Elizabeth:

I re'cd your letter of Dec. 3rd on Christmas night it being only the second since we have been here. We don't receive any mail only once a week and then we dont all receive letters. I suppose you have enjoyed a merry Christmas, haven't you? I hope you have. The soldiers of this place have had a merry time for the past few days. Some of the boys conceived the idea of transforming themselves into the "wandering minstrels" and have been holding forth for the amusement of the public for the last three nights. They have had a crowded hall every night and perform well for soldiers. These performances taken in connexion with a considerable amount of whisky has made plenty of duty for the Police guard. I have been on duty for the past four days, and the other boys have had the same share. As the good order of this notorious place devolves on our Co. we are required to keep on the alert and the inmates of our jail are witnesses of the authority of our little Co. We have from 20 to 50 in jail all the time consisting of men, women, and niggers all being subject to the same military orders.

So the gallant Milton has taken refuge in "her majestys" demions has he? I did have a little sympathy for the boy but that has all vanished and I am very glad that my sister stopped as soon as she did although it might have been better for her to send him to Canada or some other good place before she did.

I expect you had a gay time listening to the remarks made concerning that boy by Mrs. Sadler, very ignorent of him certainly you were. I think I recollect her she was considerable older than myself and I had almost forgotten her.

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Sun. Eve. I will finish my letter this evening as the boys are a little more quiet than they were to day. It is curious that you do not receive my letters. I have written as often as once in two weeks and most of the time once a week.

I shall be anxious to get your next letter and expect it by next mail, which will be in about a week.

I should enjoy myself well if I could be in Mich and attend singing school with you. I believe that I have enjoyed myself as well at evening schools as any other place and hope to take a part in them again. I like amusements but they are not much pleasure to me unless attended by useful instruction, this is why I always preferred attending good evening schools rather than public balls.

I notice by the late papers that a bill has passed the senate for the repeal of the exemption clause in the draft law.

This will undoubtedly cause much _____ among the people of the north. if it passes the house. It will come hard on the good union men who cannot well leave home, but I am glad there is a prospect of bringing a class of men into the field who never will do a thing to help the government as long as they can avoid it. I think those fellows who are so terribly afraid that some one is or may be a --- Abolitionist will be abliged to come to time whether it is altogether agreeable or not. If an abolitionist is a person who supports the present administration then I am one and am not ashamed of the _____, but I am no abolitionist as the term was defined previous to the war.

Our Capt. just came in and interrupted me by asking if I was dropping her a line. I of course answered in the affirmative. When he very kindly asked me to send her his love. He is a splendid fellow and good officer, he don't know that I am writing this or he might give me fits. I must

close. Direct to the Regt. via Cairo.

As ever truly

Leonard