

Plaquemine La. Jan 13th, 64

Dear Friend Elizabeth

The mail has just arrived but no letters mailed to "L. G. Loomis" consequently he must wait another week at least for the much esteemed privilege of reading a letter from "Elizabeth".

I shall however continue to write just as often. I am still in the jail and the prospect at present is in favor of my remaining in that much dreaded position, dreaded at least by the breakers of the law.

I fear you will think it a poor manner to serve one's country and perhaps you will fail to see the honor attached to that term "jailer."

You must however bear in mind that is the duty of a soldier to obey the orders of his superiors thus he cannot choose his duties and that all military forts have a jail and necessarily some one to take charge.

I must tell you something of the inmates and you can judge whether it is very agreeable or not.

My books show at present the no. of Union soldiers to be 19, Confed's 6, citizens 2 and one nigger women.

The union soldiers are not all put in here for drunkenness some of them however for desertion and others for fighting. The "confed's" as we term them came into our lines and are waiting here to be sent to N.O.

The citizens are charged with trying to bribe our pickets to let them into camp. The reports we receive concerning the "nigger" are that she and "old massa" had some difficulty which ended in a "bit of ____". The nigger coming out first best was reported to ____ Quarters by her chivalric master had trial by Martial law which resulted in the "terrible nigger women" being consigned to jail for the better safety of her poor weak and defenceless master.

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I presume however that you'd not feel very interested in police matters and I will not intrude on your good nature any further in this manner.

It is now something more than four months since I bade her to whom this is directed "Good Bye" with the expectation of seeing her again in one year, and I now look forward eight months and imagine that I see her again.

I am looking anxiously however for the letter containing her Photo.

Elizabeth I would be glad to write something interesting but it seems to me that times here are very dull and infected with a sameness which becomes tiresome to a bluecoat. We had a couple of boys return to the Co. yesterday that were taken prisoners out near Opalouses. They tell some rather tough stories about the rebs and the fare they met with and are glad to get back to the Co. again. I have five rebs in jail who deserted from the 11th Ark. Regt. They say that nearly all of their Regt. had deserted and gone home. It is a mystery to me how the deluded _____ can clothe themselves at the exorbitant prices they are obliged to pay. They tell me they are obliged to pay \$50 a pr for boots 25 & 30 for pants \$30 for a hat and so on and their clothing is very inferior in quality. I asked them how they obtained their money. "Play keerds" was the reply. But if you lose? "then we do without clothes" the was the answer.

They still insist however that it is impossible for us to whip their armies.

I suppose you have plenty of snow in that cold region by this time and no doubt have the pleasure of riding to the music of the bells and the creaking of the snow. How I should enjoy myself if I could be there on some of those occasions. It is useless wishing though and I must be contented in a land where there has been but one inch of snow in twelve years and that within the ~~the~~ past week.

I see that this sheet is full and I must stop scribbling and bid you

I see that this sheet is full and I must stop scribbling and bid you Good Bye. Your sincere friend Leonard