

Young's Point,

Feb. March 1st, 63

Dear Elizabeth.

This is the sabbath and I will write you a few lines but if I had my choice I should be where there would be no necessity of using the pen for the communication of thoughts. It would be most agreeable to me to be where churches are open on the sabbath and where peace and plenty prevail but I find it best for any one to make the best of circumstances we cannot avoid.

There certainly is or appears to be a contrast between this war and the christians warfare. While in this war we are surrounded by sickness and hardships of all kinds and many of us are witnesses to bloodshed and carnage too terrible for the unpracticed eye; the christian in a peaceful country is not troubled with any of these unpleasant scenes but pursues the peaceful avocations of life and serves his Maker according to the dictates of his own conscience.

But while there is that difference the question arises to my mind are the two wars entirely opposite in their object. If by being a soldier in the U. S. army and doing my duty in that position I am constantly rebelling against the law of God then I wish to be relieved as soon as possible that I may engage in some different occupation. "and this would be my choice"

But I believe there is or was a connection between the two wars, and I believe the cause for enlisting which

page 2 of March 1, 1863 letter

we enlisted is just as good to day as it was eighteen months ago but that it has been abused by the incompetency and treachery of men in high places is very plain to be seen and whether we ever succeed in accomplishing our object in regard to this rebellion looks a little doubtful at present one thing is quite certain however that is the soldiers are heartily tired of this war and if we receive any truth from the north the people at home are trying to bring the war to a close.

I suppose your school has closed, and you are at home to day. It is the first day ^{of} the beautiful season of spring and the finest day we have seen for a long time. The forest trees are budding, the grass begins to look green, and indications are that the winter is past.

Everything is quiet before Vicksburg as yet but we are expecting the big guns will open before many days but we know but very little of the proceedings, in this vicinity except when we happen to see a northern paper.

I think you had a very interesting time with the school exammers.

I had the honor of seeing the Hon. Gent. who learned a new idea in your school room and unless I recd a wrong impression there is plenty of room for receiving more of the same article.

I recd your letter of the 15th Feb. yesterday also one

page 3 of March 1, 1863 letter.

written written on the first only two days previous so you see that our mail is not very regular. I have not heard from home for more than a month. the mail is not as regular from that direction as from the west.

Elizabeth I think you will not have any occasion for saying that I have btrayed anything you have written or will write if we should continue our correspondence for years which I hope will not be necessary.

I neglected to acknowledge the receipt of your card of friendship but as we cant~~x~~ procure nothing of that kind here I will send you ^{my} friendship and best wishes on this paper, and wishing you well I remain ever your friend

Leonard

(Note: "written written" on first line is correct.

"btrayed" is correct

"cant" in third line from bottom has the "t" crossed out by hand.)