

Plaquimine La. Jan. 27th, 64

Dear Elizabeth

This day's mail has brought me three letters two of them being from Elizabeth and being the first re'ed from her in almost a month I never enjoyed reading letters any better. I am yet in charge of the jail and have had to deal with some pretty hard customers. We have sent ten confed's to N.O. for safe keeping so that I shall not be able to send that one to Mich. I have a fellow here now that surpasses all the men I ever had to deal with in rascality. He has been a speculator in Texas since the war commenced and fills my idea of a cuthroat and outlaw exactly. I think I never saw a human being before that I was afraid to be alone with after dark but I rather be excused from his society without being well armed although he appears very friendly towards me.

We have at present only two Regts of Inft one Battery of Artillery and one Co of calvalry. The rest of our brigade was ordered to Baton Rouge to do garrison duty. It seems almost impossible that while you are nearly buried in snow that we are enjoying such pleasant weather. We have had a sucession of warm pleasant weather for the past two weeks equal the weather in September at the north, in fact during the middle of the day the people or at least the soldiers hunt for shade to sit in.

This climate agrees with me well thus far. I never enjoyed better health in my life; the society of the place however would deter me from staying here long enough to call it home.

It would indeed be pleasant to form the acquaintance of some of the southern ladies while we are here as we might pass many lonely hours very pleasantly and perhaps profitably.

There are however innumerable obstacles for a soldier to contend

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with in such cases. In the first place the whole army is looked upon as invaders by most of the citizens and especially by the ladies who consider us the murderers either directly or indirectly of 38 of their citizens of this little place most of whom of course were either husbands or lovers.

Then for one of the aristocracy to be seen associating with a common soldier would of course be cause of great scandal and I am acquainted with one soldier who dont propose to associate with the 2nd class of this place while the gallant officer visits the respectable.

Though it has often been the case that our gallant officers have neglected duties as officers of the army to visit with the southern beauties whose male friends are all in the confederate army and who would be glad if they dare to, to send the polite bluecoat to Davy Jones by telegraph.

I have been reading "Russell's diary "north and south" and find it very interesting. He is a very clear and able writer. Of course like every other true Briton is opposed to America and her instutions. I think however that he presents a very impartial view of the north and south and I wish he might have stayed on this side of the Atlantic and wrote history of its present war as I believe we shall lack a perfectly impartial historian.

Our Co. has moved from the dwelling house into the Court House and have excellent-quarters. We have three men employed as cooks have our meals regular and full. I almost imagine that I am a citizen every thing is so quiet and so unlike the confusion of the field. I must close this. I expect to see "Elizabeth" on paper in one week from today and will wait as patiently as possible.

Good Bye

Ever your friend

Leonard