

Arkansas Post

Jan. 12th, 63

Dear Elizabeth

I have just re'cd your most welcome letter written on the 25th inst and thank you for your kind wishes and hope you had a merry christmas which I think can be enjoyed better in more northern latitudes than I have the privilege at present of enjoying.

We have fought another battle but with far different results than the one at Vicksburg. This place is 25 miles up the Arkansas river. We arrived near the fort on the 10th fighting soon commenced and yesterday at 3:00 P.M. the enemy surrendered unconditionally. We have from six to eight thousand prisoners including Gen. Churchill and every thing belonging to the fort. Our life was not heavy although the enemy fought like tigers being mostly Texan troops and have the reputation of being the best soldiers the enemy can boast of.

You will hardly expect I can write you anything like an answer to your letter at this place. I am seated on the ground in what was the enemies camp surrounded by all the confusion of our troops moving from place and in close _____ to the several thousand "butternuts" which I mentioned.

But I thought I would pencil a few lines on account of the novelty of the occasion and write to you more fully when we get settled in camp. We have in this instance a striking illustration of uncertainty and reverses in war. Two weeks today we were making as deperate _____ conducted and bloody a charge as has been made during the war. To day we are resting after glorious victory. However I dont believe that I could ever like war

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if we were to have a battle and win every week, the sights of the battle field are not at all pleasing to my eyes my wish is that the war might be closed before any more battles are fought but if it is not we must trust the God of battles for the results.

I had a letter from home also stating that Alvin had been removed to Louisville and that he was no better. I am afraid he is not going to get along very well and wish it was in my power to help him but it is impracticable?

Our army is becoming reduced by sickness but thus far since I left home last spring I have been blessed with _____ good health. I feel truly thankful for the kind and good friends which I am fortunate enough to have and hope and trust that I may be spared to return them some favor for their well wishes.

I have written more now than I expected to when I commenced and you must not criticize the connexion in composition.

I did not intend to make any remark in my letter to induce you to write anything contrary to your wishes but merely intended it for light talk, which I believe I am not very after guilty of and which I hope less guilty of ere I am many years older.

I will give you due information of our future whereabouts and wishing you good health and _____.

As ever your sincere friend

Leonard

P.S. Direct as before

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