

Jan. 28th, 64

Elizabeth

The mail is not going out to day therefore I will add a few lines to my letter of yesterday. I forgot to thank you for your letter and hope you will not entertain any fears of long letters wearying me, on, the contrary they are just what suits me. There is much more pleasure in receiving a full sheet than one with about a dozen lines written in such a manner as to occupy as much space as possible.

You ought to see the looks of dismay on the features of the boys when they open one of these empty letters, then see how envious they appear when a comrade receives a large sheet well filled.

There are plenty of chickens in this vicinity which is manifest by the almost constant crowing during the night. It is a common remark among the boys that the chickens here dont know anything. They would indeed be a poor guide for the early riser. Notwithstanding the large number of poultry the people here value an egg very high or else place a very low value on money. We cannot buy any of these precious eatables for less than 60 cts per doz.

Cows are not as plenty as at the north, milk is sold at ten cts. per pint and butter at 50 cts per lb. which is most all bought from the northern dairies and sold here by the sutters. It would indeed be very vulgar for a southern lady to have anything to do with a dairy. Their domestic animals are the mule the dog and the "niggers".

Every lady must have one or more niggers to follow and wait upon her whenever she goes abroad and her team generally consists of one or two mules hitched up in an old harness tied together with strings in the most ridiculous manner possible. The black "john" mounts his box on the top of what was once a coach, but I know of no

Jan. 28th, 64

name applicable to it now, it is merely a moving wreck tied and burred and nailed together, The people of the north would not risk their necks in the vehicles used here by the upper tendum saying nothing of the impropriety of people who count their money by hundreds of thousands making such a ridiculous appearance in the world.

You would hardly think that there are a class of people in these enlightened states who would refuse a man a drink of water. Such a class however are the La. planters. They will not entertain a stranger on their premises on no condition and I am told that previous to the war that a stranger who valued his life very highly had better keep away from them. They are however exceedingly hospitable to those whom they consider as equals or superior and will treat such in the most friendly manner. The negro is becoming rather troublesome in this country at least to the whites. There are complaints before the Provost Marshal every day from the whites the niggers wont work nor leave and from the black that Old massa wont pay for his work and he's lived dar dese many years and he dont want to go way. Of course the decision is that the white being the land holder if he and the nigger cannot agree the black must leave the premises which he tinks is berry hard. They are certainly an unfortunate race of beings. Enough of southern life this time I fear this will tax your patience so that you will not wish to see anymore letters from

Leonard