

Hilton Head, SC

February 22, 1862

Dear Friends,

We received two mails today, one from the North and one from Key West. The latter brought me two letters from you that had gone there. The mail from New York brought also your letter written on the 7th inst. I was of course glad to hear from you and that you were all well. As you will see by the heading, we are again on the wing. Yesterday we were moved down here in a hurry and in the language of the order are to be placed on "special service". What that special service is of course we do not know, although various conjectures are ventured. After Charleston to Savannah are ours I will most probably be able to tell you. I think that my next letter to you will give you particulars. It can not be delayed much longer. Our Ironclads and Monitors are here and ready for action. They have been up the Savannah river and have shelled out a number of batteries out along the bank. The report is that we are to be General Hunters body guard, but I do know if that is correct. At all events, we do not care. We want to be where honor is to be gained. But I am inclined to think the Army will have but little to do. The Navy will do the most of the fighting unless we are sent around to the rear to prevent their escape. And let me assure you the next attack will be a success. All are confident of winning, and I believe we will.

Ed, you wish to know something of the political complexion of the 10th Army Corps. Well the large majority are anti slavery men in favor of the emancipation proclamation as a war measure because we know it will weaken the Rebs - are in favor of sustaining the Government at all hazards and cost but at the same time we feel that these as a great many in the North, who do not deserve a home and country and we are at times almost discouraged by their acts. Besides General Hunter is very unpopular here, and in our Regiment particularly. We are willing perfectly that negroes shall fight but not in the same brigade with us, nor shall the extinction of the evil be made paramount to the restoration of the Gov't and subjugation of the Rebs. I think I will have a small account to settle with some parties when I get home, and by the Gods they will recant or ---.

You had better invest what money I have at home you do not need. If Reardens house is the best investment make it, or Haas lots, or if no land buy some stock, or anything that will pay. There is no use in it lying idle. Get a mortgage for us as I suppose you can get six percent for it anyhow. I will send you a couple hundred more in a week or so as we daily expect to be paid.

I received a letter today from General Clement. Give him my thanks and kindest regards. Also one from Abbie, I think she had better come home and if she wants to go to school anymore, let her go to Lewisburg or Selinsgrove and I will pay for it.

Mother, what do you think - I am getting grey. Actually, the grey hairs are appearing quite numerous. I really don't like to get old yet awhile.

We are encamped outside the entrenchments, in a **regular?** sandy plain. Although I have no floor, yet I am comparatively comfortable as are my men. They are all well and ready for action. Hunter is about but does no duty. I very much doubt if his leg will ever enable him to do full duty. Bartlow is all right again. I am in excellent health, stout and rugged. You must have rather gay times with the Ladies. I would like to see some of them. We saw none here but black and mahogany colored. With love to all. From direct to Hilton Head, SC,

The boys are quite lively. As I write I hear the sound of the fiddle and their joyousness. They are a noble set of fellows.

Yours,

Shindel