

Camp Brannen
Key West,
Feb. 21, 1862

Dear friends -

The letter written by you on the 10th inst. came this morning by the steamer *Philadelphia*. Gen. Brannen and staff came with her. Only four letters came in the mail for us and I was fortunate enough to get one of them. I was the envy of the entire Camp. Your news was very acceptable but it appears to me you write very short letters to a fellow in Key West.

We are having fine times here. The weather is awful warm though but we are getting used to it. I have bought myself an entire suit of linen clothes so that I am very comfortable. My men are all well - not one sick. Hunter Billington had the measles but is well again. We have but six men in the Hospital and 23 in quarters. That is a splendid list for 1000 men. There are now about 20 Mortar boats in the harbor now so we expect to be at something before long.

The news of the success of the Burnside expedition was received with joy. Also, our success in Kentucky. Wait awhile and you will hear news from Key West.

I have made a number of valuable acquaintances here. I attended a party last Monday night at the Episcopal Minister's, the Rev. Mr. Herrick. His lady is one of the most perfect I ever met. In fact, I never met any couple with whom I was more pleased. They came to see me on Tuesday evening and made me go with them. He is the only clergyman in the seceded State who prays for the President of the United States. I think a great deal of him.

It seems strange to hear you talk of sleighing while we are weltering under the burning rays of the sun. I would like to have one ride but do not expect to get it for a year yet. Then I will take a good one.

We expect to have a big time tomorrow. Enclosed find a programme of the arrangements.

The mail leaves tomorrow morning. The N.Y. Herald says we are to have a weekly mail here now. I am glad of this and hope you will all write every week. Father, I missed your letter this time.

Remember me to Grandmother and all the Uncles. Rees will write to father by this mail. Write soon.

Your,

Shindel