

Fort Taylor,

Key West, Fl

July 1, 1863

Dear Friends,

I arrived from my fishing excursion last night or rather this morning and found your favor of the 19th awaiting me. As a mail will leave tonight or tomorrow for the North I take the opportunity of answering it immediately. I am not in the best writing humor having had considerable of a time on our trip. We visited Cape Sable on the mainland of Florida and remained hunting deer and watching for turtle until the mosquitoes drove us off. After we got out in the Gulf we were becalmed for two days and ran out of water and were without it from yesterday at noon until this morning at 1 a.m. when we arrived in Port. The sun was very hot but we did not suffer much. If we had been becalmed another day we should have suffered greatly as no water could have been had and we met no vessels.

It appears the Rebel raid in Pennsylvania is rather serious. Would [unreadable] every copperhead in their brain they would suffer from it. And here, Ed, I wish to say a word to you. If you are invited to address loyal men, do it, fearlessly, but in a gentlemanly manner and if you are interfered with let me know it for by the Great Jehovah if a man harms a hair of your head he shall answer to me for and his [unreadable] fortune increased tenfold. I am able to attend to them anyway with sword, pistol or natives' weapons and will do it at whatever cost. And go prepared and if you are harmed do not fear to defend yourself.

I have some articles for Annie that I will send her by the first opportunity. Her and mother must not think themselves forgotten, but it is difficult to get anything here unless from Havana and as I will visit there again in the fall I will then provide for all. In the meantime let Abbie give Annie half of her towels and I will send them both more.

Father don't say anything about his cane and segars. What did he think of them. The cigars are the genuine Havanas - such as you seldom see North. They would cost about 10 cts apiece at home. They cost me \$25 a thousand in Havana, in gold.

I would like very much to see Annie's children and Annie herself. I saw in another person's letter that that she looked so badly. I wish I could get to see her. I had hoped for leave of absence this summer but it is too late now as I would not leave my men when the fever season is so close at hand and besides there is a probability and a strong one that we will be ordered up to Port Hudson shortly as Gen. Banks is very short of men. But you must take the best care of Annie as I want to see her as she was when I see her again. I don't suppose she misses much by the absence of Hat & Rote.

I had hoped Keller would have killed [unreadable] Simpson for the blow he gave him. The traitor deserves to die.

What is my name on the list for to be drafted I should like to know. I suppose if I was selected they would send for me. That is rather cool I imagine.

I suppose the money has reached home by this time. It is singular it is so long in getting there. Major Babbitt the paymaster by whom I send it should have expressed it about the 10th. If was directed to P.M. Shindel Esqr. and the package contained over \$2100. If it has not arrived when you receive this write to Major Babbitt paymaster, N.S.A., Washington, D.C. inquiring about it.

Everything is quiet here now, nothing going on. There will be a small time on the 4th. I will do something in the talking line. The men are in excellent health and spirits, no sickness at all among us as yet. Remember me to Grandmother and all friends. With love.

Yours,

Shindel

Enclosed is a couple of cases I picked at Cape Sable, Fla., at that where during the last Indian War, Gen. Harvey hung fifteen Indians.