

Fort Taylor,
Key West, Fl
September 10, 1863

Dear Friends,

Ed's letters of the 19th and 20th ult. reached me yesterday. The first news or word I have had from home for six weeks. It is owing to the irregularity of the mails as we have had no mail for over a month and I cannot tell when one will leave here. A boat will be sent out in the Gulf tomorrow to watch for a Steamer that may be passing North.

I am gratified to learn that you all continue in good health. Ed allow me to congratulate you on accumulation of honors. You are fortunate. I was glad to see some men hit that are, but there are not enough of the right kind. I presume that from the entire lot from town scarcely a Corporal's Guard will go into ranks. The \$300 clause may be a good financial measure but it not calculated to fill up the Army very rapidly.

We have no news here. The weather is getting somewhat cooler but it is yet so hot as to be almost beyond endurance. We have had considerable rain this month and several severe storms so we may conclude the rainy season and hurricane season have both set in.

We still continue very healthy - no sickness of any account on the Island. Cos. B and D have some cases of fever but we have none in the Fort. I have not had a sick man this summer. [unreadable] from sore eyes and now I have none of those even. As for myself, I could not enjoy better health. Not a single case of Yellow Fever has been reported this summer. We have thus far been truly fortunate and this is the last month to be feared.

Mother, I did not wish to hurt your feelings in what I may have said in a former letter. Far be it from me to do it. I know you do it all for the best and in your love for me but I am somewhat sensitive and was cross at that time. So forget it and only recollect the good I write - not that fact that offends you. I do not want to - nay, I cannot forfeit one iota of that Mother's love that I know is born me - that I feel existing for me and my sincere desire is to enjoy and deserve it.

I have written a number of letters since the ones you acknowledge the receipt of. I presume by this time you have received them all. I also wrote to Judge Shipman and Henry Haupt. The Col. showed me today a petition he received from Haupt. They had better mine their own business and keep cool. They are giving their son's misconduct a notoriety I expressly wished to avoid and are doing their boy more injury than the confinement would. Besides it can do no possible good.

The Court of Admiralty is doing a very poor business just now. The principal item in the salvage from wrecks and this war has driven all commerce from the Gulf - so that there is little or nothing to do. Strong inducements have been held out for me to come here and practice after the War but I am so tired of the cursed mosquitoes and hot weather that I scarcely entertain the idea any more although at one time I thought seriously of it.

I think we will get to New Orleans shortly - probably to Mobile in the attack there. I am making an effort to get North first and hope to succeed. I will probably have a lively time there as some parties will have to take back some things they have been saying or I will compel them to.

I received letters from Uncle Jacob and Luther. They are well. I am pleased to hear Uncle Joe is getting better. With love to Grandmother and all friends.

Yours,

Shindel

Every man in my company is for Castin and I do not know of a Woodward man in the Regt. Even the Col, an old Breck dem. is in favor of Andy. Ed, don't fail to get me assessed.