

PLATE 100
Faint circular postmark stamp in the top left corner.

Fort Taylor, Key West, Fla
May 7. 1863.

Dear Friends,

The Mail Steamer United States arrived last night and by it I received your letters of Apr 21st and 27th. Also three letters that were written in Feb and March and directed to Bearfoot. So that by one mail I received five letters from home. The news of the three however was rather old, but nevertheless welcome. Mothers picture was in one of them, and you may be sure that was received joyfully. It was what I had been looking for for some time and wondering why it had not been sent. I now have all but Fathers and Amies. I hope soon to receive those and then I can exhibit the whole family. Send them as soon as convenient.

No news from home since the
sinking of the Man, has pleased me
more than Gen Clement's appointment
as Provost Marshal. He is a man
whom I have always admired and
respected. And one upon whom you
could rely. Congratulate him for
me, and while I am aware he knows
his duty and will ^{execute} ~~repaid~~ it re-
gardless of consequences. I cannot
but say I hope he will trap
traitors their places. By the Gods
nothing would give me more pleasure
than to have a score of them in
Fort Taylor. But vengeance loses
naught by being long delayed,
and those of us that escape Rebel
bullets, and malarious diseases
will avenge those of our comrades
who are sent to their soldiers
graves, indirectly, by the traitor
Copperheads in the North. How can
a God of Justice and right refrain from
crushing the scoundrels & scoundrels.

Since I have been in the army
I have paid but little attention to
politics. My most intimate companions
with one or two exceptions are democrats
of the old school, but latterly they have
all come to one conclusion and that
is that after we have conquered the
Rebs, our heels must go on the necks of
those scoundrels who would rejoice to
see us sacrificed & advance their
selfish interests. May the blasts of
heaven forever carry from them all
renders life dear

I would like to know
who the scoundrel is Ed refers to,
although I suppose I know, as I have
but two of that class, and they are so
seldom out of the Grand House that
they are useless. I have been compelled
to furnish them for everything, from
stealing & not keeping themselves clean.
However I care not for what they say
I do what I think is right and come
not who it suits, but I know that

My men would not exchange for
any Company they have seen, nor
would I fight with them for any.
They know I have refused promotion
because I would not leave them
and they know I give every man his
dues, good or bad, but more frequently
excuse than punish. So what Master
S says can do me harm, and himself
no good.

We have nothing particularly new.
The 9th A Y has been ordered to New
Orleans. We tried hard to get to go
but Gen Woodbury would not fight
with us. I think we will get there
yet. Banks is doing things of glorious
over there now. I am trying to get
A meter discharged and think I will
succeed. My men are all well
and in fine spirits. I am glad
to hear of Annie & Grandmother improving.
Remember me to Clara Lewis, and all
friends back home.

Yours
Shirley

Gen Woodbury has offered me the 4th A Y & I have refused it. I am with you.