

Fort Taylor, Key West, Fla
June 11. 1863

Dear Friends,

At length a boat has stopped here on her road to New York and I have an opportunity of writing. No mail has left here, nor have we received one for three weeks. They say though there is one in Havana for us, & I suppose we will get it shortly. Sumter will go North on the same boat, but will probably stop a few days in New York. He has been honorably discharged on account of disability.

The weather is exceedingly hot, but as yet we have no sickness whatever. Mosquitoes are so thick we can scarcely live. I have had a bar made over my desk where I write so I am comparatively comfortable. The people say

from the money of the men about received by Uncle Sam's Agent & to him. (last week)

So many Mosquitoes is a sign of a healthy summer. I hope we will have one, but there is no telling yet. We will have at least a very dull summer, as nearly all the ladies are going or have gone North to spend the summer. The Miss Howe with whom you associate my name so intimately will leave this week, and will spend the summer at Niagara and Mount Holyoke, Mass. So if you wish to gratify your curiosity in regard to her, just take a trip around there, and call on her. I invited her to visit Sumbury in the course of her travels, but I hardly think she will get there, particularly as I told her of the silly stories in circulation there.

The Rev Mr Herrick met me the other evening and informed me that a Doctor from Sumbury was on board the Octorara. I was unable to go on board that night, as she was anchored in the stream, but sent my

buggy up to the wharf next day
and down it came with Doctor
Bodge in it. He is attached to the
Octorara now, belonging to Wilkes
Flying Squadron. I was very glad
to see him I assure you. He spent the
part of the evening with me, and this
afternoon I expect him again. He
looks well, and is on board of a very
good vessel. You can imagine we
had a good old talk.

I sent a couple
articles with Amos, for Abbie, for the
Ed. I could not send any more, as
I did not wish to give him any
trouble. The cigars & towels I bought
in Havana. I don't think you will
find any like them in your region.
Ed wanted a cane and I have
sent him one. They are scarce here
just now, in consequence of so
many people having been here this
Spring & Winter. I will send some to
different friends shortly.

Heavily all the steamers pass
them to be afraid of us
by outside the harbor they
are here.

I have written to Michael Long
and Mrs Haupt by this mail. See
if they get the letters as both contain
money. I have sent no money home
this time as there are chances here
to speculate once in a while. However
if you need any or see a good chance
to invest let me know. That I have
at home is lying idle. You had better
invest it in Government $\$200$ if you see
nothing better. How much is there?

I have

no sickness in the Company except
Colds & some few sore eyes. Lins Oyster
is on a visit to Fort Jefferson, but
will return in a few days. Everything
moves along right. I caught a cold
at a party the other night, but nothing
serious. A lady gave me some flower
seeds for Abbie I will send. Write
often as our mails now will be very
irregular and long between.

Yours S. Smith