

Hilton Head S.C.

February 22, 1862

Dear friends

We received two mails today, one from the North and one from Key West. The latter brought me two letters from you that had gone there, the mail from New York brought also your letter written on the 7th inst. I was of course glad to hear from you and that you were all well. As you will see by the heading we are again on the wing. Yesterday we were moved down here in a hurry and in the language of the order are to be placed on "special service" What that special service is, of course we do not know, although various conjectures are ventured. After Charleston to Savannah are ours I will most probably be able to tell you. I think that my next letter to you will find you the particulars. It cannot be delayed much longer. Our Iron Clods and Monitors

are here and ready for action. They have
been up the Savannah river, and have
shelled out a number of batteries out
along the bank. The report is that we are
to be Gen Hunter's body Guard, but I do
not know if it is correct. At all events
we don't care, we want to be where honor
is to be gained. But I am inclined to
think the Army will have but little to
do. The Navy will do the most of the
fighting unless we are sent around to
the rear to prevent their escape. And
let me assure you the next attack
will be a success. All are confident
of winning, and I believe we will

God you
wish to know something of the political
complexion of the 10th Army Corps. Tell the
large majority are anti-slavery men
in favor of the Emancipation proclamation
as a war measure, because we know it
will weaken the Rebs. - We are in favor
of sustaining the Government at all
expenses, and cost, but at the same

time we feel that there are a great
many in the North, who do not deserve
a Slave or a Country, and we are at times
almost discouraged by their acts. Besides
Gen Hunter is very unpopular here, and in
our Regt particularly. We are willing perfectly
that negroes shall fight, but not in the same
brigade with us, nor shall the extraction of the
soil be made farcious to the restoration
of the Govt & subjugation of the Rebs. I
think I will have a small account to settle
with some parties when I get home, and by
the Gods, they will recant or —

You had better
invest what money I have at home, you do
not need. If Reardens house is the best
investment, make it, or Haas lots, or, if
no land, by some stock, or anything that
will pay. There is no use in it lying
idle. Get a mortgage for it, as I
suppose you can get six per cent for
it any how. I will send you a
couple hundred more in a week or so
as we daily expect to be paid.

the boys are quite lovely. As I write I hear the cannon of the
forts and their bombardment. they are a noble set of fellows.

I received a letter today from Gen
Clement. Give him my thanks and tender
regards. Also one from Abbie, I think
she had better come home, and if she
wants to go to school any more let her
go to Lewisburg or Selinsgrove & I will pay
for it.

Mother, what do you think? I am getting
grey. Actually the grey hairs are appearing
quite numerous. I really don't like to get
old yet awhile.

We are encamped outside the
the entrenchments, in a regular sandy plain.
Although I have no floor, yet I am comparative
comfortable, as are my men. They are all
well and ready for action. Hunter is about
but does no duty, I very much doubt if his
leg will ever enable him to do full duty.
Barlow is all right again, I am in excellent
health stout & ruddy. You must have rather
gay times with the Ladies, I would like to see
some of them. We saw none here but, block
our motogary Colored. With love to all. I remain
Dear as to
Hilton Head, S.C. Yours Truly
John Smith