

Judicial Off Southern District
Ky West May 31. 1862.

Dear friends.

The weather is as hot as a second
edition of Vesuvius, but notice has just been received
that a mail leaves via Havana, tomorrow, and I will
embrace the opportunity of letting you hear from me.
This being the last day of the month we have our
Monthly inspection at 5 o'clock, and at the rate the
sun is coming down it will take just about three
minutes to sweat us through. But it must be done
and if we are enjoying the beauties of the "Army South"
we must expect to enjoy it thoroughly.

We have not had
a mail for 2 weeks. But Gunboats sloping and
smacks from Sapan and Havana have brought
us news to the 20th. We here are beginning to regard
ourselves as fixtures. We have commenced the erection
of Barracks for our Regiment and consequently there
is no prospect of our moving shortly. By the first of
June we expect to occupy them, when we will have
splendid quarters, and nice times. But the weather

is so infernally hot that in or out of Barracks, it is
any thing but comfortable. The warm weather does
not affect me in the least though I stand it and
get fat. My men too are improving, in fact. None
but one in the Hospital and about 3^d Deck in
quarters - the latter not being confined to bed or their
tents, but have a little dysentery or diarrhea. Our
Regiment has lost none for some time, and I believe
all the sick are improving.

The steamer Leisoplain has
been condemned instead of released, as I stated in my
last. The evidence was so plain that the Judge could
do nothing else. She is a very valuable prize. Several
others have arrived since.

The Rev. West Herald makes
its appearance again today. The leech the man who
agreed to edit it. has gone to New York, so I have
been editing myself this week. It is rather a thankless
job but I want Harry and Lake to make some money, even
in this they can do it. Harry however, has been on a
bush this week and if he goes it again I will shut
down on him.

What to write about, I don't know. We have no news here of any account. Everything moves off in usual style. We drill pretty hard, and our men now surpass any Regiment of Regulars in the service. We are all tired of lying idle here, and long for something more active. If we do not get it soon though we will be content to do without it this summer and keep as much as possible in the shade until winter. This is the most healthy spot in the Gulf and by means of a strict quarantine we hope to keep off the Yellow Fever, and preserve our health, and have us all right for next fall campaign, if there is any there, if not to enable us all to return home.

The Lieut Col. the Adjutant, Ser Schultz Lieut Coates, leading the Band & myself have built ourselves a dining room and now meet together. It is a picked party and we have gay times. Our dishes &c cost us forty dollars. We have a French cook and live better than any other party in the Island. The Col wants to join us but we have not decided whether or not we will take him. No more eating on tin plates and drinking coffee out of tin cups for us.

I sent Annie a fine box of shells the other day
by the Philadelphia. I potted most of them myself
in the sand bags while out fishing the other day.
What has become of Uncle Luther and George Seisewing?
I wrote to both of them a couple of months ago
but have received no answer yet.

Several ladies
left here to spend the summer north, but there are
still enough here to make it interesting to those
of our men who run after them. As for myself
you know I never do it, but there are several
young ladies here that take an especial interest
in your humble servant. What a pity it is a
man can't marry more than one woman.

I do not
see my land advertised for sale. It is a couple of lots in
Leviston. George Weise is a partner. You had better buy
them, and serve notice on George & Me. and then get the
deed made out in your name. With love to all
I remain

Yours

S. M. Mide