

Monday night

February 23, 1863

Since writing the enclosed, and just before I placed it in the office, orders have been received to embark and proceed to Key West again. Why or for what reason I cannot tell, at all events, go back we must. We leave tomorrow on the *Cosmopolitan*. My men are all well but do not like the idea of going to Key West. I myself am disheartened and discouraged and feel more like resigning than ever I did. If it were not for the welfare of my men, I certainly would come home, but I cannot leave them. As heretofore, direct your letters to Key West, Fla.

Yours,

Shindel