

Fort Taylor, Key West, Fl
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 Beaufort. So that by one mail I received five letters from home. The news of the three however was rather old, but nevertheless welcome. Mother's picture was in one of them and you may be sure that was received joyfully. It was what I had been looking for for sometime and wondering why it had not been sent. I now have all but Father's and Annie's. 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 opening of the War has pleased me more than Gen. Clements' appointment as Provost Marshall. 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 it regardless of consequences I cannot but say I hope he will teach 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 and storms.

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 lately we have all come to one conclusion and that is that after we have conquered the Rebels, one heels must go on the necks of those scoundrels who would rejoice to see us sacrificed to 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 Guard House that they are useless. I have been compelled to punish them for everything from stealing to not keeping themselves clean. However, I care not for what they say, I do what I think is right and care not who it suits but I know that my men would not exchange for any Company they have seen nor would I part with them for any. They know I give every man his dues, good or bad but more frequently excuse than punish. So what matters I says can do no harm and himself no good.

We have nothing particularly new. The 90th N.Y. has been ordered to New Orleans. We tried hard to get to go but Gen. Woodbury would not part with us. I think we will get there yet. Banks is doing things up glorious over there now. I am trying to get Hunter discharged and think I will succeed. My men are all well and in fine spirits. I am glad to hear of Annie and Grandmother improving. Remember me to Chas Davis and all friends. Write soon.

Yours,

Shindel

General Woodbury has appointed me Judge Advocate of a Military Commission to try Blockade runners, so I am kept busy.