

Judicial Dept. Southern District  
Key West,  
May 31, 1862

Dear friends,

The weather is as hot as a second edition of Vesuvius but notice has just arrived 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 weather of the "sunny South" we must expect to enjoy it thoroughly.

We have not had a mail for 2 weeks. But Gunboats stopping and smacks from Nassau 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 anything 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 I have but one in the Hospital and about 5 sick 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 *Circassian* 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 Key West Herald makes its appearance again today. Mr. Cash, 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 Jake to make some money, and to

this they can do it. Harry however has been on a bust this week and if he goes it again I will think 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 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 then, if not to enable us all to return home.

The Lieut. Col., the Adjutant, Sur. Scheetz, Lieut. Coates, leader of the Band and myself have built ourselves a dining room and now mess together. It is a picked party and we have gay times. Our dishes cost us forty dollars. We have a French cook and live better than any other party on 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 a tin cup for us.

I sent Annie a fine box of shells the other day by the *Philadelphia*. I gathered most of them myself in the sand trap while out Turtling the other day. What has become of Uncle Luther and George Leisening. 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 Trevorton. George Weise is a partner. You had better buy them and serve notice on George and me and then get the deed made out in your name. With love to all. I remain

Yours,

Shindel