

Fort Taylor, Key West, Fl

June 11, 1863

Dear Friends,

At length a boat has stopped here on her road to New York and I have an opportunity of writing. No mail has left here, nor have we received one for three weeks. They say though there is one in Havana for us so I suppose we will get it shortly. Hunter will go North on the same boat but will probably stop a few days in New York. He has been honorably discharged on account of his disability.

The weather is exceedingly hot, but as yet we have no sickness whatever. Mosquitoes are so thick we can scarcely live. I have had a bar made over my desk where I write so I am comparatively comfortable. The people say so many mosquitoes is a sign of a healthy summer. I hope we will have one, but there is no telling yet. We will have at least a very dull summer as nearly all the ladies are going or have gone North to spend the summer. The Miss Howe with whom you associate my name so intimately will leave this week and will spend the summer at Niagara and Mount Holyoke, Mass. So if you wish to gratify your curiosity in regard to her, just take a trip around there and call on her. I invited her to visit Sunbury in the course of her travels but I hardly think she will get this, particularly as I told her of the silly stories in circulation there.

The Rev. Mr. Herrick met me the other evening and informed me that a Doctor from Sunbury was on board the *Octavia*. I was unable to go on board that night as she was anchored in the Stream but sent my buggy up to her wharf next day and down it came with Doctor Dodge in it. He is attached to the *Octavia* now belonging to Wilkes Flying Squadron. I was very glad to see him I assure you. He spent the part of the evening with me and this afternoon I expect him again. He looks well and is on board of a very good vessel. You can imagine we had a good old talk.

I sent a couple of articles with Hunter for Abbie, Father & Ed. I could not send anymore as I did not wish to give him any trouble. The cigars and towels I bought in Havana. I don't think you will find any like them in your region. Ed wanted a cane and I have sent him one. They are scarce here just now in consequence of so many people having been here this Spring & Winter. I will send some to different friends shortly.

I have written to Michael Young and Mrs. Haupt by this mail. See if they get the letters as both contain money. I have sent no money home this time as there are chances here to speculate once in a while. However, if you need any or see a good chance to invest it let me know. That I have at home is lying idle. You had better invest it in Government 5=20 if you see nothing better. How much is there?

I have no sickness in the Company except colds and some few sore eyes. Lieut. Oyster is on a visit to Fort Jefferson but will return in a few days. Everything moves along right. I caught a cold at a party the other night but nothing serious. A lady gave me some flower seeds for Abbie. I will send. Write often as our mails now will be very irregular and long between.

Yours,

Shindel

Nearly all the steamers pass by outside the harbor. They seem to be afraid of us in here.