

Camp 7th C.V. [Connecticut Volunteers] Fernandina, March 4, 1863*

My dear Friends,

I suppose Congress will rise today and a schooner starts for the Head, so I will write you a line. For your information and I am glad to believe your satisfaction I can say that I am in first rate health.

We are beginning to have warm weather and mosquitoes. Gardens are looking up. Today however is quite like a March day at home— We are very busy just now or have just been on our muster-rolls. We have not been paid for 6 months but we hear the Paymasters are at the Head.

We received the cheering news last night that the Nashville had been taken. Day before yesterday I received a letter from Father and one from Cornelia— The last of the 14th. I was more than pleased with both of them.

Father, you hit upon the right idea. I want to know just what facts and incidents as you stated. Write often. Has the side walk been laid up either Orchard or Pearl Streets? Have you bought a buggy yet? If not buy one for me when I send my next pay home— Perhaps a top carriage would suit you still better, if so get it. Now I mean what I say— What money I get I am anxious to have you use, at least to a considerable extent— and that extent only limited by yourself— You have often given up comforts for my benefit, or supposed benefit, and now that I have some money I want to have it buy as many comforts for you as possible.

I would send you our papers but it is difficult to obtain them here.

We are having a very pleasant time here— Nine of our officers have their wives here— Saturday night we gave Major Rodman a surprise party. It was the first night of his keeping house.

The news from the Head you get as soon or sooner than we— so I will not write about that. In fact I believe there is not much to write about except the taking of Nashville and of that we have no particulars.

Write often
Love to all
Valentine

Note: The University of Florida has only a transcription of this letter. The transcription is not ascribed.