

Lafourch Bayou Feby. 11th 1863

1.6.4

Dearest wife

To day is a rainy day and I cannot do much but stay inside and keep as comfortable as possible.

My dear I was glad to get your letter yesterday and glad to hear that you were all well with the exception of the natural infirmity of your sex. I hope you came out of it all right.

My dear I think your sex are to be pitied for that and other infirmities that you are entailed with but you seem to bear it without much grumbling.

My dear we are all broken up as a regiment and the different companies are scattered along the road doing guard duty.

Co B is stationed at this place. The Col has his head quarters at this station also. This movement has separated the Musicians for

the present as each Co takes its
Drummer & fifer but I don't
have the trouble of taking care
of them, perhaps this will not
last long.

About your moving, it makes
me indignant every time I think
of Clark Hoyt and I have been
tempted to write him a letter
stating to him what I thought
of him. I have a good mind
to have you stay there until I
come home, when you move
if you do I want you to take off
all the locks and bolts that I
had put on to the Doors and
take them with you when you
move, as it regards the paint
things if you could find some
place to store them until I come
back. I sometimes think that
I will get some of the Boys
together and give Clark Hoyt

a good licking when we get
back but I don't think that
it would be Christian to do so.

My dear the time of enlistment
hasn't come and if we live our time
out we shall not regret our
enlistment. I think that some
of the Boys are improved by the
soldiers life and some are har-
dened but I think on the whole
that the life is calculated to
call out the noble sentiments
of the soul. There are a great many
negroes here but not so many as there
has been. at one time there was
1500 but some have gone back
to work and some have enlisted
and some have died &c &c
it is difficult to tell what the
ultimate condition of them will
be. The war news in this part of
the country is not encouraging
although they are going to try

again to take Vicksburgh. I hope
They will be successful but I
donot expect it because we
donot seem to succeed for some
reason or other. My dear con-
-tinue to do your duty and I
hope we shall not be separated
for a great while. it may seem
lonesome to you without me
which I hope it does as I
ould be sorry to think that you
would rather have me away
than at your side. My dear I am in
hopes that our separation may result in
a state of feeling which may enable us
to live harmoniously together at all times.
Let us my dear endeavor to study
the happiness of each other as much
as possible and willingly practice
that self denial that will enable
us to throw aside our own preferences
for the wishes of each other.

my dear wife it is after Tattoo at night
and the true roads are chirping .. there is
no frost in the ground in this climate and
the weather is quite warm .. I am afraid
that we shall have trouble with some of
our men as some of them or one of them
has been engaged in stealing some of the
piping and other things about the sugar
mills and a complaint has been made
to our Colonel to day .. we or some in
our Squad have heard who the principal
man engaged in this business is but
we do not feel at liberty to mention
who the person is as we think that it
will leak out of itself .. we have had
a good name as a Regiment but I
am afraid that this matter will injure
our reputation and may injure our
prospects for continuing in this position
of Guard duty .. the Regiments have been
before us have had to go to Vicksburg
to fight because they could not be trusted
to Guard this property ..

and we are in hopes that nothing
may transpire to cause us to leave
this post until our time expires. there
is a fair prospect that we shall stay
in this place until our time expires.
if we do our duty.

my dear I am glad that my principles
are such that I have been enabled
to resist the temptation to enrich myself
dishonestly. in fact I have never had
an inclination to take that which
did not belong to me.

the time is now half past 5 in the
morning and as I do not feel sleepy
I get up almost every morning at
5 o'clock. I have to be up at 4 1/2 past
6 now but it used to be at 6 but I have
got into the habit of waking up at
5 o'clock and I cannot seem to sleep
after that it so damp and chilly to me
the dew is very heavy here at night.

I suppose you are in the arms of
Morpheus about this time taking your
morning nap unless the children
awaken you early. The Muskets are
quite thick here now and while I
am writing now they are flying around
my dear Wife it seems to be estab-
lished that our time is out by the 16th
of June and we think that they will
start us for home by the 1st of June.
My Drum Corps is all broken up as
long as the Regiment is divided up but
I think the Colonel will order them
together by and by for practice.

It struck me as strange that Isabella
did not come to see you but I know
that they do not make a practice of
coming to see us as often as they do
the other members of the Family.
I will try and write to Amos and
I should have done so before this.

but that I cannot bear to write
unless I write to you ..

my dear my tent mates are all
asleep around me some of them
have been on guard in the night
and they are sleeping at the rate of
10 knots an hour ..

I have filled 2 sheets almost
in this letter my dear and I hope
the contents will prove interesting
to you at any rate my dear
remember that I love you and
respect you and that my great
desire is to be with you I don't
wish to have you think that I am
sick of soldiering because I like
it better than I did when I first
went .. well my dearest wife accept
my love and kind wishes for your
health and the children's and
believe me to be your loving
husband
J. D. Bishop