

Fort Taylor Ry West Fla
September 10, 1863

Dear Friends,

Eds letter of the 19th & 26th ult reached me yesterday. The first news or word I have had from home for six weeks. It is owing to the irregularity of the mails as we had no mail for over a month and I cannot tell when one will leave here. A boat will be sent out in the Gulf tomorrow to watch for a steamer that may be passing North.

I am gratified to learn that you all continue in good health. Ed allow me to congratulate you on the accumulation of honors. You are fortunate. I was glad to see some men hit that are, but there are not enough of the right kind I presume in the entire lot from town & scarcely a Corporal guard will go into the ranks. The \$300 Clause may be a good financial measure, but is not calculated to fill up the Army very rapidly.

We have no news here. The weather is getting somewhat cooler but it is yet so hot as to be almost beyond endurance. We have had considerable rain this month, and several severe storms, so we may conclude the rainy season and hurricane season have both set in.

We still continue very healthy. No sickness of any account on the Island. Cos B & D have some cases of fever but we have none in the Fort. I have not had a sick man this summer save from sore eyes, and now I have none of those even. As for myself I could not enjoy better health. Not a single case of Yellow Fever has been reported this summer. We have thus far been truly fortunate, and this is the last month to be feared.

Mother
I did not wish to hurt your feelings in what I may have said in a former letter. Have we it from me to do it I know you do it all for the best, and in your love for me, but I am somewhat sensitive and was cross at that time. So forget it, and only

recollect the good I write - not
that fact that offends you. I do not
want to - nay I cannot forfeit one
iota of that Mother's love that I know
is borne me - that I feel existing for
me, and my sincere desire is to enjoy
and deserve it.

I have written a number
of letters since the ones you acknowledge
the receipt of. I presume by this
time you have received them all. I
also wrote to Judge Shipman and Henry
Hauph. The Col showed me today
a petition he received from Hauph.
They had better mind their own business
and keep cool. They are giving their sons
misconduct a notoriety I expressly
wished to avoid, and are doing the
boys more injury than the confinement
would. Besides it can do no possible
good.

The Court of Admiralty is doing
a very few business just now. The
principal item is the salvage from
wrecks and this war has driven all
commerce from the Gulf - so that
there is little or nothing to do. Strong
inducements have been held out for

me & come here and practice after
the war, but I am so tired of the
cursed mosquitoes and hot weather,
that I scarcely entertain the idea any
more, although at one time I thought
seriously of it. I think we will get
to New Orleans shortly - probably to
Mobile in the attack there. I am making
an effort to get north first and hope
to succeed. I will probably have a
lively time there as some parties
will have to take back some things
they have been seizing, or I will counsel
them to

I received letters from Uncle
Jacob and Father. They are well. I
am pleased to hear Uncle Sol is getting
better. With love to Grandmother and
all friends

Yours
J. M. Wood

Every man in my Company is for Curtis,
and I do not know of a Woodward man
in the Regt. Even the Col, an old Breck.
dem, is in favor of Andy. Ed. don't fail to
get me a paper.