

Head Quarters, Department Fla.

Dear Elizabeth: Camp Seward, Feb. 24 '62.

I can now give you the best of proof that your wisest way is to mail your letters as fast as they are written. We had a large mail a week ago yesterday which brought all three of your letters mailed respectively Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. By the same mail I had a long letter from Lizzie Van Anden which of the 27<sup>th</sup> three days later than your latest. We shall be likely to receive them often in this way, in batches; & our true policy is to keep writing & keep mailing. Yesterday we had another mail, part of which was fresh & part old. No one mail before has ever brought us dates so wide apart. I received by it an old letter of yours dated away back to Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> more than six weeks old, & also your latest of Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> only three weeks old. In the last letter which was written Friday, the day before preparatory lecture, you say you will write again by Monday. That one did not get started with the others, & I await its arrival in the next batch. Three papers, however, did come. The daily of the same date, Jan. 31, also the daily of Feb. 1, & the semi-weekly Tribune of the 1<sup>st</sup>. It is not worth while to send all your papers, but if you will send some they will be very acceptable, & I will take the rest in slips which help fill up & cost nothing but the trouble it makes you. We prize them. I admire your discretion in mailing even this last letter instead of handing it to Charles Fitch, altho' he expected to start in three days. The letter is in my possession, but Fitch is nowhere. We do really expect him tho' every day.

Do you remember I was obliged to leave one of my  
men by the name of Scott sick at the American. You after-  
wards wrote me that Mrs. Merriman had taken him under  
her special care, & on his recovery, he published in "the local"  
a very pretty note of thanks which you cut out & sent me.  
He & our other who was also left at Auburn sick, got here  
last week in a sail vessel. In attempting to land, their  
boat was swamped, & all of them came near losing their  
lives. Scott & a half dozen of the sailors were rescued  
after being in the waves about an hour. The others, each of  
whom got an oar, succeeded in swimming to shore, except  
Scott's companion who belonged to Co. E. He also got an oar,  
& got so near to shore that several of our good swimmers  
stripped themselves & dashed in to his rescue; but he  
became exhausted & sank before they could reach him.  
In a few hours his body came ashore down by the Fort,  
a mile below where he was drowned. On the morning of  
the same day another row boat from one of the other vessels  
was capsized in the same way, & one of the sailors was  
drowned before help could reach them. His body has not  
been recovered yet. My man Scott was badly chilled & re-  
mained in the care of the Doctors at the hospital 3 or 4  
days. He is now with us in his quarters, but is not fit  
for duty yet. His experience is that of being a soldier  
under difficulties. - In some former letter I think I told  
you that Mr. Griswold, that elderly gentleman from Lyons, one  
of Beach's men, had been put under arrest for cowardice &

disobedience of orders. He was court-martialed & found guilty, & was sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, & to forfeit all his pay from the time of his enlistment. Col. Brown remitted the latter part of the sentence & approved of the first, & the gentleman was put aboard a sail vessel for New York. He promised that when he got his pay in N.Y. he would send you four dollars, part of which he owed me & part another man. If you get it, please let me know so that I may pay the other man his due.

Important changes have just been made in the command of this Department. Col. Brown's health has been poor for a long time. He is afflicted with the dropsy, & for a few months has been getting worse. The last arrival brought the official papers for his release, & for the promotion of Major Arnold to the rank of Brigadier General & to the command of this Department. The Col. is already on his way north. It is too soon to judge how this change will affect our condition & conduct & comfort. We hope for the best.

Wednesday evening, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> The long expected Pay-master has come at last, & we have been having some exciting times. He soon made it known that he was to pay us only from the time when we were mustered into the United States Service as a Regiment by Capt. Marshall which was Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. only some five weeks; when a large part of the Officers & men had actually been in the service five months, more or less. This seemed so great an outrage that it caused a general burst of indignation. The officers held a meeting at head quarters

Monday evening, & after a full discussion of the matter voted unanimously, not to receive such a miserable pittance. Each Captain presented the case as it stood, to his own company at roll call that night, & every man in the ranks sympathized with the Officers & all the companies passed the same vote with many shouts & with entire unanimity. The next morning Col. Dodge reported proceedings to Genl Arnold & the Paymaster. It was finally arranged that we should be paid from Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Paymaster declared he had no authority to go back of that mustering, & would be liable to lose it himself. Genl Arnold pledged himself to represent the justice of our claim at once to head-quarters at Washington, & request in our behalf a special order for the payment in full of that arrearage. This appears well & promising perhaps, & yet we have now very little hope of ever getting a cent for those two & three months hard work. Hard as this is for the Officers who toiled & spent & endured in getting up the Regiment, it is still harder, tho' on a smaller scale, for many of the men. And it is an outrageous swindle. We were authorized to enlist these men with the understanding & pledge to every one of them that their pay should begin from the very day of their enlistment. There is great fault somewhere, & I greatly fear that it will never be corrected. Friday, <sup>the</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>, is the last day of Feb., is the day for our being re-mustered, & then the pay rolls have to be made out &c &c. We shall not get our money for a week after that, & when & how we shall send it home is yet a mystery.

What you write about father gives me no little anxiety. If his continuing sickness or any thing else makes my return necessary, you must send me so strong & decided a representation of the case that I may be able to obtain the acceptance of my resignation without failure. We have no knowledge as to when another mail will leave, but I will send word this at a venture. Dear wife & dear children, again good night.

Ms. Lansing Porter,  
Auburn,  
Cayuga Co. N. Y.