

Wednesday Nov. 5. '62.

Dear Elizabeth:

We are still encamped about a mile below Thibodaux, on the same spot from which I wrote you 3 or 4 days ago. At that time we had just got possession of the whole line of Rail Road from Algiers opposite New Orleans to this point, the burnt bridge had been replaced or repaired, the road was well guarded the whole length, & the first train of cars was just going to the city. Major Babcock went, & a few hours after he reached there, Mrs. B. & Mrs. Fitch arrived by steamer. Yesterday the Major returned, bringing a good sized mail for us, & to-day Capt. Fitch has obtained leave of absence for 24 hours, that's all! Evidently, the gentlemen will not be allowed to stay in the city, till the Brigade goes back there, & now evidently the ladies will not be allowed to dwell in the camp. Don't you wish you had come with them, & that you could live all alone in the great city of New Orleans, your husband in the field & your children in the hands of *those* Happy Woman!!

I said the Major brought us a mail. I receive
by it an old letter of yours by way of Pensacola
& also the box of medicine from Fort. Boye. They are
what I greatly needed. I will now return to the Fort.
my very hearty thanks. I receive also your letters of
Oct. 16th & 20th. Simon did not write me, but I am
most happy to learn thro' you that he is coming.
I cannot doubt that a southern trip & a southern residence
will help his health. It is true the situation of our
Rt^y just now is not particularly favorable for preaching
or praying or promoting health & happiness, but there is
nothing permanent in our present condition, & we may
very soon be back in our tents at New Orleans. They
remain there undisturbed, & we are out on this trip
with just as little to cumber us as possible. When
we encamped here 8 days ago, we "subs" supposed we
were to continue our march this next morning, but
here we are still, & no immediate indication of mo-
ving. The other Brigade on the line of the Rail Road
has moved on further west & driven the rebels from Ber-
wick, & the understanding is that they are not in force
now any where nearer than Apalachicola, the termination of

the Rail Road. I do not think we are to have any more fighting at present. There is a rumor to-day that we are to be put to work at once fortifying some important points on the Rail Road & on the River.

And now I wonder if I had better tell you that I am coming home! Your late letters are working the mischief with me. They are different from any you have written during the whole year before. I do believe you are overworked & overburdened. You take upon yourself far more than which John ought to relieve you entirely, & you do work every day that a hired girl ought to do. And then you have the additional work, & the irregular hours & annoying disorder that George causes. I have enough to bear without this additional anxiety about your health & a mother's care of my children. I never would have listened myself for a moment to your taking George this winter in the circumstance, as much as I feel indebted to his father & mother. If they were poor, or if he was young I needed your care, it would be different, but they are able to pay his board any where, & he has age & is established in his principles & practice. So allow him to board in the city at once.

Will, shall I come home? That is the question, tho' I wandered from it in my haste to scold about your taking George this winter. Give my love to him, or rather when he reads this he will see that I scold not because I love him here but you & the children & the future good of us all more. Shall I come home? My own strong inclinations, & your late letters powerfully tempt me to make the effort. Is not one year of serving my share, & all that patriotism can equitably demand? My age & former profession ^{home} habits which quite unfit me for the severe exposures of camp life, your own health & need of my help, the ages of our children calling for special care & guidance, the late resort to drafting by which the Government will receive all needful supplies of soldiers without depending on volunteers like myself, the appointment of so good a man for chaplain, all these ought to help my application for an honorable discharge, & yet I fear I could not obtain it. I could not obtain the Surgeon's certificate of disability, & that has been regarded hitherto as quite indispensable. But shall I make the attempt? Can you make out a strong case for me? Will you write me your honest wishes in the matter. It was my duty to volunteer. Does it follow that it is my duty to remain after resort is had to drafting? Love to all. Lansing-

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Mrs. Lansing Foster,

Albany,

Cayuga Co. N. Y.