Newport News 16th. Oct. 1863

Dear Friends at Home,

I received your letter of the 15th. Having written you an answer on the 12th. I received a letter from James last Monday this time have had the pleasure of reading its contents at once because I don't give a letter with others also a hope with a few little stones on it. We have had a very severe rain storm this week commencing Monday lasting until last night. On day it is very pleasant & the sea breezes are very invigorating. Never felt any better than I do here. I think it a much healthier place than that we left. We have had to-day issued to us new wedge or A lute as they are called.
Dear Friends at Home:

I received yours of Feb 11 the 18th. Having written & got an answer in 7 days. I received a box from James last Monday & this time had the pleasure of eating its contents at our leisure. I sent you a letter with Anna’s also a paper with a few little stones in it. We have had a very severe rain storm this week commencing Monday & lasting until last night. To-day it is very pleasant & the sea breezes are very invigorating. I never felt any better than I do here. I think it a much healthier place than that we left. We have had to-day issued to us new wedge or A tents as they are called.
They are of the best material and will shed rain better and are much larger and more comfortable than the little hot tents we received in arriving at Frederick Md. which we have had since.

Oct 6, 21st

I wrote the above notice on yard yesterday while one of the enfer-mistes, not being obliged to go on yard but only at the head quarters as a sort of ushers and on writing so much was called on for yard at the commissaries. Today is very warm & pleasant for us. it reminds me of clay weather in N. Y. Today is 30th washing day for the soldiers the brush that brush by our rank as all close with washers army and around the springs & brooks fires are built, little living on crotches as the washing proceeds the ladies are covered with
they are of thicker material will shed rain better & are of much larger & more comfortable than the little shelter tents we received on arriving at Frederick Md. & which we have had since.

Feb. 21st

I wrote the above while on gard yesterday I being one of the supernumeraries, not being obliged to go on gard but stop at the headquarters as a sort of reserve and on writing so much was called on for gard at the commsaries.

To-day is very warm & for Feb. it reminds me of May weather in N.H. To-day is Sat. or washing day for the soldiers the brook that courses by our camp is all alive with washers & evry rod around the springs & brooks fires are built, kettles hung on crotches & as the washing proceeds the bushes are covered with
clothes it is quite as snug to look up & down the brook as far as they can much see the immeasurable white shells on the bushes, the washers think it busy as bees.

Feb 22nd

Today was Sunday & the date says the 21st anniversary of my birthday. It was rather an insignifican day for me. There was a slight gust on the man. Since it has rained in torrents ever since midnight the wind blew a perfect hurricane & we had to stick close to our tent. So if we ventured out for a while we were sure to get a drenching but now I feel it has brightened up & looks like fair weather by thursday. it will be a good chance for the last part of the next year. I hope I shall beat home in old Hillsboro before another year is this terrible war be at a close, anyhow we must hope for the best. I don't see how this war can
clothes it is quite a scene to look up & down the brook as far as the [eye] can reach & see the innumerable white shirts on the bushes the washers thick & busy as bees.

Feb. 22d

To-day is Sunday & the date says the 21st aniversary of my birthday. It is rather an inauspicious day for me to throw off the boy & put on the man. for it has rained in torrents ever since midnight & the wind blew a perfect hurricane we had to stick close to our tents for if we ventured out for a moment we were sure to get a ducking but now 1 PM it has brightened up & looks like fair weather & perhaps it will be a good omen for the last part of the next year perhaps I shall be at home in old Hillsboro before another year & this terrible war be at a close, anyway we must hope for the best I don’t see how this war can
last over another year but perhaps it may
return much of my mind to be contented
when ever any lot may be cast. I feel as
contented here now as I did in Boston two
years ago. The ground is so hard as the
Pleasant days so dry as the sea breezes so
invigorating that Love to be out on chill
air fresche. I am getting quite flashy now
though I was never so tough in my life
before. the cold storms of which we have
had one or two every week don't affect me
in the least. I think well de-facto change
once a week is better than once a week & as long
as I can have these privileges that I shall
continue to be as tough. Just what you
have seen me to as to Hampton Station
Newport News on the North side of Hampton
Roads in the south Point of the Peninsula.
Perhaps we are going at the James River
Richmond in concert with the great
"Chesises Passes" as the boys call the Monticello
stream across the roads. We can see
nothing in the distance but the sound
hurts of the Iron Clads as the boys call them
cherry pusses. The Nahant was here when
we came & another has some lately
force one of the sailors on the landin
the other day. he was stationed on board
the Nahant she raid. there were several
more Iron Clads expected here soon as they
were anticipating an attempt by the Rebels
to break the Blockade.
last over another year but perhaps it may & I have made up my mind to be contented wherever my lot may be cast. I feel as contented here now as I did in Boston two years ago. The ground is so hard & in the pleasant days so dry, & the sea breezes so invigorating, that I love to be out on drill or parade. I am getting quite fleshy now think I was never so tough in my life before the cold storms of which we have one or two evry week don’t affect me in the least. I keep well clothed change once a week & bathe once a week & as long as I can have these privileges I think I shall continue to be as tough. I suppose you have seen maps so as to learn our position Newport News is on the North order of Hampton Roads in the south point of the Peninsula.

Perhaps we are going up the James River Richmond in concert with the great “Cheeses Presses” as the boys call the Monitors string across the roads. We can see nothing in the distance but the round territs of the Iron Clads so the boys call them cheese presses. The Nahant was here when we came & another has come lately I saw one of the sailors on the landing the other day; he was stationed on board the Nahant the said there were several more Iron Clads expected here soon as they were anticipating an attempt by the Reb up to Richmond aim down several Rams & try break the blockade.

please write if you received all my letters & papers I send you an Harper so you can see how we looked on picket that rainy night please preserve it with my letters.