

Please write if you receive any letters
before I write you in the paper as you can
not have me write on paper that I am writing
I go might have answered with me

Newport News Feb 20th 1868

Dear Friends at Home:

I received yours
of Dec 11th the 10th having written & got
an answer on 14th. I received a
box from James last Monday &
this time have had the pleasure
of reading its contents at our leisure
I sent you a letter with Anna's also
a paper with a few little stores in
it. We have had a very severe rain
storm this week commencing
Monday & lasting until last night
Today 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 wedges or
A knots as they are called

PAGE 1

No.2

Feb 20, 1863 Newport News Va.

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 thicker material will
shed rain better & are of much
larger & more comfortable than the
little shelled hats we received on
arriving at Frederick Md. & which
we have had since.

Feb. 21st

I wrote the above while on guard
yesterday & being one of the super-
numeraries, not being obliged to
go on guard but stay at the head-
quarters as a sort of reserve and on
writing so much was called on
for guard at the commissaries.

To-day is very warm & pleasant
for Feb. it resembles one of May
weather in N.Y. To-day is Sat. or
washing day for the soldiers the brook
that runs by our camp is all alive
with washers & every rod around the
spring & brook fires are built, kettles
hung on crutches & as the washing
proceeds the bushes are covered with

PAGE 2

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

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 & every 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 a scene to look up
& down the brook so far as they can
reach & see the innumerable white
shirts on the bushes the washers thick
& busy as bees.

Feb. 22^d

To-day is Sunday & the date says the
21st anniversary of my birthday. It is
rather an inauspicious day for me to
throw off the boy & put on the man.
Just it has rained in torrents ever since
midnight & the wind blew a perfect
hurricane we had to stick close to our
tent if we ventured out for a mo-
-ment we were sure to get a drenching
but now! Well it has brightened up
& looks like fair weather. It perhaps
it will be a good omen for the last
part of the next year perhaps I shall
beat 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

PAGE 3

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. 22^d

To-day is Sunday & the date says the 21st anniversary 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

lost 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
the one or two very much don't affect me
in the least. I keep well dressed change
once a week & bath once a week & as long
as I can have these privileges 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 side of Hampton
roads in the south point of the Peninsula.

Perhaps we are going up the James River
Richmond in concert with the great
"Chesses Pieces" as the boys call the Monitor
strung across the roads. We can see
nothing in the distance but the round
turrets of the Iron Clads so the boys call them
chess-pieces. The Nahant was here when
we came & another has come lately.

I saw one of the sailors on the boarding
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 Rebels
to Richmond to give down several times
& try break the blockade.

PAGE 4

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 "Cheesses 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.