

Hilton Head S. C. June 23/63

Dearest Cousin

I am still at this unhealthy place, and I fear I am likely to be for some time yet. We have 39 men in our company (Present I mean) and there are but 15 of this number well enough for duty. If we do not leave the Island before long, they will be entirely unfit for duty. I begin to feel the weakening effects of the climate to and am threatened with feaver [sic], but shall try to ward it off. The mail that brought your letter. brought me four others. one from Father, one from Spencer, one from Rogers, and one from W. D. Marey. of Saratoga. I think this is doing very well, and so will not grumble. We have bad news from the "Army of the Potomac" Genl Lee is advancing on Washington with 90,000 men, and is in possession of Alexandria and centerville, also rebels have made another raid in Pennsylvania and Harrisburg is threatened, also. Harper's Ferry is again in the hands of the "Rebs." Isn't this discouraging? The way things are working now. I fear this war is to last several years yet, in which case I guess there will not be many of the 115th who will be fortunate enough to reach their homes but never mind, if we only live in this world, as becometh those who profess to be Christians. we may meet our friends in heaven. where all is Serene. You are welcome to charge me. not only with the kisses, but with interest upon them into the bargain, and if I ever have the good fortune to call upon you, I shall be sure to pay you and [Others] compound interest if you want it. Next week, if our Regt is not ordered to move (and there isn't much hopes of it) I am going to Beaufort - the most beautiful place in the whole South, so said to be at least, and while there, I will see whether I can get my photograph made and if so will send it. General Hunter has been superceded by General Gilmore and has left the department. Our new Commander. is making preparations to make another attack on Charlestown and hopes to be successful. I hope he will. Do you think the 115th will be allowed to participate in the enterprise? Please excuse this miserable writing. Give my love to all. Yours affectionately Milton