

Thibodaux, La., Sept. 15th 1863

Dear Nettie,

It is a long, long time since I received a letter from you, but can excuse you as I know the baby takes up all your time.

I have not much to write about as the troops are doing nothing and that is the only thing of interest that occurs in this Department. Every thing seems to depend on the movements of the army. If the army is quiet, business & every thing else is quiet also & as soon as the troops move, business springs up & gets quite brisk.

We are at present encamped in this pleasant little village, some 84 miles from New Orleans to which it is connected by a rail road, which passes within four miles of here. There are quite a number of people here, but not as many as there were last spring when we were here, for since that time the rebs have been through here & so frightened the inhabitants (who for all they are good secesh would sooner see the Federals than the rebs) that most of them have left.

I have been pretty well acquainted with some of the planters here in the two weeks we have been here & hope to become better acquainted before we leave. The young ladies, of course, come next. Some of the planters say there are plenty of chances to marry a plantation & have the wife thrown in as part of the bargaining but as it takes two to make a bargain & the fair damsels are not willing, I guess there will be little prospect of my settling here.

I hope we do not move camp for a month yet for I have received an invitation to a plantation some two miles down the bayou (on which we are situated) during the cane season as it is called that is when the cane is cut ready for the mill, at which time they have a grand time here, the same as at the apple bees & corn huskings of the North. From the juice of the cane a pleasant drink is made, which if indulged in to excess produces intoxication but in small quantities is considered very healthy. The darkies also have their jubilee at that time as it is considered a holiday for all hands. I hope I have the chance to attend as I should be without doubt much pleased.

Harry [Tiemann] is quite well as also Edward [Leslie Molineux] & myself. Edward desired to be remembered to you & Pa. I have nothing more to write at present. Hoping this will find you, the baby & all the rest in good health.

I remain

Yours affectionately,

Frank