

July 22<sup>d</sup>

I feel very much disappointed at not receiving a mail this morning. A boat was reported off the bar last night, but there was nothing to be seen this morning. It was probably some boat passing down the coast to some other place. That is a disappointment which you, know nothing about, after waiting nea<sup>l</sup>y a month for news, to see a boat go by without stopping is something that can only be fully appreciated by persons situated as we are. We have not had any news from any part of the county for nearly or quite a month, and have no idea of how the war is going. We hear all sorts of rumors. We heard a short time ago that M<sup>e</sup>~~ell~~ Maclellan's army had been defeated near Richmond with the loss of 30,000 men, and all his baggage and artillery, but I did not believe it, though a great many feared he had been defeated there. I think that he has taken Richmond before this time, still I should like to see papers from the North. There was a rumor that France had recognized the U.S. Government, but I do not believe that either, But I care more for a letter from my dear little wife, when the mail does come, then all the war news that it brings. I have not got the appointment as Steward yet, and have considerable doubt if I do get it, though I think the Dr is disposed to do the best he can for me, but there is some one else, who is working against me. Well, let it go as it may I shall not fret myself about the matter. If everything goes well with my darlings at home, all other disappointments seem hardly worth minding But I will lay this aside now, for it is possible the mail ~~you~~ may get in to-day yet, if not I s<sup>h</sup>all write again soon. Ever your own, Leander

My precious little wife, I have just been reading over your letters. There is a great pile of them on my table now, Every time I read them I cannot help asking myself why you should love me so well, but I suppose you cant help it. Well let the reason, be what it may, I am very thankful for your kind love, and assure you it is fully returned.

When you allude to the letters that you <sup>have</sup> received from me, it brings to my mind the circumstances under which they were written. How I felt, and where I was when I wrote them. One was written, with a pencil sitting on the ground under a palmetto tree on that miserable Warsaw Island, with a heart full of love for the loving wife, waiting and watching for a word from her absent husband, Others were written on board steamers all with the same feeling of the most devoted love for you, indeed I never fully realized the extent of my love for you until I left you. I have no doubt but my letters have sometimes, <sup>seemed</sup> cold, and unsatisfactory, as though your own entire and earnest love, was not entirely known and appreciated by me, But the reason I have not made the attempt oftner to answer your dear loving letters as they deserved, is because I knew I could not do justice to my feelings. And though I am making an effort to say in words, what I know you can better understand by consulting your own loving heart, you can better understand by consulting your own loving heart, yet I have not come anywhere near what I feel. I do not send this because I think it deserving of the of the reception which I know it will receive from you, But I know judging from my own feelings that it will give you a great deal of pleasure. Any person not interested would pronounce it a mess of nonsense, but my darling <sup>will</sup> read it over and over as I do her own dear letters & love me more than ever, and write me a long loving letter in return, worth a thousand of this. But I must stop now, but shall write more yet before the mail comes. Don't let ~~my~~ our dear babies forget me.

Leander

July 25"

I have not written any thing for several days as I have been expecting a mail all of the time, but as there is a small boat going to start from here tonight, I thought I would send this as you may get it some days sooner, than if I waited for the mail. I think there must be a boat in /θ before long. This boat that is going tonight, goes to see why there has not been one sent before this

The citizens, some of them, must be actually suffering for food. as the Quarter Master was obliged to stop supplying them with any some days ago, indeed I do not know how long it will be before we shall be in the same situation ourselves, for we have but a few days rations left, But I feel confident there will be a boat in very soon.

I hardly know what to do about sending this by this boat, I should be very sorry to have it lost, for I think you will be pleased to get so long a letter. But I must close it up if I am to send it, tonight I shall write again by the next mail. You must give me a good long letter in return for this. Tell me everything that interests you, all that pleases or troubles you and dont think incident too trifling to write, and, above all dont forget to tell me that you love me. I know that you do, but I like to have you repeat it often. Give my love to all your friends, especially to dear little Ruth and her family, and dont forget Nelson & Hattie.

Kiss our dear little girls for me, and do not let them forget me. B I must stop. Good bye my own sweet wife, I send you many kisses, write often, to your own loving husband.

Leander