

3-1-1862

Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Packets at Sandy Point March 1st 1862

Dear Mother,

As I have a good chance to write I will make the most of it and tell you what little good news I have in store I got a letter from Loney the other day "Via Fortress Monroe", she is at West Pt. Miss. and the family were well with the exception of herself she considered her personal security ample but her health was poor, I sent her letter at once to Aunt Eliza and it was a very apropos answer to an anxious inquiry from her as to whether any means existed of communicating with the absentees, Loney said that she had been trying some chalybeate Springs but thought my letter (I had condensed in it all the news even to the birth of Emily's boy) a greater panacea than the medicinal waters, I am very hearty and enjoy glorious health, I am on "Picket" with the company and have usually a fine commode as a dessert no less than once per diem.

I enclose to you Uncle Willard's last letter and in
so doing I must say that in my reply (of to-day)
I declined any assistance as unexpedient. I am getting
along famously and any pressure from the outside
is more likely to result in harm than help to me
for though it might succeed, if it was ever discover-
ed it would work a good deal of mischief.

There is much jealousy as to promotions and it is
no kindness to the recipient of an unwise choice,
I consider my chances of the very best and shall do
nothing which if discovered would bring up the
complaint of unfairness. The wind is worthy of the
day but the birds are here already and though the
river edge is marked by a line of frozen foam
spring is not far behind. I must go on guard
to night and though it is pretty cold I am
glad that it is at least dry, I shall stand
one relief of four hours and sleep the next
eight and I am sure that that is no very
hard 24 hours task, I have heard once from
Uncle Theodore lately and have sent a sheet
of foolscap as well as fool ideas in reply. He was
as democratic as ever and looked through.

Peterman's own spectacles. No matter, the destiny
of the nation is in the hands of younger
and stronger men and the days of the
drinking dotards of Buchanan's stamp are over.
I will not underrate the wisdom which age
is apt to bring but I feel fully satisfied that
our army our navy and our state have
suffered incalculable injury from the well
meant but feeble management of unperannated
warriors and statesmen whose enfeebled brains
and unstrung sinews were unfit to calculate
and unable to accomplish the parts which
they sought to play. Scott has retired and
brave warrior and almost revered though he be
he would have done us a greater service had
he retired earlier. He is competent to command
the army in peace but his vital forces are too
far spent for the active toils of war.

Well I have done considerable writing to day and
feel tired so I will not continue much longer.
You must punch that great old Frank in
the ribs and make him write often.

He is a good writer and the greatest kindness

you can do him is to make him exercise his
talents in that line. I think Lott too must
be able to write now and I want to hear from
him too. I heard from Jennie a few days since
by way of Alf. White and must answer.
No stamps are sent & will enclose the silver to recom-
pense your outlay. Give my love to all the family
and write by self or proxy as soon as you can

Your aff son

Arthur

Strict as before

Camp Wood, Maryland
March 28 / 1862
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Major Stevens
Major M. Stevens
3^d Lt. B.

ALBANY
MAR 28 1862

PAID

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Mrs Austin Chapin
Forestville

N.Y.