

Headquarters 1st Division 13th A.C.
Decros Point Texas. Dec. 23rd 63

Dear Molline

Have just been agreeably surprised
by the reception of your very sweet-little letter of Dec. 20th.
Once more I feel really happy. Always so after reading
such good letters from you. Have almost concluded that
you had deserted, and joined the branch of the service
known as the home guards. Perhaps liked your destiny
is one of those brave days. As that many of the Hosier
Ladies are committing matrimony. Tell you that is really
flattering. To those who are in the war fighting and bleeding
for their Country. Well guess that we can soon see who
will be left for us. Have just made up mind that if
ever my fortune is so good. as to carry me over to God's
Country. and at the same time I am breathing the
breath of life. That if I don't commit the gallant

act of having ^{my} electing tie to the apron strings of my dear
Will be her fault. By this you can see how you can
confer a great favor upon your humble servant: when you
answer this letter. Especially if you would prefer being a
soldiers wife. If the Lord and Military Authorities are
willing and no preventing Providence. You shall be granted
the privilege of seeing my smiling countenance in the
Spring as you say you want to see me so badly. I think
that will just be the time for me to "give myself away
(to you) to all I can do"

Strange that you could not tell me in your letter. That
wonder full something that is in your possession. Yes I
understand you want to tempt me to desert and come
home to hear that, guess your next letter had better
contain said wonder full

Now highly pleased to hear of the welfare of "Pretty Mato"
mustache. I presume that he was well himself. Strange that you
could not think to tell me of his sister. She has the
honor to be the most interesting subject connected with that family

Have never cultivated no pretty Mustaches but once and
was fortunate enough to have them blown and burned off
a few days since while out shooting ducks. Was loading
the gun and the powder in the flash became ignited and
exploded in my hand. Firing ~~my~~ hand & lungs very badly
and not neglecting my hands and face which were badly
burned. Was much surprised it had burned off all my
pretty whiskers. Strange that I was not killed, was perfect-
ly senseless for some time. The first thing I knew my
sergent took me in his arms, saying the Capt is dead.
Mollie for some time I thought far well to you dear One.
Am now most well. am going to try my luck to-
morrow.

Well now guess I had better be very scarce now
I get mad if you possess the power of seeing me in
your dreams. That might guess now slightly angry
have quite a difficulty with a drunken officer while
on duty in the City of New Orleans. Understand
he has since been courtmartialed.

Since my last letter was written we have
had a Or other. The wind blew a perfect
torpedo for five days it was difficult to walk
at the same time the weather was very cold.
and the sand flying like the snow in the
North. The troops suffered immensely from the
cold wind and want of wood. which is only ob-
tained by picking up drift on the Gulf beach.
that is hauled from two to two miles and some times
the boys may be seen carrying it in sacks. They have
but few tents. And are compelled to build sand
houses to shelter themselves from the winds. Our camps
are quite a novel sight. Think Frank Leslie would
do well to send his special artist.
To day the weather is quite pleasant. reminds one of
Autumn. Suppose quite to the contrary with you, would
love to be there would give you a good snow balling.

The health of the troops is very fine. And all seem
in the finest of spirits. And confident of success
during this expedition. Which will be doubtless a
very interesting one. attended with some fighting
and ultimate in a long siege of Galveston I
am anxious to see another Vicksburg affair though
would prefer less charging. Things begin to look
some what interesting here. Troops constantly arriving on
ships which are laden with hard tack and salt meat
this is our fare here now. And one thinks it very fine indeed
The expedition under command of Gen. Warren starts
to Indian. Hole this morning that is 25 miles in
the advance and on the main land. Think that will
ultimately be the base of operations As there is a
good dock at which ships can land without any
difficulty here is quite defensible.
Enough of that. believe you to not be very partial
to military affairs And dont wish to encroach
upon your nature.

Am really mad at that party brother of yours
he never writes to me. Just tell him when you
write that I am mad —

I wrote to H. G. but directed the letter to Grand
Dad please send the letter to him if you can.
Suppose he is attending Poff. Will. By 2 misbehaved
good boy, determined to have an Education
he will be some body yet. Suspect —

Wonder if the P. M. are getting rich as I send
so many letters to you. Here after you shall hear
from me by every mail that leaves this point.

And I shall expect many letters from you —
As I cant have the pleasure of seeing you you
must cheer up my drooping spirits with long
letters. What makes you write such little ones.
at a bit pleased at them. Write me a long one
and I'll be your party boy.
Henry —

Adelup. Capt. W. H. Peckinpaul Post Marshal. 1st Div 13th A. L. Dec 20 1875

P. I. must tell you a joke and my mistake in
reading your letter. Have just discovered the error and
fell rather flat. You wrote I wanted to go in
for life, you would make a pretty Keen.

I need it you would make a pretty husband - and
over right. Gosh I enjoyed a huge laugh - at
deceived self -

Tuesday eve 23^d / 1863.

Hope that you will excuse me for adding to my
all ready too lengthy letter. But I have just return-
ed from church for the first time in four
months. heard a very eloquent sermon from
the lips of the well renowned Chittington of Iowa
who at this time is Chaplain of the 67th Ind. Undoubt-
edly the minds of all of his many listeners were carri-
ed to some pleasant scenes. and loved ones far away at
home in Gods Country. When he referred to that
subject how could I but think of my own dear Mollie
if I may be permitted ^{to} call you such. Thought of
the many pleasant moments spent with you. And
that how happy would be the future if spent with
you. how sad and lonely if not.

Too numerous. Young men doubtless many of you
this beautiful moon light night are thinking of

those you love so dearly. doubtless you are thinking of
the happy moments when you meet. (I was thinking of
you -) Remember that in the next twelve months
passes away your bones may be bleaching on some battle
field. (That cause many sad thoughts to come to my
mind) And those loved ones left to mourn your loss -
Wonder if any one would be foolish enough to mourn
for me -

This lovely moonlight night makes me feel really unhapp-
py. for I am so anxious to see you - Think that 10
months will be as many years. Hop that I will not be
disappointed in seeing you in the Spring. if so know
I will die with blues if you don't write often.

Last nig I saw in my dreams a beautiful young
lady, lost so sweet in her angelic beauty. (Remem-
all the time it was you.) That I was tempting to
steal a K - s - s - And awake. Only to find
that it was all a dream. felt cheated but mind
that when tis not a dream you will pay the debt with
interest

Don't please write me a longer letter don't be reserved on your subjects