

Jacksonville Fla. Feb 28 64
My dear Nellie,
Here we are nearly, if not quite
300 miles from Folly island and just as
much at home as if we had lived here a
month. You would be delighted with our
locality. The air is balmy and odorous
of spring. roses & violets are blooming in
the field, the trees are all in blossom and
there is a quiet and charm about our
whole surroundings that give the experience
of the last few days the character of a
dream. I havent been about the town
much but can see that in its pristine
beauty it must have been a fine place.
The streets are lined with trees, the houses
that remain are covered with vines and
flowering shrubs, and everything betokens
quiet country happiness and luxury.
I am told that the town used to contain

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(Coll. S-602, Misc. Box 23/4)
MMN #25224

Date: Feb. 28, 1864

Description: John Marshall Brown letter to sister from Jacksonville

about 20,000 people. it was lighted with gas, had fine churches and many beautiful houses. Last year some vandals from our army burned most of the houses and several churches & stores, but enough remain to make one regret that anyone should so disgrace his profession and his government. I regret to say that one of the guilty parties was a Maine Colonel the other was the Rev! Col. Higginson. The matter is now undergoing official investigation and they will probably be punished. Very few of the inhabitants are left. I have seen one or two good-looking ladies but they are exceptions. most are "dowdsh" in the extreme and the men are still worse.

Our house is on Duval st. and is really a nice affair. as soon as we get furniture I shall invite you to make me a visit. a great many officers are going to have

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Our house is on Duval St. and is really a nice affair. As soon as we get furniture I shall invite you to make me a visit. a great many officers are going to have

their families, some are here already.
The house is two stories high with broad
verandahs in front and a nice garden
& have a room on the ground floor
the Genl. is above.

This morning there were religious services
at Genl Seymours Hd. Qrs. a fine brick
house in the centre of the town. It was
the first time I had heard the church
service since I entered the Army and
it was to me very impressive. There were
a large number of staff officers present
and the singing was unusually good
at the conclusion a military band
stationed under the trees in the garden
played America. It seemed the first
real Sunday I have spent in the Army.
There is a singular beauty in the Episcopal
service that makes it attractive to a
soldier. The prayer for the President. the
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him with peculiar force. Then too it was pleasant to think that so many friends were perhaps at the very same time repeating the same words and listening to the same passages of Scripture.

It is getting to be Spring again and I suppose you are thinking of going home. When you do get back to Portland I hope you will "cram" me (excuse the vulgar word) with all the news; there must be hosts of things to write about. I didn't get a letter from you by the last mail. I suppose you were quite busy with Fanny and the rest. Give my love to them all and to Harry when you write.

Your loving brother
Jack.

Address
Capt JM Brown
Ast Genl
Ames Division
Jacksonville Fla.

74-59

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