



Erie Pa Dec 9th 1865  
Dear Lieut  
Your welcome  
letter was received last evening  
and I hasten to reply. I felt  
quite disappointed that you  
did not call to see me while  
we lay in camp at Alexandria  
I would like to sit down with  
you one of these long winter  
evenings, and trace our long  
and tedious rout together, through  
the darkness, the first three weeks  
of rain, mud, cold and dan-  
gers; and the bold adventurous  
ride of the last three weeks among  
the rebel soldiers who would  
have strung us up at a moments  
notice if they had discovered  
our character. When I look

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(Coll. 184, Box 1/13)  
MMN #64623

Date: Dec. 9, 1865

Description: Letter to John Sheahan recalling escape

back upon the hardships we  
endured in prison and in es-  
-caping it seems to me like a  
day dream, but I ask God in  
His kind providence never to open  
my eyes upon a dream so real  
again. Think of us in prison  
how lousy we were, how selfish,  
how mean we all became under  
the rule of the first law of Nature,  
- "self preservation" - how men would  
quarrel over a pint of corn meal,  
how men, officers in the U.S. Army,  
the soul of honor at home and where  
free, would sneak around, and  
steal, do washing for more fortunate  
ones who possessed a little money.  
Great God!! how unmanned  
we were.

Yes dear Liut. often  
have I thought of <sup>of</sup> adventurous  
escape, travelling away down into  
South Carolina and then the

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have I thought of ^ adventurous  
escape, travelling away down into  
South Carolina and then the

whole length of N. Carolina,  
Of the party we attended, and  
my little amusement at the  
expense of one the Chivalry, in  
supplanting his affections in the  
bosom of Miss Lizzie Carter. How  
the ladies dipped snuff, and  
how we kissed them behind the  
ears, and looked sharp to see  
whether it was clean there or not:  
how I sat up all night with  
Lizzie Carter and the Cheekey Man  
of the C.S.A. and Maggie Morrison,  
how you pretended to sleep, but  
peeped, and how we bid them  
good bye next morning and went  
on our way rejoicing.

How the  
Cheekey man purchased supper  
lodgings and breakfast of the  
yellow woman and then lied her  
out of the pay for them and five dol-  
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and comfortur, how sorry we  
 felt but could not help it,  
 And all the other incidents  
 and hairbreath escapees from  
 death, and now when I sit  
 in my little office and think  
 over all, I cannot realize it,

+

You well do I remember the  
 photographs of the Maryland  
 lady, you showed me while  
 we were hid in Parks old barn  
 at Charlotte N.C. whom you  
 have made your bride, allow  
 me to congratulate you most  
 sincerely, and may she prove  
 to you all that your heart may  
 desire. May you wander through  
 lifes slippery pathway hand in  
 hand ever pursuing the road of  
 happiness. And when you are  
 called hence, May you go as you

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5  
~~as you~~ wandered upon Earth,  
hand in hand, and trip lightly  
up the marble steps and  
enter the portals of that happy  
home, to enjoy the everlasting  
realms of heavenly bliss, is  
the sincere wish of your old  
comrade in danger.

Alas poor  
me, I have been so busy since  
I left the Army. I have never  
given a thought about looking  
about for a wife and here I  
am a bachelor of 24. I must  
begin to look about and see  
what can be done. I believe  
your wife has a sister, has  
she as heavenly a countenance  
as your wife, if so send me  
her photograph with address  
and I will do something  
desperate. I am at present  
practicing law in this place

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with more success than I  
had anticipated. I think I will  
always remain here as I am  
well known throuout the whole  
County. I wish you would  
write me a long letter in reply  
to this. Remember me kindly to  
your wife. I would extend this  
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it is now near twelve O'clock I  
must close. Write soon  
Very Truly Yours  
Chas M Lynch

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