

Warrington Mar. 18th 1863
Midnight
Dear Wife & Son,
I rec^d. your letter
of Feb. 11th last night at 8 ock. &
was ver glad to get it to if it was older
than letters I had received friday night
before. My health is good. Went yesterday
up to Fts. Barancas & M^c. Kee. Opposite of
Old Ft. Pickens. Shall long remember
the looks of of things seen yesterday, &
should I return to you will tell all particu-
lars. got some sea shells to carry along with
me as mementoes.
Last night was the hardest
thing I've seen of the war yet.
We have orders to go to New Orleans
immediately, & they are going to evacuate
Pensicola. there are about 100 families
there & last night many boatloads of
them came here with their effects for

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 79278

Date: 1863

Description: John N. Foster of Jay wrote to his wife and son from
Warrenton, Florida, reporting that the night before was "the hardest thing
I've seen of the war yet."

safety, to see Old people wandering
around to find shelter under the protection
of the Ft. & gunn boats, in a place where
there is but a few out buildings. where
but a few years since there was (as the
forest of Chimneys indicate) a smart
village. to us yankees tis the most to
be looked upon as awful. tis a good story
to whet our ambition. convert Secesh into
Union men in the Regt. substantiate
Patriotism & give the Keenest appetite
to fight. — For a few weeks now the men
seeing the wickedness & destruction done
by the Reb^{ls}. have, instead of going through
the drill & manual of arms in a careless
manner. changed. a disposition seems to
prevail, to do every movement just to the dot

Glad to say, to my knowledge there is
not a Secesh in Our Regt.

1 Ock The ground trembles by
the sound I cannot discern whereabouts
the cannonading is. but tis dreadful to
hear. commenced 1/2 past 12, think there'll

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be a skirmish at Pensicola before
our troops get away. both Regts were
called out twice last night. they are
troubling our pickets badly two were
shot yesterday. the intention is to evacuate
& leave the stars & stripes flying & if
they are taken down the gun boats are
to shell the City immediately & burn
it. — The report is the Rebs. have evacuated
Vicksburg & gone to Port Hudson. that
place is suppose is undergoing the test now
as Farrigut's fleet or gun boats were orderd
into line Saturday at 10 oclock. two
heavy death monsters went from here
Thursday. the officers were to meet in the
evening before & they say it was the most
solemn meeting ever known here. they
had rec^d their orders & knew their doom
having been at the taking of the Fts on
the Miss. River.

2 oclock The booming has
nearly ceased. think 'twas at the City. as
the wind has changed can hear more distant

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We have but a short time more to serve
& going up the River makes us dread it
very much, no doubt twill be a very
short time to many of us but what our
'tis not for us to know. all is do our
duty & all will be well.

I am sorry to say Frank Dixon is
failing very fast. has laid quiet most
of the time to night. when he is awake
is wandering some. think there is no
doubt but we must lay him beside Robt.
& Amzie. are doing all we can for him
& I have never given him up untill last
night. Appears much as Ellen did. so
me times felt most sure could save him
& then it looked dark. but I think he must
die. twill be sad to his parents. but he
has done his duty as a Soldier & given his
life for his Country as much so as if
he died on the battle field.

I picked a beautiful beauquette
last Sunday morning & will send some
leaves of the flowers, will bring seed
if I can get any. Hope your father
is better & gaining as the warm weather
advances.

Give my regards to all. Direct to
N. Orleans as before
Your Husband J. N. Foster

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