Galveston Jan 11, 1863

My dear Sister,

I received a letter from you a few days ago and was greatly surprised to find that I am mistaken in my belief that you wish to live with Mrs. Watson. I suppose she had told you all I said about it. I am expecting an answer from her soon, and I will tell you all that I know of Mrs. Watson and her family. I hope it will be arranged soon to your satisfaction. Your happiness and comfort is the only object I have in this matter.

There are five vessels of the island now, they shot over one hundred shots into town and Fort Point yesterday, striking several buildings and also killed a little child but that I am not certain of. Nicaragua Smith (who deserted from our company last July) came into the harbor last week from a vessel that was lying off the bar for a pilot, he did not know that Galveston was in our possession, he went on board the Harriet Lane and thus found out his mistake, he was imprisoned and tried for desertion he was shot last Thursday. I witnessed the execution ten men of our company were detailed to shoot him, at 10 1/2 o'clock he was taken out of jail, placed in a ambulance (in which he was in a coffin) and taken out near the graveyard, he refused to have his eyes tied, he stood perfectly still awaiting his death and all the shots entered his...
Body. Killing him instantly, he was a bold daring
bad man, he fished while riding out on his coffin
his end of death is a great relief, he leaved a wife and child.
While eating supper to night the building was shaken
from reports of cannon the sounds came from the direction
of Valasco, the firing was very rapid but did not
continue long. Our regiment are working with
a will fortifying, they work like men.
Today is Sunday. I miss this day above all others the
pleasure of being at home, I miss the sunday school,
Church, and our family gathering in the evening.
I hope and pray that this war will soon end. That
we may gather again together and I hope before
long in a house of our own. I hope that this
difficulty will be settled to your satisfaction.
Have you heard anything from Louis lately. My love
to you all. I hope that you are well. God bless
and protect you all, is the prayer of your affectionate
Brother
Emil