

Camp of the 42nd Regt.

Apl. 21st /63

Dear Elizabeth

„Thou surely art not forgotten„ although I have postponed writing you you having expected ere this to receive some post, stamps which have been due several days, and have finally come to the conclusion to do that which in times of peace would be hardly admissable viz. to send a franked letter to a lady correspondent.

I re'cd your's of the 20th March on the 6th inst and I need not repeat that I am always glad to read a letter from you. We have had a pretty lively time in this department since I wrote last but you will no doubt read the news in print before you receive this. We left Millikens Landing on the 5th inst. and marched to a small town called Richmond 15 miles from the landing. where we encamped for several days. From there we reached the Miss. river again by several short marches, on Sun. the 19th On the night of Thurs. the 16th 8 gunboats and three transports started from Youngs Point with the determination to run the blockad of Vicksburg and all succeeded in passing except one transport - which caught fire and was burned. You can hardly imagine our gratification when on arriving at the river we could once more look on the friendly iron clads We had been

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absent from them only a little more than two weeks but it seemed a long time to be absent from such reliable friends and they appear more reliable than ever after having passed that channel of death nearly unscathed. We had quite an adventurous time in passing over the peninsula Marching on narrow levees and camping on plantations which ~~suppasses~~ ^{surpass} in richness any thing of the kind. ^{the} in north and where Uncle Sam's boys confiscated all the beef, pork, and poultry. they could find. then wading and floating over the bayous, where fish and reptiles abound, is adventure of a different character from what northern adventurers are used to .- but then we Southrons are becoming accustomed to all such, but are hardly prepared to say "we like it". We have marched down the river 6 miles from where we at first struck it and are now encamped 30 miles below the great ^{here} city. I cannot tell whether our stay will be long or short - very probable the latter as the policy of the Gen. appears to be to do something whether he gains anything by his movements or not. This however suits the soldier very well as we have a chance to see more of the country, and enjoy much better health than when laying in camp doing nothing. I hope this move will have the effect to shorten the way as this I believe ^{of} should be the object every movement.

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We hear many reports of peace being soon declared but think them hardly reliable. but the official report of peace in our country would send joy to more hearts than ^{other} any event could possibly do at the present time.

You wished to see Julia and I think you will get your wish as mother is about moving to Mich. and I feel sad when I think of it that it is impossible for me to be home and assist her in her arduous duties but such is life and the duties pertaining thereto; it is often our ^{to} duty be where we choose not to be.

I presume you and I will have good times this summer as I understand that you intend teaching where you did last winter. and will direct my letter accordingly.

You must excuse pencil marks as there is scarcely ink enough in the Co. to write a letter withs and our outlers have played out thinking that the risk in running the blockade most to much for such. worthy's beings.

Hoping soon to hear from you I remain as ever your true friend

Leonard.