

On board the steamer J. S. Pringle

Sun. Nov 8th, 63

Dear Elizabeth.

Although the distance between us continues to increase between us, and it is impossible to hear from you very often yet my thoughts hourly return to the friend who promised to remember one who is absent. We left Cairo on Tues the 3rd ____ on the steamer John J. Roe, a first class boat. The river being very low it was deemed unsafe to run in the night time. Consequently we had a pretty long trip to Memphis not reaching that place until Friday noon, and after being ordered aboard of three different boats we finally took passage on this one yesterday and at ten o'clock this morning left the wharf at Memphis and we are now following the course of the father of waters.

This boat has but little freight - two hundred soldiers comprising most of her loading and we are having as comfortable a voyage as might be expected. We have very good accommodations for cooking and sleeping and my health was never better, a blessing which I believe a soldier can appreciate better than any other person. It is two months to day since I left Mich. and it seems to me but as so many weeks when I think of the day I started and if no evil befalls me it will be but a short time before I shall return. It has been my intention to write you a letter as often as once a week it will however be several days before I can mail this and I will not finish this at present but will wait until I can mail it.

Nov. 10th ,63

Elizabeth, Seated in the cabin of _____ I will pen you a few lines. We have had a pleasant trip thus far without molestation from the wild "rebs", We left Helena yesterday morn at daylight I was detailed
as sent.

Nov. 8th, 63

as Sergt. of the guard and had quite a _____ time with the guard as we were passing the most dangerous point in the river the channel in many places being very narrow and rebs quite numerous. They burned a boat only a few miles above _____ river the day before we passed but we saw none of them.

We passed Napolien situated at the mouth of the _____, at 5 o'clock. There we passed through a narrow channel or cut-off which has been formed since breaking out of the war _____ which saves 8 miles travel. Last night we run until eight-o'clock when we stopped and took on wood. I will have to inform how the boatmen manage to get on their wood when they are short of hands. The mate cries out plenty of wood and plenty of whisky for these who wish to work, and there is not trouble in finding enough of that class as you will _____ from what I have previously written.

The wood being soon loaded we finished out and anchored in midriver under cover of gunboat and lay until morning.

We are now near Lake Providence about 107 miles above Vicksburg it is 1 o'clock and if nothing ill happens to us we shall be in the city tonight.

The most interesting event of to day has been the reception on board of a man who has driven a _____ of horses and buggy from Texas a distance of 200 miles to escape from the _____ of the rebs. He tells a touching story of his adventures and hair breath escapes. He _____ with him a lady who lives in Memphis but had been absent from home a year because the _____ would not permit her to return from her visit.

Nov. 8th, 61

He had also in his care and keeping two called persons who had fled from the tender mercies of their good massa, not however without a close pursuit by the useful hound. They tell a very _____ yet touching tale of their treatment by old massa and causes and circumstances of their leaving him.

This is indeed a most singular portion of this _____ and for one I wish to be excused from spending any more of my time in it than is necessary to fulfill the contract between myself and "Sam". I will write a few lines more when we arrive at Vicksburg, until then good bye.