

Young's Point, La. Feb. 11th, 63

It is now 10
Dear Friend.

Although it has been but few days since I wrote to you I have a very good opportunity of writing and thought I must write to Elizabeth as I would be as glad to receive a letter from her as any person of my acquaintance and I cannot reasonably expect to receive letters from any person whom I do not feel interested enough in to write occasionally. I rec'd a letter from you on the 6th inst dated Jan. 23rd and was glad to learn that you continue to have good times. I like to read about the times you are having at evening schools and other places. It reminds me of the good old days when I was free to attend places of both, amusement and profit. I see by your letter that some of the young gents of Mich. have the same habit that they once did in Ohio that of escorting the young ladies home after spelling school and I always considered it as a very pleasant exercise, but perhaps I should not say so. I have however come to the conclusion some time since to write to you as free as I would to any person and if I write to much so I hope you will inform me before I commit to many unpardonable errors. I heard a Prof. in college say once that a person never should commit an act for which an explanation would be asked. I believe this would be a very good rule if to "err was not human" but as it is and I possess^{/?} to a considerable portion of humanity I think it would not always suit my case.

Elizabeth dont you think that some people are getting to be somewhat particular I refer to those who would not wipe their old shoes on the young men in certain towns. One thing is quite certain if I thought all the young ladies had come to that conclusion concerning myself I should feel very much like skedadling. Just to be honest about it what would you think of a nice young man who was not good enough for that. My opinion is he must be a poor specimen of humanity.

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It is now 10 o'clock P.M. and I am on duty in the prison. The steamer Henry Clay is used at present as prison and we have about 40? prisoners consisting of "secesh" soldiers "secesh" citizens federal soldiers and citizens and some who _____ no sentiments besides as many as several contrabands.

They are a _____ group some sleeping others reading while others amuse themselves playing cards and still others are cursing the provost guard for capturing them, but talking dont amount to but little in the army.

Feb. 14th. _____ Elizabeth; you see that my writing closed rather abruptly in the 11th inst. being called away from pen and paper to perform the sterner duties of a soldier. We are on duty at the same place now as then and thought I must address a few lines to "The girl I left" thousands of miles from this vicinity. We have moved a short distance since I wrote you before and we are now encamped six miles from Vicksburg and in plain view of the city. The river makes a short curve at this place in a northeast direction and the town lies directly down the river and situated as it is on the bluffs _____ in this direction we have an excellent view of the city we so much _____. We are where we can view her public buildings her dwelling houses and her streets with the naked eye but are denied the privilege of passing over and taking a walk through town. Is it not extremely aggravating? But there appears to be some prospect of at least making these fellows at little trouble which is some satisfaction. We have two gunboats below the place one of which run the blockade last night during a big storm. The "rebs" sent some of their heaviest metal as messengers to halt the "iron clad" but all to no purpose the turtle had determined on a voyage down the river -- and we ascertained by a deserter who came into our lines to day that the boat passed the ports without any injury. The

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rain is falling in torrents to night and my opinion is that the sieze of Vicksburg must be abandoned before many days as the river is rising and I am told there are many breeches in the levee a few miles above here, which being the case the camping ground of the 13th army corps must soon be flooded as the levee is our only means of protection from _____.

I rec'd a letter from _____ yesterday and was glad to learn that his health is much better he is at Galapolis Ohio and I am satisfied that while he remains at that place he will receive kind treatment. The report that he is discharged appears to be false. The Reg. to which he belongs seems very unfortunate. You mentioned several casualties and he writes their loss was one hundred at Murfreesboro. There are many of the new Regts. in this Div. which suffer very much from sickness a few months such as the last three months and this division will not be able to muster men enough for a good brigade. The health of our Regt. is comparatively good and in all cases the old Regts are in the best health. I rec'd the letter you wrote on Christmas and think I informed you in one of my other letters I also rec'd your picture for which you have my kindest thanks. I am expecting daily to hear from you again as I have three unanswered but it takes a month and sometimes more to get an answer to a letter. I came near forgetting that it is "Valentines" day and as it is now 12 o'clock I am to late to send you any those memorials so much looked for by some people and must close by asking you to accept this in the name of

Your Friend

LG. Loomis