

Alexandria La. April 28th 64

Dearest Friend,

Imagine my pleasure on arriving at ^{you} New Orleans a few days since, and then receiving a letter from dated the 4th. That was the first time I had heard from you in three months. How sad to hear of your bad health, some way I imagined as much. How anxious I am to hear of you being in good health. Were it so my life would be much pleasanter, while absent. Would that this morning I could be seated under the sound of thy sweet voice, in place of the noisy artillery. But fate seems to separate us for a while. Though in a few more months "If I live" you shall realize your hopes and my promise redeemed. 'Tis useless to say that I look forward to that day as the time when my happiness will be completed. Though as you say, one can now scarcely expect anything. The fondest hopes may be blasted. I intended to be at home this spring until I heard that you were not at home. And then again we were ordered to the field. And now there is no chance until the Campaign is over. And when that time does arrive if there is any chance you may just expect to see me. And should I get home to stay a few days you may rise your pleasure about that as the time that our fondest hopes are to be realized. As I would be with you but a few days, and then in the army that would perhaps, more unpleasant. Than at present. I am so sorry for Anne. Always thoughts so much of her she seemed like such a pure and noble

hearted lady that I have always thought her worthy the
love of any one. But Mollie this is a novel time for
letter writing immediately in our front. a heavy cannonade
is going on and all our men are in quarters expecting
every minute to be called into line and marched to the
front. And take a part in the dance. I will just lay
this aside eat a hard tack and see if my fighting ap-
paratus are in good order. Am anxious to see the dance
As a large cavalry force is reported advancing on us. Gen
McClernand has just rode to the front. I must quit
the Regiment is called in line.

4 O'clock P.M. 29th Well Mollie since yesterday
we have had some interesting times. In less than 20
minutes after I quit writing. The Regiment was in
line one mile beyond our camp and the Cavalry were
skirmishing in our front. Every thing looked as a fight
was certain. And we made up our minds to give them
fits. Unexpectedly we were ordered to change our posit-
ion. immediately in front of our camp where in line there
an order came to fall back one mile. immediately.
And had but one way on to the Regiment. Every thing
that we could not haul in that was ordered to be burned
Every thing except our valises and blankets were piled
up and burned. All our chests dishes and cooking
traps with our grub was committed to the flames. How
you saw and heard me say "Cur words" undoubtedly
your opinion would have been slightly changed. To make
the best of the matter I picked up a coffee pot. frying
pan. tea cup. tin cup Spoon Knife & for R. And now that

Mollie can write
Grace & her space
Mollie

Constituted my kitchen furniture, though to day I slept
up and fell on a Millet; Just at sunset we found our-
selves in an excellent position. The entire Army forming a line
around the town, After resting a few minutes. Spades &
picks were furnished, and by ten o'clock the entire Army
were entrenched, the day has been spent completing our work-
this will be the best piece of work during the war, You
may imagine ones feelings after such a days marching
and nights working without a single thing to eat. The night
warm and clear. The stars seemed to shine with unusual
brightness. I wrapped myself up in my blanket and retired
As I gazed at the heavens. My mind seemed to be carried away.
Almost imagined my self enjoying your dear society.
Could I but ask myself, when will that time come. Ever long
Ever long, I heard in my dreams. How sweetly I slept.
and dreamed of you. Recheifull Mollie Ther brighter
and happier days in store, in the now seeming dark?
feature. Morning work about sunrise, at hearing
the voice of my faithful servant. Joe, calling me.
during the night he had got two crackers and a
small piece of ham. Care enough for a hungry
hound. And made me a cup of coffee. Well you may
think did not enjoy my self hugely for a few minu-
tes, but I did every thing has been very quiet to day
though the Cavalry have been skirmishing some. All are
praying that they may attack us in the present position
and then you may hear of some body getting hurt.
But I think yesterday's maneuvering went down on us
rather heavy. And I intend to steel my self good.

Suppose you have heard of the recent battles fought by Banks
near here. That is the reason of our sudden change in this
field. There is a great feeling here against Genl. Banks.
Have not heard a single man speak favorably of his Genl
ship in maneuvering troops. And planning a campaign
though on the field he behaves gallantly. Undoubtedly
there has been great ship management on the part of some
body. The Caval Fleet seem to be in trouble also.
They were above the shoals here and the river has fallen
and they cant get below. Great efforts are being made
to try & throw them over. Believe if they were out of here we
would evacuate immediately. As it is there is nothing
what will be done. And we are not caring much
being well satisfied with our change from the sandy beach
of on the Gulf. The change was quite unexpected to us.
And doubts will be to you. We crossed the Gulf on the
Steam Ship Crescent, were three days on the voyage. Had
beautiful weather and a very calm sea. And enjoyed
the time finely. Some way I did not feel like amusement
Had the blues real bad. Every evening my time was spent
in the rigging of the ship. The nights Oh how lovely
the moon and stars shone so brightly, too useless to attempt
a description of such a lovely scene. How many times
I wished you there. Think such scenery would soon
cure you. Beside the novelty of the life especially
when the good old ship would roll like a log
would amuse you - I know you would the delight

to see. the various fish playing for instance to see the
Porpoise jumping 10 to 15 ft out of the water
and some times hundreds running a side, and fast
as the ship, Spent three days in New Orleans
had a very nice time, Payed up for all our hard
living on Matigordce Island. There we embarked
on the Steamer Emma. bound for this place.
We now think our selves in Gods Country.

While we were coming up the Miss R. C. every
ones mind seemed directed to warlike home. it seemed
so natural, to be gliding up the Old Stream.
But a flunk movement had to be made. and
our faces turned to war enemies in place of friends
and dear ones.

Enough on the war, I was so glad to hear of John
doing so well and hope that some day he may
be promoted to that of which he is worthy. How
I wish to see him. Recently received a letter from
him the first since he entered the service. When
you write him, say that Peck. is in the land
of rebellion, living on the fat of the land. Hard
tuckr, Old Mead. and Coffee - You say that
you hope that I will ^{not} enter the service for another
term. after the expiration, of the present. Dont
think you need not fear on that account because
I have made up my mind. that when my time
expires, I will turn my attention to my profes-
ion, and try my hand in that life, As that is
the only true road to fame, and for that is

a love I have aspirations, out side of seeing you
happy. the latter first of all. Must say that I
really love the Service and a soldiers life. And was
this year to continue for years. Believe that would
be hard for one to remain out of the service when
the Country demands the services of all. Though hope
that the Cause that now separates many dear friends
will have ceased to exist, ere. The coming autumn.
Will Mollie you are doubtless tired of reading
this long and I ask some letter. And you must excuse
the old full writing. Have written it on the side of
my board bed, and just under a tent ~~from~~ the
wind blowing in tight. And keep for lying in
my face. all the time, But I am getting
impatient to see photograph of yours. Come send
it soon. Cant you. And try and write
often. pleas. Direct 49th St. 13th Ave.
Dpt. Genl. My respects to Ann. and
tell her to keep in good spirits. And
you do the same. Mollie that half
the battle, the rest is to believe me -
(have hardly room to say it, as I
am cornered - on this paper. in the
Country too.) Yours just as soon as am
home - again
Henry

P. S May 20, Mail just leaves. Have not had a fight
yet though expect to be attacked every hour. Have been

For two days. Send you a rose from her the
Circ given came from Martin's Presses.
Yours H. P.