

Morgan's Bend. To May 27th 64.

Dear Mollie.

After so long a delay in writing you may imagine with what pleasure these few flitting moments are devoted to the very pleasant task. Suppose now this you have learned that we were with the recent Red River expedition, if so that has been sufficient cause no doubt to your mind, for my silence. Not altogether silent for I wrote on our arrival at Alexandria, though I understood the mail was on the ill-fated Gunboat Reginald. Captured on her way out. If that be true the important documents went up, a great loss to the Government.

I should have written a few days since. But the fact was when we reached here and found that a few days would be devoted to rest. I took my blanket, selected the finest shade that was near and then took specifiable possession, and have scarcely ventured to stray there from, devoting three days chiefly to sleep with but little to eat, and much less appetite. To say that the expedition was very hazardous and laborious to perfection, conveys a faint idea of the real facts. On the evening of the 14th the entire army took up the line of march for this place arriving on the 23rd Marching day and night and scarcely any thing to eat and not sleeping exceeding 3 hours in 24, and that just lying down on the side of a rock in the dirt. Many times I would give every thing in the world for as much as I could eat and one night's good sleep. The only night sleep we had it ruined. But I laid down with an overcoat on, put the gun stock under my head, and slept all night.

without awaking. Next morning felt some what better. There had
been a slight shower during the night. How heavy & skirmishing
both in rear and front every day and one of the hardest fights
of the war considering the number engaged. Succeeded in giving
the Rebs good whipping. We were not in the battles of Grand
Ecore and Pleasant Hill in which Genl. Banks was out
generally and shamefully defeated. In fact the entire Camp
aign has been a disgraceful affair. But Banks censured by
every body, he and the men have succeeded had they been
hunted, Thank God, that he is relieved but this subject I
must drop, or curse words might be used. Because I am as
demoralized as the Big Game. All are perfectly allured
about the success of Genl. Grant, and confident of his success
that will almost end the war. And the Mollies will be happy
days than this. Think our hard times here are now ended
as this Army is assigned to do garrison duty on the Trip
R. We are now awaiting transportation to go to New Orleans
There we can make amends for hard times just. If I
knew that you were at home, I would come but as you were
not the last letter I received. Don't really know what to do am
so anxious to see you. And spend a few days in Boss County
with you. And guess would make quite a stay. Now I would
love to spend the 4th of July with you. Since I received your
last letter and learned that your health was so bad have felt
really gloomy, and fear full that the worst was yet to be
learned. And my anxiety was greatly increased when the
other day a large mail was received and none from you
Seems so strange that I receive so few letters from you
Manage to manufacture some excuse thus will do

Now I wish this evening could be spent differently. We
have no tents and but little baggage of any kind. And
every thing is so very gloomy -
Must close for the troops fly around so fast that they put my
candle out. Mollie direct your letters to New Orleans
And write soon

Yours Truly
Henry. P. D.

Good morning Mollie. This morning finds us all in
usual good spirits. As I closed last night about under 4 Pm
below I rode down to get the news. And saw papers containing
the glorious intelligence of Sherman in the fights of the 14th & 15th
Seemingly every thing is favorable. For the time being every
lover of his Country will look with great interest upon the
present Campaign as though the destination of the Nation was
hanging by a brittle thread. Here every body seems to think
this the final struggle. If the enemy are defeated and routed
they will then undoubtedly give up the contest. For already
many of their people are praying for quiet in some way. And willing
to have it any cost. But excuse me I am going a stray,
Henry.



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