

Bernier City La.

Sept. 27th / 1863.

Mollie, dear friend.

How do you do, well I hope. and enjoying the sweets of Life - This lovely Sabbath eve finds me seated on the beautiful banks of Bernier bay and justly indebted to you for a nice little letter, received three days since and should have been answered immediately but I have been enjoying the blue to such an extent that writing letters was an utter impossibility. I think I have a perfect right to enjoy them at my pleasure. It is really sad to think of being deprived of the pleasure of your society. You say won't I write often Yes. That is my only real pleasure. And am determined to enjoy that if frequently. I have almost concluded bid adieu to a soldiers life with its many pleasant as well as exciting relations, which I dearly love but your society would be far more preferable. And be far more preferable to any one who wished to live a life true to their selves. And that is my true desire and intention but it is a sad fact there are very few in the army who do that, much sadder that a fewer number have the honesty to acknowledge the sad fact. A curse from every point is of the most cheering nature and if our Arms are crowned with success a few more months longer, this dark day will be over. And the survivors may then return to home and friends. I trust many may yet fall. No one can tell who the unfortunate ones may be. Many doubtless will be the the best made and the best blasted. May you not be

be among that number, by the fall of some true and
brave soldier. Every thing around presents a view of
active interest. On the Bay. The ships. and transports
are constantly flying. Crossing troops. Supplies & supplies
along to a campaign that bids to be one of interest. The
exact destination is a matter of conjecture as another
Contraband. I am sure that we are bound for
Hoboken. or the Galveston. Region and I think that
ere many days roll over our heads. we will hail
from the wilds of Texas or some other outlandish
Rebel. land. Hope that we will have the pleasure
of making foot prints on more of their so called
sacred and forbidden soil and driving its
defenders to the Gulf and give them a bang both
think mentally many of them need salt for sal-
vation. Since my last letter, written last Sunday,
we have crossed the Bay. This nominal in-
significant locality like many others is calculated to
make one think of blessed hopes. or some one sitting
by the wayside begging to be taken in out of the war
The Country around has once been wealthy and
under a high state of cultivation. But to those once
happy people of this land hopes sweet days is set
And many years must elapse before the sun will
rise to show us this land in its original beauty
The weather is very cool, almost uncomfortably so
especially at night. One of the most interesting
things connected with the Country is the abundant
amount of mischievous insects known as mosquitos
with their bills of steel they pay their nocturnal
visits. Sing their merry notes of Cuzin. By way
of variety they occasionally ask a fellow for the
night's lodging and supper. And the only com-
-pensation offered. is a joke on the Nation

This brigade has been consolidated with the 4th
 though designated as the 3rd. Commanded by Brig
 Gen. Toller. A perfect gentleman and a soldier.
 Though some like the Dixie ~~some~~ think from one
 way six ft (some) and a weight 300 lbs. I can't see
 how bullets miss him I have the honor to hold
 the position of Provost Marshal on his staff
 Can have a great time talking to the rebel
 ladies who call for protection The ladies are
 all single or widows in this country. Suppose
 their husbands have been killed in the cruel
 war. Ought to have better luck.
 This afternoon we have a grand review and
 you could just see us out with them fine coats
 red sashes and many other parties. Rank you
 would be perfectly delighted with the sight. I
 would stay a rainy day you could see any
 other party men or listen to the good Marshal
 music. That would cheer me up one -
 Just at this ^{time} I am more than happy in being
 in a band than father's of smoke from
 my pipe. The only real business that I enjoy
 in the army. And ask of you that may ever
 be permitted to enjoy that one thing. It is so
 pretty. Mother hope you have been a good
 girl to day been to Sabbath School. Sent them
 pretty verses. sang some fine verses and for the
 amusement of the rest selected some good
 Sabbath School readers. That tells of Bannies.
 Gammas. Allies &c how they reformed -
 Remember that here after when you go to any
 place you must wear a little hat and
 put on a face as long as the Ten Commandments
 and live as persons. Then the good folks will
 give you credit for the good girl

Believe I am going to get well of the chills
after as long a time. don't know how I will amuse
myself there. Well this elaborate epistle must
be written to a close. don't think that I would
ever get tired of writing to you though have
some mercy on your patience. You spoke of
the perusal of my letter being similar to the
bubble chae. Think this will be so long that you
will think at ~~one~~ of the relations. I don't you ad-
-mire the specimen of penmanship. "If you can't
read this it will never do" Am going to answer
Miss B's. letter one of this days.
I don't till how many days we will remain
here though not many. If possible I will write before
we anchor though don't be surprised if its some
time before you hear from me. Mail facilities on
this march will be very poor. I would not be sur-
prised if we ever ~~ask~~ ^{are} well of the privilege of hearing
from or writing to our friends for some time. I have
Peck will die with anxiety to hear from you
Give well wishes to Miss Ann. And you father & ma
I tell me of John and when I can direct a letter
to him. ~~Have~~ write soon and often about
you ~~the old~~.

Ever consider me yours,
Benney



Miss Mollie Emmick
Grand View
Indiana