



Headquarters 1st Brigade
Big Black R. Miss.
July 23rd 1863.

Miss Mollie.

Dear friend.

As we have just returned from a tour to the City of New Orleans the fact of which you are doubtless well apprised. a line from your unworthy servant may not be altogether uninteresting. We marched from this point on the 6th Inst. after four days of the hardest and most fatiguing marching I have had the good pleasure to experience during this Campaign we reached the suburbs of the noted and once flourishing City. I voted for Scherely and a good whiskey as well as gentlemen to consume said article. Where we were met by our southern rebel friends - and received a very warm reception. had a protracted engagement. My lot was called. ~~Leaving~~ meeting. which lasted seven days. Genl. Sherman ~~commanding~~ being some what dissatisfied with the treatment received and not being invited to visit the city. determined to go in without an invitation. rather impudently was not he. Preparations were being made for storming the works. and to our surprise on the morning of the 23rd we moved and

founder that our friends had departed during
the night. Such departure was like unto the
"obliteration of the Dollar Caster". Our troops
marched in and took possession of the City and
and property. which consisted in a few Commiss-
ary and ordnance stores which they could
not transport the rail road having been
broken up by our Cavalry. at almost every point
within 20 miles of the place -. As for the City
there were some magnificent Mansions & busin-
ess houses. those unoccupied were burned by a
set of undisciplined troops. The State House is
a very inferior building though well furnished
and presents a very comfortable appearance
that is one of the many places that will long
show the fruits of an internal war - And be as
a warning voice to traitors. The grandest feature
of the Campaign is the demoralizing of the Confed-
erate Army. Iis thought Genl. Johnson would
lose 35 per cent of his Army. by desertion. The day
after the evacuation 200 of them came in to
our lines. they only seemed to wish to know but
one thing that was. how they could keep
from fighting any more many of them said
they were now well satisfied that they were
in the wrong. And did not wish to remain so
but were willing to take the oath and go up
North until this difficulty is settled.

Strangely to say quite a number of the deserters were ~~from~~ from a South Carolina Brigade. They seem more desperate than any of the troops. They say all hope of success is lost. Though their officers make extra exertions to keep the men in fine spirits, by claiming victories, where they have been utterly defeated. -

The march from Jackson here has been very hard and many of the men became so exhausted from the effects of the heat that they were hauled in the army wagons. - On the 18th day we drew 10 days rations. The remainder of the time we ate green. Corn. when that could not be obtained, we fasted. How could we be otherwise? than Spiritualized occasionally. The great difficulty was that the spirits would leak out of a flask. And no Commissary man in the Division, was devout enough to fill them, presume the reason was. That the Iron Side Baptist. Are not in power in that department.

By the way this reminds me of my ~~last~~ friend James. O. And may be some capital for him to base the foundation of one of his eloquent and feverfull ~~sermons~~ to Paul. Of he don't think? the use

of the article referred to. Beneficial to the
coloring of our nose I think him a poor
judge of fine painting. Undoubtedly it is
a sporting one. Am sorry to say that for the
last three months I have been so busy that
have not practiced my favorite amusement
and am fearful that my former expertness
will be entirely lost. Should this be so
and some good & sensible persuade me to be
a Delotter. What would my worthy friend
find: to make those pretty speeches about-
presume upon Scientific principles which
Prof. B. says are very important. and should
always be taken into consideration.
and Every one should be thoroughly posted-
on such subjects as offensively. I have
become thoroughly convinced of that fact and
at the earliest opportunity. will procure a copy
of some Comic Almanac. American tract
reader. and I trust Leslie's Illustrated
Newspaper or any good work. You might
aid me in this matter. by sending said
work. by mail. That your unworthy
Desot. might have the chance of being
posted. And be one of the Lights of the age
and no longer one of most darkness
of the same. Hope you will feel some-
what interested in this matter and render all assistance
in your power

On the expedition we passed over the Battle-field of Chancellors Hill. had the pleasure of seeing the spot where a small party of yankees were once surrounded by rebs and had to retreat for dear life. Your humble servant was among the fortunate number and proved to be an efficient officer, now very expert. Had no idea that loss of life was so great until I visited Grave yards. which are marked by small mounds that tell that then lie from five to 20 poor soldiers who have died in defence of Republican institutions. Their names ever to be remembered by a thankful people. and worshipped by patriots and soldiers. This is the consolation that soldiers have. poor pay for the unfortunate one who falls - and is consigned to a soldiers grave upon some hard fought battle field. with not a friend near to cheer him in his dying moments perhaps the last thing that greets his ear is the roaring of artillery and ring^{ing} of musketry - which tells him that others of his comrades are sharing the same sad fate. It is remarkable how calm and quiet this brave, unfortunate ones are when they fall mortally wounded

have assisted in carrying them from the field
they scarcely ever utter a groan or can carry charge
in the expression of their countenance be noticed
They many times make the remark. Boys
I have done my part and received my
reward. don't give up the cause -
but give them a thrashing -
It is thought that the labors of this army
are now at an end for the summer
and they will be permitted to rest. which is
very requisite. This division when we crossed
the river on the last day of April - numbered
about 3000 men. and numbers less than
1000 men of those lost have been killed and
wounded. Our division has been in the advance
in every fight since of course and the attack -
for four weeks were were camped on Big
Black River. a place that is very noted for
chills. the result is that in this Brigade we
have now 300 men - who can use them
selves by shaking an hour every day -
Understand that Shirley Conor
is some what suited for similar blessings
And you well understand how amus-
ing chills are - Have just been thinking
that soon I would share the pleasure of visiting Saw
tooth. Do you think there is any danger of me getting
the shakes. - O Chilled. especially the heart is fatal
and Uncle Sam can't spare me



Miss Mollie Emmick
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