

19 Mar 1863

Camp. W. G. Clemens, W. L. K. R. B. L. L.

March 19th 1863.

Dear Friend Mattie.

I have not the pleasure
of acknowledging the receipt of one of your
excellent letters. The Army is now under
marching orders, which have just been received at
the 19th. Destination not known. Though a general
move seems to be going on. This being so it may
be some time before I receive a letter from you
as have the privilege of writing. In a few
days things have been assuming quite a military
appearance. Troops moving are everywhere
and the gun boats are on an expedition up the
Yazoo River. And heavy firing has been heard
in that direction for three days. It is reported that
they have silenced our formidable fort on said
River on the Choctaw. Bluffs. Where this
morning was defeated some time since. I
think that we will make another attack there
in a few days. We are getting burnt & desire to fight

We are having the Loveliest weather that I have
met with. The only objection is that some days are
very warm. I am much better pleased with this
portion of Dixie than when we came here. And enjoy
myself exceedingly well. My health is now very
good, and I am in good spirits. This is my
natural disposition. Though for some time
have felt quite dispirited. Just attribute
that to ill health. I have for some time
been expecting to receive your picture, and very
anxious by awaiting the arrival of the promised
moment, be assured that I will be more than
happy to receive it soon -

Your letters and papers just received I think
that there is some excitement in the States concerning
the Conscription act. The Democratic Friends seem
very much concerned about the Confiscation
of the Slaves. I suspect that they are more
concerned about the Conscription act.
This act is generally approved of by the Union
all like the idea of more assistance in this great
struggle for the Country and Humanity
establish Republican Institutions

In your next - let me know how Eunice
is getting along since his schooling in India
Do you ever see H. Orboard, or any of the good
people of that section. They don't answer my
Letters. Are Mr. Touffs Byrnes coming
& Mr. Miller going to teach School this summer
I have just received a copy of Anna Leslie's
Illustrated Crosses. And think it one
of the finest things of the day. And have
subscribed for it to be sent to you I hope
before it will find them interesting.

As you were getting your wandering church so
regularly. I will send you the Banner of Light
The perusal of that will always revive your
spiritual faith - Trust - close - hoping
to hear from you soon.

I remain yours truly,
Wm. May.