

and we were forced to retire out of range of the enemy's guns, when we lay down supperless, as no fires could be allowed for coffee.

Monday morning we got our coffee and hard bread, made an early start, and by 10 o'clock had driven the enemy to their earthworks.— We then secured a position in a cane-field next to a piece of woods, where our battery could work to advantage. Here we stayed all the afternoon, skirmishing with the enemy.— Towards night they attacked us in strong force trying to drive us back, sending the bullet among us like hail-stones. But we lay in the rows between the cane, firing as we had opportunity, and held our own. Several of our boys were wounded here; one of them lying in the row right next to me was shot through the brain, killing him instantly. We held our position until dark, and were then ordered to retire about half a mile, and other regiments were put in advance to give us opportunity to rest. Without any supper we lay down in the cane-field and slept well.

Tuesday morning, at 4 1-2 o'clock, we were called and told we might have a few moments to make our coffee and eat our hard-tack.— Then we were to charge upon the enemy's works and carry them by storm. We had hardly started our fires, when it was discovered that the rebels had fled during the night.— We were ordered immediately to the advance to give them chase. We followed them twelve miles that day, expecting that Gen. Grover would stop them at Franklin. But they were

* Maj. Morse has been for several weeks in New Orleans, acting on a Commission upon Gen. Butler's imprisonments for political offences.

ness and the regularity with which everything runs along, hardly realize that there is a war, except when some home is made sad by the loss of a friend. But here in the South it is entirely different. War with all its horrors is carried right to the hearth-stones; in the breaking up of homes, the destruction of property, the stopping of all the wheels of civil life, which give peace, safety and prosperity. The curse falls heavily where it belongs, but the innocent must suffer in a measure also. And after these days of bloodshed are over we must have a time of financial embarrassment. But there is no country under the sun that will recuperate faster, or rise to higher honor, than our own, when we establish on a firm basis the glorious Government for which we are gladly

fighting. too smart for him, fighting him with a part of their force on one road, while the main body escaped by another. We were very much disappointed, but it was decided to give chase and stopped for the night about a mile beyond Franklin, to arrange a new plan. We captured some four or five hundred prisoners this day, and forced the enemy to blow up their gunboat Diana. Our men were, however, so exhausted by hunger and fatigue that they stopped all along the road, and when we reached Franklin

we had only about 300 men in our regiment. But the most of them came up that night, and we fed them on chickens, turkies, geese, beef, mutton, &c.

Wednesday morning, we started early and marched eighteen miles that day. Emery's division falling in the rear, made a column about five miles long, as we had to march much of the time through woods, cane-fields, &c., and it was with great difficulty we could get them along. We came so close to the rebels that night, that on the plantation where we stopped we found a dinner prepared for about fifty officers, which in their hurry they had forgotten to eat. As it was yet warm, our boys appropriated it with due appreciation.

The next day (Thursday) we made another early start, and marched about twenty miles. The rebels made a short stand at New Iberia, for the purpose of destroying property, but our cavalry charged upon them, and they left in a hurry. We found the streets lined with cotton, and cotton burning. These two days we took a good many prisoners and some guns. We were so nigh the enemy all the time as to exchange shot and shell with them every little while.

Friday the army started on again, about 6 A. M.; but as my furlough had expired, and there was no prospect of the enemy's stopping to give battle, I turned my face toward New Orleans. After a hot and dusty ride on horseback, of sixty good long miles, I reached Brashear City about dark that night, and had the great pleasure of finding letters from you. I will only add that our regiment did itself credit. A good many told me that for a regiment that had never been under fire it stood splendidly.

APRIL 20.—The country on the "Teche" is the most beautiful I have seen in the South.—The land lies above the surface of the river and bayous, so that there is no need of building levees. The soil is very rich, and all the plantations show wealth. The country reminds one of that about Rochester, N. Y.—Franklin and New Iberia—each two to three thousand inhabitants—look much like Northern villages. There are large quantities of sugar and molasses all through that country which will be taken possession of by the Government. Also mules and horses, of which we were in much need in this Department. Cattle, sheep and corn abound, but flour was worth \$200 per bbl., and only rarely a few pounds to be found in a family. We found a foundry near Franklin, where the rebels had left quit a quantity of cannon ball, and another near New Iberia, where there was a large quantity of ball and shell. At the latter place there was a large slaughter-house owned by the Confederate Government, where there were large quantities of beef and pork packed ready for shipment. Here too are the rebel salt-works where is manufactured a great deal of salt.—We did not visit them, but our possession of

the country cuts th... from... son,
and gives us their c... ar prisoners re-
port that the rebels all fled from them at our
approach.

By the way, these salt-works are quite a
curiosity. They are on an island in a little
bay. On digging a few feet below the surface
they strike a salt rock, which they blast or
quarry out, as we would stone. This rock is
very saline, and resembles exactly our rock salt.

When I left the regiment last Friday it was
not known how far the army would go, but it
was thought they would go to the Red River,
100 miles from New Iberia. I would most
gladly have gone on, but as my furlough was
more than up, and there was no prospect of
fighting, I reluctantly returned.

The boys were very foot-sore, but traveled
full as easy the last day I was with them as
any before. I cannot tell how many of our
boys were wounded; only two to my knowl-
edge fatally, both in the head. One was from
the Oxford company, the other William Rob-
erts from Nelson Flats. The latter was alive
the last I knew of him, but the Doctor said he
could live only a short time. He was sent to
one of the hospitals, but in the excitement of
the fight and the hurry of the forced march
afterward, my duties were such that, very
much to my regret, I lost track of him. Quite
a number of the boys had narrow escapes;
bullet holes through their blankets, canteens,
&c., for myself, I do not think any bullets or
piccas of shell came within six inches of me.

I feel proud of our regiment. Almost every
one showed himself a man and a soldier. There
will always be some in every regiment, to fall
in the rear when the hour of trial comes, and
they are almost invariably the ones of whom
you would least expect such conduct.

APRIL 23.—Have just received a telegram
from Col. Smith, saying that he had been sent
from the front with the 114th and 159th N. Y.
Vols., in charge of property, &c., *en route*, and
that he was going into camp at Brashear City
again. * * * * *

You in the North, in the prosperity of busi-

From the 114th Regiment.
BERCHEE'S HOSPITAL, BERWICK CITY, LA. }
May 18th, 1863. }

MR. EDITOR.—Since the last battle on
Bayou Teche, Berwick and Brashear cities
have presented quite a lively appearance.
Several new hospitals have been establish-
ed and most of the sick and wounded of
General Banks army has been brought to
these two places. Gunboats are arriving,
and departing daily. Transports loaded
with cotton and sugar land their precious
cargoes upon the dock at Brashear city.
From there it is taken by rail to New Or-
leans. Large droves of horses, mules,
sheep, and goats, have been brought
and pastured, many of them have

been butchered for the troops stationed about this place. Large numbers of contrabands have also been arriving since the fight, and for a few days past our increase in population must be tremendous. Gen Banks, has lately issued an order for raising 18 regiments of colored troops in this Department. The work has already been commenced in good earnest. Not only in this place, but at Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and other places. The negroes are enlisting rapidly, and filling up the Regiment. The regiment that is already organized, is well officered by men that have seen, from twelve to eighteen months service. I was informed by a captain, that the Colonel was a native of this place. When the war broke out he remained true to the 'old flag,' and by so doing came near losing his life. He was seized by the rebels, and a rope placed about his neck to hang him, he however, escaped, went to New York, and enlisted in a N. Y. Regiment, and was commissioned as Lieutenant, from that he was promoted to Captain, and now he is back home as Colonel of a colored Regiment. Last Friday, a large number of recruits were brought in. They were collected about Newtown. The crowd was composed of all classes, male, and female, old, and young, such a sight, I never before witnessed; some were mounted upon mules, others were carrying large bundles upon their heads. Old carts were loaded down with worthless trash, mules bent beneath the combined weight of a wench, and family of children. The procession halted in the center of the place. Here friends met friends, that had come before. It was interesting to listen to their conversation; they all appeared to be feeling their best, and in high spirits. How ye do Frank? says one. Oh right smart! Ye gwine ober de Bay? Yes! hab ye seen Joe? Oh yes, Joe big man, he in de kumpany ober dah, yab! ha! ha!

The men were soon formed in line, and with the aid of one or two colored sergeants, the ranks were opened, and the officers who had them in charge proceeded to pick out "the halt, the lame, and the blind." These will be placed upon the plantations with the women, and children to raise sugar, and cotton. The strong able bodied men, were then taken over to Brashear, and were regularly examined by an army surgeon. Those that passed were uniformed, armed, and equipped, and placed in the camp of instruction. I was informed by an officer who was present at the medical examination, that many of their backs looked like a checkerboard, they were so cut up with scars. Yesterday, another company of some five or six hundred, arrived and went through the proceedings as the other company. They have all been taken over the Bay, old, and young. They are fed at Uncle Sam's

ments ready to put on at a moment's notice, in case we are called upon to make or repel a charge, sleeping with one eye and both ears open, and our hands upon our gun. The last you heard from me, we, (the regiment of course,) were at Brashaer City under marching orders, but to what point it was not known, though we all supposed that Port Hudson was our destination, and so it proved, as you have before this time heard. We left Brashaer on Friday, the 29th of May, and on Sunday, the 31st, we entered the woods which surround the rebel stronghold.

Your readers have seen the letters of the New York correspondents to the *Times*, *Tribune*, and *Herald*, describing the fighting the troops went through when they first came here,—how they drove the rebels from point to point, out of rifle-pits, ravines, and temporary breastworks, until they came to the inner fortifications which surround the town, where they were checked, though not driven back,—and it will not be necessary for me to enter into detail. Even if I were disposed to favor you with all "legal" news, I could not, for there are "barriers" in the way which a "poor private" cannot overcome, and which no one but a licensed correspondent of some "great daily" are permitted to penetrate.

You have read much, probably, about the natural defences around Port Hudson and Vicksburgh, but the reading does not convey the reality, especially when you add what the science of man has done to render them impregnable. It seems to me, as I look over the ground which has been gained at the point of the bayonet and in many a hand to hand struggle, that our troops must have fought like fiends incarnate to drive the rebels as far as they did. The ground is cut up into ravines and gullies, on the banks of which a handful of determined men ought to withstand a hundred, yet our troops charged up and down the precipitous sides with such resistless fury that their terror-stricken opponents sought shelter behind the last line of their defences, where they knew they could not be followed. This last line of the rebel works is upon the Port Hudson side of a deep ravine which runs nearly around the beleaguered town, and consist of earth-works thrown up, and a broad ditch upon either side, the inside of the wall being built with a terrace or platform for men to stand upon to defend against scaling. You can imagine what an amount of work the rebs must have done since last fall, when I tell you that their lines are from five to seven miles long, and since we came here they have thrown up works inside of these. Our troops have not been idle, and, save the disastrous charge of the 14th of June, in which Col. Sarrin lost his life, there has been no false move.

I have not dared to attempt a description of what I saw on that, to many, fatal Sunday. Five companies of the 114th B, G, E, F and D, were selected to lead the storming party, the whole under command of Col. SMITH and Maj. MORSE. Col. SMITH and Maj. MORSE headed the column, and as we approached the bluff and they gave the word to charge, we rushed up the hill in the face of a deadly fire from the rebel riflemen. But no body of men could do an impossibility, and after our Colonel and Major were wounded, Capt. BOCKER gave orders to the men to protect themselves by every available means. Co. B, was upon a round ridge of ground, exposed to a scathing fire from front and flank, and the only means we could employ to shield ourselves was to lay flat upon our backs. Companies E, and G, charged through a ravine, and succeeded in getting into the ditch at the foot of the rebel works, from which there was no egress without fearful danger, until night lent her aid. It was between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning when we made the charge, and from 6 A. M. till nightfall were we exposed to a constant fire from the enemy and the excessive heat of the sun.

It is an awful sight to see men maimed and shot down at your side, and an intense feeling of dread comes over the system when at each moment you expect to fall, pierced by the fatal bullet. I have heard men say that they did not dread to enter battle, but a thinking man, a man who has a father and mother, sisters, brothers, and especially one who has a wife and children to leave to the cold charities of a selfish world, cannot but fear to meet death in such a manner. Yet a good soldier does his duty, without murmuring, leaving himself in God's care, and if he goes through the struggle and comes out safe he thanks Him for it.

You have, e'er this reaches you, received a list of the killed, wounded and missing, through official sources, and I will not undertake to furnish names. I will speak of only one of the members of Co. E, Corporal JOHN STOUGHTON who has been missing since the fight of Sunday, and who, it is feared, fell upon that fatal field. The last seen of him, he was loading and firing from the cover of a stump and probably fell at that point, though no trace of him has been found. He is missed from the ranks of

his company, where he was very much esteemed. When our people removed the dead from the field, the features of the fallen had so changed, and the stench was so intolerable, that a search could not be made with any success, and they were buried with all that their pockets contained that would help recognize them.

table, and I suppose are under his protection.

The soldiers make a very fine appearance, in their new uniforms. They are mostly straight, large, well developed men. I think that it is mostly owing to the custom of carrying things upon the head that gives them such a straight, high headed appearance.

Gen. Banks forces are mostly at, and around Alexandria. This Department is pretty well cleared of rebels at present.—Hardly one dare show his head this side of the Red River. Many of the prisoners taken in the late battle, have taken the oath of allegiance, and many others would like to stay, and enjoy protection: instead of fighting Confederate battles. They are in no hurry to get back, at least those that I have talked with are not. Most of them seem to have quite a liking to our uniforms, the Confederate sick, and wounded, in our hospitals are nearly half dressed in our clothes. Most of them think that they done fighting enough. The main hope of the rebels now hangs on England, and Northern copperheads. They say that England will interfere, and that the North is already divided. I trust that they are mistaken. Words are inadequate to convey the disgust that the soldiers feel towards Northern copperheads. I fear some them would fare hard, if our soldiers were at home, at least I have heard them say that they would knock down the first copperhead they met. The sick, and wounded, are doing well and gaining rapidly, many of them will soon be able to rejoin their regiments.

W. E.

Letter from the 114th Regiment.

BRASHER CITY, LA, May 28, 1863.

DEAR AMERICAN:—Again the 114th have returned to their old rendezvous after a continuous march of four weeks, tired, worn and lame, yet as willing to start on a new expedition, which we have orders to be ready for, as we were two months ago, when we were first ordered into service. Since we commenced marching, on the 11th of April, we have marched double the miles of any other regiment in our division, and also have almost double the number of men left in the ranks. We have made two trips to Opelousas and one trip from Opelousas to Cheneyville, 60 miles farther up the State, making an aggregate of about 500 miles in seven weeks, during which time, we rested at intervals some eight days. The first of May we were ordered to Alexandria to join our brigade, but on arriving at Cheneyville this order was countermanded, and we were instructed to join another force which had been instructed to collect all negroes, big and little, and take them to Brasher. Accordingly we again took the back track, picking up all men, women and children of color

28

that could be reached, joining the several regiments that were returning at St. Martinsville, 90 miles on our back track. We had collected, all told, somewhere in the neighborhood of 7,000 negroes, 700 mule teams and carts, besides a large number of horses, oxen, &c., and on our march must have presented a very *diversified* appearance.

There has been no incident worthy of note since we left, on the first of May, save perhaps, a bit of a scare we had while passing through Franklin, on the evening of the 25th inst. The facts are that the rear guard, placed behind the column to bring in stragglers, as they were passing through the above named place, were fired on by a party of guerrillas a couple of hundred strong, and came rushing in on the 114th, the rear regiment, startling us by vague stories of the strength of the enemy. Lieut.-Col. PER LEE immediately formed our regiment in line of battle and awaited an attack, but the foe did not come up, and we awaited orders from our commander to advance and make the attack ourselves. Skirmishers were thrown out by the 110th and 114th, the 110th forming the first line soon coming under fire of the rebs, which they returned with so much vigor that the enemy fell back and took shelter in a sugar-mill. We now brought up a field piece and after driving them from cover and causing a stampede of the entire party, we again turned upon our road to Brasher. There were two men killed, three wounded, (one Lieutenant since dead) and two or three taken prisoners.

Col. MORGAN, of the 90th N. Y. V., who is senior Colonel in command, thinking that from the boldness of the attack, there might be a larger force behind, decided to march all night, which we did, arriving here yesterday at about noon, marching about 40 miles in 20 hours, besides stoppages.

Today, we are again under light marching orders, and Port Hudson is said to be our destination, but from all accounts we will be too late to be in at the death.

P. S.—Capt. TIRUS, of Co. C has not been heard from since we passed thro' Franklin, and it is feared that he is a prisoner in the hands of the guerrillas.

Respectfully, A.

Letter from the 114th Regiment.

BEFORE PORT HUDSON, LA. }
MONDAY, June 29, 1863. }

DEAR AMERICAN:—I have not forgotten you, but the inconveniences of a "life in the woods," besides the lack of paper, have rendered it almost impossible to write home, even. Then, again, we have to be constantly "prepared for action, or "traps" and accoutre-

THURSDAY, July 2d.

Yesterday I had permission to visit our lines of approach, and as I had a desire to look over our recent battle-field, I turned my steps thitherward. I never experienced a greater surprise, for the pick-axe and spade had completely changed the surface of the ground, making fine, safe roads for the approach of troops to the very foot of the rebel parapet. If it is the design of Gen. Banks to gain a footing at this point, he certainly will succeed, for our sharpshooters are on a level with the rebels, and if a man shows his head he is picked off without ceremony, thus protecting a storming party until they are ready to scale the parapet.

Just received instant marching orders.
Yours in haste, A.

would otherwise be a gap in his correspondence:

ON BOARD STEAMER INDEPENDENCE,
Mississippi River, July 3, 1862.

Dear Father:

My last letter was closed just previous to taking the steamer for Port Hudson, pursuant to Col. Per Lee's order. We moved off in fine style until 2 o'clock this morning, when the rebels opened on us with a battery, about 10 miles down the river from Donaldsonville. The second shot cut off the steam pipe and one rope of the steering apparatus; but the other rope, and our nearness to the east bank, enabled the pilot to run the boat "hard on." The work of removal at once began, amid the cries of the women and children, as the shot came crashing into the ladies' cabin, and the hissing of the escaping steam. I dressed and carried my things below; I then thought I would have time to go to the levee, and so ran down the plank and went behind the bank of the river where the whizzing shot and shell passed over our heads. At once the thought came to me to help the helpless, and so I ran to the boat in the interval between the shots, and, with others, succeeded in getting the ladies and children to a place of safety. Not one was scalded, or hit, or run over, or injured, strange to say.

The "Sallie Robinson" came down the river soon after the attack, but turned back, and at 4 A. M. came down again with a gunboat. They quickly silenced the batteries and dispersed the guerillas, although we had posted the few armed men aboard; so that they could prevent a skiff coming over the river to harm us.

One shell knocked the furniture in the Captain's room into "pi," and fired the carpet, which was burning when we returned to the boat. The rebels made a dash upon Springfield landing yesterday morning (everything to and from Port Hudson is landed at this point), and the report is that the convalescents and stragglers drove them off. It is difficult to give a reliable account founded on report; almost every informant has a different story. The Captain of the boat told me last night that Gen. Banks ordered him to be at Spring-

field landing July 4th, without fail, and remarked they were going to have dancing going up, as they should probably have wounded soldiers down. I shall try to obey Col. Pen Lee's summons if a convoy accompanies the transport. After the dancing, which closed at 1 o'clock, the ladies did not retire but continued on deck until the attack; and it was well for them that they did so, as the first shots went through and through their cabin and berths.

NEW ORLEANS, La., July 10, 1863.

To the Editor of the Cazenovia Republican :

Long before this reaches you the telegraph will have flashed through the North the joyful news of the surrender of both Vicksburg and Port Hudson, which perfectly thrills every loyal heart.

I started on a second attempt to reach the front last Saturday evening, per steamer "Sallie Robinson," and was enabled to get there without molestation, on the evening of the 6th.— There was constant picket firing on both sides, and occasionally the heavy sound of the mortars, which are kept playing on the enemy's works. I found the regiment there next morning, occupying a ravine under the hill, on the crest of which our breastworks are located, and only separated by a speaking distance from the enemy's line of entrenchments. They excelled our forces in the sharp-shooting constantly kept up to prevent either side making a battery; and if Vicksburg had not fallen, they would have probably held on until obliged to surrender by assault. The great trouble in the previous action was that, owing to the nature of the ground, a supporting column could not be advanced rapidly enough; but that has been all fixed by a series of mines which were arranged to explode simultaneously, affording a wide gap through which our forces would gain the inside of the fort. Happily, however, this is now not needed.

As soon as the surrender of Vicksburg was announced by an official dispatch to General Banks, it was passed around from the left to the right of our lines that the cheering would be given by each regiment successively in the same order; and I assure you the "three times three" were given with a will. The rebs wanted to know "What's up?" Our boys replied, "Vicksburg taken" and one wrote upon a slip of paper the details of prisoners, &c., tied it to a bullet, and threw it across the ravine into their lines. Next morning Gen. Gardner sent over a flag of truce requesting to see the official dispatch, and if true the appointment of commissioners from our side to arrange terms of capitulation, &c. I left soon after for New Orleans, and did not know the result of the negotiations until I arrived at Baton Rouge. Thus, after months of patient labor and great sacrifice, the Mississippi is practically open, and a result achieved which will have, I think, more influence in deciding the contest than any other possible success. In this connection I well remember Gen. Scott's programme for conducting the war, which was announced soon after Me-