

On board "Northern Light"  
New Orleans, La. Dec. 14/62  
159<sup>th</sup> Reg't NYS Vols.

Dear Father,

I wrote you a letter on the 10<sup>th</sup> which I suppose you have not as yet received. To continue from where I left off.

On the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> about 7 ½ O'clock we passed the "Sloop of War" "Courier," 10 a.m. passed a large iron light house, painted red. Long low islands extend all along here. 12 ½ P.M. we passed Key West where we hove to for a pilot boat but did not wait for her to come up. 8 P.M. passed the Tortugas Islands. There is a light house on each of the extreme end of the islands. 12<sup>th</sup> We were hove to at 6 P.M. by the Brig of War Ohio. She fired two shot in front of us to bring us to and as we did not come to immediately she fired two more shot directly at us. They then sent a boat alongside to see who we were. They said they had been engaged in destroying the Salt Works at St. Andrews. We gave them the letters we had ready and then went on. 13<sup>th</sup> We again came in sight of land & at 7 a.m. we came in sight of the Rendezvous of the Expedition "Ship Island." At 10 a.m. we came to anchor. The island is a long low sandy island with a light house & a few buildings on it. There is a fort in progress of erection on it & is pretty well advanced. At 3 P.M. we weighed anchor & again started off, as we were told for New Orleans. 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 a.m. came in sight of the Balize. At 7 a.m. we hoisted a signal for a Pilot & got one at 8 a.m. Passed through the Balize at 9 a.m. 12 ½ P.M. passed Forts Jackson on the west side of the river & St. Phillippe [Philip] directly opposite. 1 P.M. were stopped at Quarantine where we landed 5 men sick of the 161<sup>st</sup> Reg't. 1 ½ we passed the wreck of the Rebel Rams Verona [Varuna] & Morgan. The shores of the river are lined with dead trees covered with long hanging moss & present a very curious sight. The banks are covered with wrecks of Flat boats, logs of trees & drift wood. There are but few trees with any sign of life in them along the lower part of the river. There are numerous small huts occupied by Darkies all along the lower part. 2 P.M. came in sight of an orange grove. It was truly splendid. The trees were covered heavily with oranges and the yellow of the fruit contrasting with the green leaves looked truly beautiful. 3 O'clock we were passing orange groves in quantities, Rice & Sugar plantations. The Huts of the Darkies are regularly laid out in streets & present a very picturesque appearance. The Darkey feeling is good but that of the White's not quite as much so. The former wave their aprons & hats to us while the latter look on with their hands in their pockets.

At 7 ½ we came in sight of the lights of the city & of our fleet & at 7 ¾ came to anchor off the Crescent City where as I am tired I will come to anchor also.

Your affect. son

Frank

Please send me some postage stamps.

Love to all.