

Hospital 159<sup>th</sup> Regt. N.Y. Vols  
Baton Rouge, La. March 1<sup>st</sup> 63

Dear Father,

You must not be frightened when you see the heading of this letter. I have got a slight touch of rheumatism, and moved down here as it is rather dryer than at camp. I hope to return to duty very shortly.

I have a room here in company with another Leff and we manage to live very well together. It is a large quiet room with a fire place & four windows & "incomparable luxury" we have a bed to sleep in.

Today is splendid. The sun shining beautifully, birds singing & every thing is so quiet & peaceable. This is the first sunday I have seen in the army that really seemed like sunday to me.

The weather is rapidly getting warmer & the trees are now commencing to bud. The river has reached nearly its full height. It is now nearly as wide as the Hudson and the tide rushes down at a furious rate carrying logs & trees with it.

I suppose you have heard before that the ram "Queen of the West" has been taken by the rebels. It is also reported that there is another one taken since then.

The authorities are rapidly putting this place in a position for defense. Heavy siege guns are being mounted, the entrenchments are all strengthened, and I think in case of an attack we will be well able to hold the place against any force that can be brought to bear upon it.

March 4<sup>th</sup>

There are rapid preparations for a move being made, and I suppose in a week at furthest there will be an attack on the enemy at port Hudson. It is doubtful whether our brigade moves or not.

Every boat that comes up is bringing mules & wagons for transportation. There have been two more batteries brought up, and I think there will be a pretty good fight of it when they get to work. I was down at the levee yesterday where they were landing the mules from one of the boats & it was amusing to see the way they acted. They would walk on the gangplank as carefully as though stepping on eggs, and some were so careful that they backed right overboard. I saw four of them, the harness of each being connected, go over, two on one side and two on the other, of the gang plank, then they hung looking at each other till their harness was cut apart.

The river is very high. It has risen 27 feet since our arrival here & is now just right for operations.

The Doctor says all is the matter with me is over work & that I must lay by for a little while, although if we move I shall immediately join the reg't.

Hoping soon to hear from you, I remain

Your affectionate son

Frank

Love to Grand Mother and all at home & all enquiring friends.

Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>

Your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> Feby. came to hand to day. I can't imagine what becomes of my letters for I now write once a week at least. I heard before that Nettie had a baby and am glad to hear they are doing well. I am getting along first rate & expect to be at camp in a day or two.

Love to all.

With love  
Frank