

In rear Port Hudson, June 26/63

Dear Father,

I yesterday rec'd your letter of the 13th. I wrote to you the night before, giving a slight account of our doings up to the 15th inst. On Sunday the 15th an attack was made at three different, one under Genl. Payne [Charles J. Paine] on the right, Col. Gerard in the centre & I do not know who had the left. We were repulsed with severe loss on our side & very small loss to the rebels. We were drawn off under cover of the night. They have now called for a storming party of one thousand men, each of whom is to receive a gold medal & promotion. They have got more men than the number called for. When the charge is to be made I cannot say.

The rebels have reoccupied all the territory through which we marched before getting here & it is reported they have taken Brashear City, the termination of the N.O. & G.W. R Road [New Orleans & Opelousas Great Western Railroad]. Also that [John Bankhead] Magruder with 30,000 men is marching to reinforce this place, or attack New Orleans. The guerrillas have burned four boats & a barge belonging to our forces on the Mississippi about 30 miles below Baton Rouge. They have attacked our forces at Lafourche crossing & were repulsed with a loss of 300. Genl. [William Hemsley] Emory marched up there leaving two companies to guard New Orleans, so you may judge things are in a pretty tight way. At present the forces surrounding this place are laying quiet, although the Negro pioneers are to work throwing up parallels. I understand Genl. [Nathaniel P.] Banks does not want to take the place before the 4th July. How true this is I cannot say. I hope my next letter will contain an a/c [account] of the down fall of the place for I think we have lost men enough.

I have been down with the diarrhea for a week. I went to the Dr. so sick I could hardly walk & he gave me some medicine telling me "as long as there was no duty to do I was excused." Harry [Tiemann] came to see me & brought another Dr. with him. This Dr. said "I was not fit" to do duty, but he could not excuse me as it would make ill feeling with the other Dr." Harry then saw the Major & he told me to come to the rear 'till I was well. I get along but slowly, but hope soon to rejoin the regiment. Harry, I believe, is quite well. There is no more news of any consequence. I will write if any thing happens before the capture of this place.

I remain
Your affectionate son,
Frank

(over)

I am sorry to hear that Edward [Leslie Molineux] is sick. The officers all enquire every mail if I hear from him, and they all unite with me in wishing him a speedy recovery & safe return to the regt. They all wonder at his wanting to return before cool weather sets in. The thermometer stands about 80 in the shade. Should this reach you before he starts give him my respects with those of the other officers.