

Apl. 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Nettie,

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines. Since last writing we have been moving on from place to place and it has been difficult even to keep track of what was going on around.

The prettiest place that I have been in yet is Thibodaux. It is a small place but the plantations are large and well cultivated. The planters are all wealthy, and have things in style. The ladies are prettier and better dressed than any I have yet seen, but are strongly secesh. They stick up their noses or pout out their lips if the[y] have no veil or parasol with them every time they pass a union soldier, if they have a veil on, down it comes over their faces, or a parasol they put it so you cannot see their faces. Every thing goes on the same as though they were at peace, and if it were not for a great many of the houses being deserted & seeing so many soldiers about you could imagine that no war had ever waged here.

We were entertained at the house of Capt. Howe of the 176<sup>th</sup> N.Y. S.Vols. and a more genial kind hearted hospitable man it was never my fortune to fall in with. We eat, drunk & slept with him and it was no little trouble for we were running in and out at all hours of the day and night. When we left he was sorry to have us go for he said it was all the life he had seen since occupying the town. I met Joe Stephenson here. He was glad to see me, and I assure you it was a pleasure to me for I had not expected it. I also met several others I know belonging to their reg't.

We are now under orders to take the field for sixty days. We have not had much rest for the past two months and they seem bound to keep it up. We are going to drive out the rebels who infest the "Teche" country as it is called, which is full of them. We anticipate but very little trouble as we have a strong force here and calculate to do all that is expected of us. Our reg't. has got quite a name among the "powers that be" and you may expect to hear of some fine doings from the 159<sup>th</sup>. Two companies of our reg't. were sent to Terre bonne last week to guard some stores & pitched into a regiment encamped there. It was with great difficulty the riot was suppressed. This is the only stain attached to us.

I must now close as I have nothing more to write about. I remain with love,

Frank