

Alexandria La. Apl. 6/64

Dear Nettie

It has been some time since I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you, but supposing you to be busy with the cares of the family consider you excusable.

As you will see by the heading of this, we are a long ways from Thibodaux where we spent a pleasant winter & which we were sorry to leave. This place is nothing to compare with the place we have left, yet in times of peace it must have been a very pleasant & prosperous place. Now it is deserted & very few of the original inhabitants are left. Those who remained have taken the Oath, or otherwise they would be sent outside of the lines. They are very particular who they allow to remain, & they allow no one to enter or leave, until they have fully explained their business, who they are & their reasons for entering & leaving. They have to be thus particular for we are entirely surrounded by rebs. & do not know what minute they may pay us a visit. Every thing is being prepared for their reception. The streets of the town are being rapidly barricaded & the artillery placed in position for any attack which may be made, & I think they will meet with a warm reception should they dare to come in. We are bound to hold this place as it is our Depot of supplies & should they take this place our main army would be cut off. I think in a short time we will be able to hold it against almost any force they can send.

Our main army is going up the river rapidly & from all accounts driving the enemy before them. They have had one small engagement resulting in a union victory. We have had no news since the fight.

We are at present encamped in a corn field & if it rains we will have mud a foot deep at least. We have not had much rain lately. It has showered once or twice but not enough to hurt any thing. The sky now looks as though we were going to have a heavy storm. It may not rain for two or three days, but this weather is very changeable & no reliance can be placed on it.

Those shirts & things which you sent me have done me good service. Nothing could have been more acceptable, & they just came in the nick of time. I again thank you for them.

I am writing on a pile of valises & they are rather shaky. Such is life!

Hoping soon to hear from you I remain

With love
Frank