

On board the Carondelet off Palmyra Island Miss  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

I received your letter in due time but I havnt felt well enough to write to any body but Ellen so you must pardon me. I had a touch of the cronick diarhea & after that I had the brake bone fever they call it here. the doctor broke it up in a few days but it seems to hang about me some way, for it breaks out on me every 3 or 4 weeks. I feel first rate today, Steves health is good as usual. we had some gay times out here the 4<sup>th</sup> tho, we didnt participate. we only fired a salute of 21 guns. We didnt hear that Grant had taken Vicksburg till the 5<sup>th</sup> when we started right up there. it looked some different I tell you to what it did when we run the blockade. then all we could see was a sheet of fire belching forth from those hills, but now it is all quiet some 40 or 50 transports are laying at the Levee the Rebs made a regular stampede to the Boats to get some thing to eat. one of them told me he hadnt had any Cheese for 3 yrs. it was selling at 50 cts a lb. whisky 5,00 a canteen full, lemonade 10 cts a glass, ginger bread 10 cts for a piece 3 in square & 1 in thick. before the surrender flour was 5,00 a lb, & mule meat 1,00. we all got liberty to go ashore & I improved it by going all over the place. I saw Charly Bone he is well but has had a bullet thro his right ear close to his head. he's full of fight tho as an egg is of meat. theres scarcely a house in the place but has the marks of our shot & shell. the natives made holes in the banks & lived in them when we were shelling the town. it was a sight I never shall forget. the nature of the earth here is something like soft brick you can cut in to it & it wont cave like most kinds of earth. My time is almost out only 4 weeks more. the river clear now from mouth to its source What I came for is accomplished the Old Carondelet did her share too & now I am anxious to get home. I have done my share I think at least my concience feels easy about it. I suppose you have heard about Electus poor fellow to die so far away among strangers its very hard but I hope he was prepared to go. I feel so sorry for Mary & Nicholas he will fret him self to death & poor Mary nothing but her great trust in God can keep her up. it seems as tho she would sink but I know she wont for He will sustain her & comfort her in this sore trial for He has promised it.

We are lying nearly opposite the Plantations of Jo & Jeff Davis we get all our green stuff off them plantations. we have tomatos, Peaches, musk & water melons, corn is to hard now Figs, Pears & cabbage, theres no potatoes to get. I send you an old letter I picked up among Jeff Davis's papers, he had a very fine house & splendid furniture but between the soldiers & Gun boatmen theres not much left I am going ashore again tomorrow. perhaps you had better not write to me again here unless you know something of James & you can get the letter to me in 4 weeks I feel in hopes to get home by the first of Sept. maybe before I hope so.

Goodbye direct to Erie next time

E. Macomber