

Mill Dale Miss, 8 miles
in the rear of Nicksburg

June 22^d, 1843

about 2 miles from ^{River} Cayo

Dear Friends at Home:

I have not
written to you directly for some
time, but probably you hear from
me by way of letters sent to Boston
which I requested James to sent
to W. I am well tough & rugged &
heartily living on blackberries & plums
yesterday I went out on the road towards
Nicksburg nearly three miles to get some
plums but found the ripe ones nearly
gone so concluded to try & find some
blackberries & found an abundance
I got about 3 qts. filled all my dishes
In all my blackberry picking I never
saw bushes hang so full or grow
so large & rank & I never got half

PAGE 1

Mill Dale Miss, 8 miles in the rear of Vicksburg

June 22nd 1863

about 2 miles from Yazoo River

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so badly scratched. The bushes are
not civilized here As for plums
I found but few ripe ones if we stay
here two weeks longer we can find
lots of plums there are hardly ripe yet
two weeks more & we shall have ~~most~~^{most}
corn I have been through several fields
where the corn was silked out the
ear & ~~kernel~~^{nearly to} well formed. This is
the seventh letter I have sent you
& James since leaving Ky. and I
havent received a letter from anyone
I guess I shall get a pile of them
when they do come.

Wednesday June 24th

Three weeks ago to night We left
Stanford Ky. & not a letter any-
~~body~~ body is inquiring & word-
-string why we don't get a mail
It is kept back for some reason
we know not what. I meant to
finish this letter yesterday but was

PAGE 2

so badly scratched. The bushes are not civilized here As far plums I found but few ripe ones if we stay here two weeks longer we can find lots of plums there are hardly ripe yet two weeks more & we shall have roast corn I have been through several fields where the corn was silked out the ear & kernel nearly formed. This is the seventh letter I have sent you & James since leaving Ky. And I haven't received a letter from anyone I guess I shall get a pile of them when they do come.

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It was some like working on the
roads the sun was hotter than it
ever was when I worked on the
roads. We (Our reg) threw up about
a fourth of a mile of rifle pits & to-day
other regiments are continuing the
work. The Cavalry yesterday said they
found Gen. Johnson's forces on
the Big Black. I suppose we are
here to dispute his passage Gen.
Grant has been down to our corps
headquarters several times I have
never got sight of the Hero of Fort.
Donelson some of our boys were
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they said he stopped & talked with
the men. & none constructed from his
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holds almost supreme power over 150000

PAGE 3

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soulds, and you need not be surprised to hear any day that he hold 30000 rebels in his ~~possession~~ possession.

I think the people of the North need not be alarmed about Johnson he must have an overwhelming force to do any thing. The whole force here in the rear of Vicksburg is at work constructing abettis, by felling trees in every way to obstruct the passage of troops also in digging rifle pits & fortifications for heavy gunnery. This part of the country is the best naturally for defence I ever saw. The most uneven, wholly hill & ravines deep banks & deep gulches.

It is a grand sight to see several thousand men marching into a forest then to hear the chinking of thousands of axes, the falling of hundreds of trees, to see how quick a forest disappears when the yankees get into it with their sharp axes.

By the way I hope you will have a good fourth of July celebration. We are going to have a grand one here. Gen. Grant says he will celebrate the glorious fourth in grand style. I suppose there will be some right smart shooting. I hope it will be celebrated by the taking of V. however there will be some big guns fired which will make

than Muller and corner a corner square

PAGE 4

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