Dear Brother:

Don't you a letter yesterday which requested you to send this to you as soon as I can not write to both if you will send it to Washington you will both hear when I am doing. I have not heard from home for nearly a month but I am thinking if I keep writing I shall get an answer sometimes. We tried the weather here pretty hot and dry we had some rain yesterday on a farm nearby which did well along with the Washburn canal. For hours I sat on the high bank of the canal.
Waiting on the bank of the Mississippi on the La. side a few miles south west of Vicksburg
June 15th 1863

Dear Brother:

I sent you a letter yesterday which I requested you would send home. I send this to you as
I can not write to both if you will remail this to H. after reading it you will both learn where I am
& what I am doing. I have not heard from home for nearly a month but I am thinking if I keep
writing I shall get an answer sometime

We find the weather here pretty hot Ky. is not to be compared with it. We landed
yesterday on a low swampy piece of land along side the Vicksburg canal. For hours I stoot on
the high bank of the canal
sition, a road of their own was led for them, and I am not sure they couldn't have been there if they had wished to. The sight of the explosion in the sunken city while the burning sun caused the procession to move slowly on as you please. The end of it was a grand failure. I thought of the many hard days' work the poor soldiers had done on that canal all for nothing. We encamped at the river and then it is about two or six feet wide and not more than two or three feet below the level of the high ground. When we camped last night we found a great many negro women and children, who were north when Banks overran the country. South of here their husband and brothers stayed are in the field. They are fed by the government. They have all sorts of stories to tell of their masters. I told them I should think they ought not to be living helping us.
watching the shells explode in the doomed city; while the burning sun caused the prespiration to run freely on us yankees. The cut off is a grand failure. I thought of the many hard days work the poor soldiers had done on that canel all for nothing. We encamped at the upper and there it is about 40 or 50 feet wide and not more than 6 or 8 feet below the level swampy land. Where we camped last night we found a great many negrow women & children who ran north when Banks over run the country south of here there husbands & bothers they say are in the La. colored Regiments. They are fed by the government. They have all sorts of stories to tell of their masters

I told them I should think they might earn a living picking up
By this figure you can see where we landed at bis Nicksburg & canal at the head of which we landed, where the mortar boats stationed throwing their shells over the point of land & across the river into the city No. 3 & where we are now started at five this morning marched south-east as indicated by the dotted line we are now awaiting here for steamers to cross the river. The heavy firing continues today in the direction of N. We heard last night that a grand assault was to be made today but now we think the firing is not heavy enough.
up the cotton which is washed all over the country some spots the ground is covered a foot deep
with it the negrows say it washed down during high water

By this figure you can see where we landed. No 1 is Vicksburg 2 canal (dots) at the head
of which we landed, where the mortar boats stationed throwing their shells over the point of land
& across the river into the city No. 3 & where we are now started at five this morning & marched
south east as indicated by the dotted line we are now waiting here for steamers to cross the river.
The heavy fiering continues to-day in the direction of V. we heard last night that a grand and
terriffic & assault was to be made to-day but now 9 AM the fiering in is not heavy enough
As we marched this morning we
passed the camp of the 3rd Miss. Reg.
(colored). They were the handsomest
soldiers I ever saw. The men, women
and children were plenty in each
營. I don't see as they need to dislike
soldiering as they have their minds of
sweet hearts with them. The men
wear brushed made of any conceivable
shade & color dirt color frequently.

The men have gray, black, blue, white,
yellow, rolled & dirty uniforms. However
they look as though they could fight.

We are now on the opposite side of
Washington. In the woods are hundreds
of 180 negro refugees they live in tents of
tiny description some tents are covered
with old bed blankets others with leaves.

Bush Government furnishes them
with subsistence; they are fed to go to Milliken's
Bend & be set at work. I noticed an old
gray-haired negro who said he was 180
years of age had 4 sons in the 1st Lea.
Reg. I asked some if they were not afraid
those masters would be after them.
They said, no, not so long as you keep
your costs are round. We are just been talking
with a very intelligent mulatto who came here.
On our march this morning we passed the camp of the 3d Miss. Reg (colored). They were the hardest looking soldiers I can say the women and children were plenty in camp I don’t see as they need to dislike soldiering as they have their wives & sweet hearts with them; the women wear dresses made of evry conceivable shape & color dirt color frequently

The men have gray black blue white yellow ragged & dirty uniforms. However they look as though they could fight. We are now on the opposite side of Warrinton. In the woods are hundreds of negrow refuges they live in huts of evry description some huts are covered with old bed blankets others with leaves & brush. Government furnishes them with rations they expected to go to Millican Bend & be set at work. I noticed an old gray headed negrow who said he was 100 years of age had 4 sons in the 1st La. Reg. I asked some if they were not afraid their masters would be after them. They said no, not as long as you blue coats are round. Have just been talking with a very intelligent mulatto who came from

Near Jackson Miss. asked him what he thought of the yankees “He said he was treated a heap better than he expected you like the yankees better than your masters said I “yes he replied Masser said you folks would kill us all, but you have treated us mighty well I am thankful for what you have done for me; I would have paid $4000 for myself & wife” I asked in how long a time he would that amount at my trade (barber). I reckoned in 4 or 5 years” “But you have set us free and it has not cost me anything”