On board the steamer Impaired
steaming down the Chesapeake just
passed Greenville this 11th June 1863

Dear Brother:

I sent you a hastily
written, Thursday evening, we should
leave that day but we did not
start till Friday morning coming
about 170 miles yesterday we expect to
reach Richmond in the Bogue to-night
making 200 to-day. We are now
down where the guerrillas fired into the boats passing down.

A few miles above here a boat loaded
with soldiers was fired into yesterday
several were killed a number
wounded the boat disabled.

The town of Greenville was burned
a few weeks ago by our forces.
On board the steamer Imperial steaming down the Mississippi just passed Greenville Miss 11 AM June 13/63

Dear Brother:

I sent you a hastily written letter Thursday expecting we should leave that day but we did not start till Friday morning coming about 170 miles yesterday we expect to reach Vicksburg or the Yazoo to-night making 200 to-day. We are now down where the guerrillas fire into the boats passing down.

A few miles above here a boat loaded with soldiers was fired into yesterday & several were killed a number wounded the boat disabled.

The town of Greenville was burned a few weeks ago by our forces
because the guerrillas fired into our vessels. At presents rather a desolate old chimney stacks, charred frames, and ash heaps are about all that is left except negro huts these are not disturbed. We are getting down into a country where the banks of the river are lower and there are more signs of civilization all along our route made to-day hardly anything but immense hard wood sarists could be seen, but to-day we pass numerous plantations, the buildings and the negro huts make quite a village so that the boys quickly ask what city it is that we are in. Our squadron of steamers loaded with troops to their utmost capacity left Memphis early yesterday, just as daylight was appearing.
because the guerrillas fired into our vessels. It presents rather a desolate appearance old chimney stacks shared frames & ash heaps are about all that is left except negrow huts these are not disturbed. We are getting down into a country where the banks of the river are lower & there are more signs of civilization all along our rout until to-day hardly anything but immense hard wood forests could be seen, but to-day we pass numerous plantations the buildings & the negrow huts make quite a village so that the boys jokely ask what city is that. Our squadron of 8 steamers loaded with troops to their utmost capacity left Memphis early yesterday just as dayliglight was appearing.
the squadron just getting under way & as we file along around the crooked turns it presents quite a narwhale appearance. There are several gunboats with us to day just at this moment they are very active steaming around & ahead of us then falling back. Their brass pieces portruding from the fort holes the gunners at their guns probably have a wholesome influence on the bushwhackness of any one watching our motions.

We have two twenty pounders of Battery E mounted on one steamer which will speak to them if they trouble me. The Imperial is the largest of the squadron & goes ahead. On her going ahead on board me are more likely to be fired into than any other steamer.
It was a grand sight to see the squadron just getting underway & as we file along around the crooked turns it presents quite a warlike appearance. There are several gunboats with us to-day just at this moment they are very active steaming around & ahead of us then falling back. Their brass pieces protruding from the post holes the gunners at their guns probably have a wholesome influence on the bushwhackers if any are watching our motions.

We have two twenty pounders of Battery & mounted on are steamer which will speak to them if they trouble us. The Imperial is the largest of the squadron & goes ahead Gen. Ferrero being on board we are more likely to be fired into than any other steamer.
I had a very hard time getting so far for we have been on the river for five days and hardly can reach 11 to-night. We are feeling anxious to get there. We want to help capture Richsburg. We made quite a stop at Helena yesterday halting about 12 we stopped one hour. There were several regiments & batteries there they said they were asking to go down to V. I really wished they had our chance. One fellow came on board who belonged to the 54th Iowa. He said it the boys were in the best of spirits. He said
but a gun boat keeps very near us all the time so we are pretty well protected. We hear Gen Grant is hardpressed & we are hurrying on much faster than we did yesterday It seems to me they have been very slow in getting us so far far we have on the river for five days & hardly can reach V. to-night.

We are feeling anxious to get there We want to help capture Vicksburg We made quit a stop at Helena yesterday holding about 12 we stopped one hour. There were several regiments & bateries there they said they were aching to go down to V. & really wished they had our chance. One fellow came on board who belonged to the 36th Iowa He said the boys were in the best of spirits. He said

Tuesday morning June 14th In sight of Vicksburg We have got in sight of the city of V & have seen the flashes heard the report of Grants big siege guns. Please send the enclosed letter as directed please send these two sheets home in your next letter to H

W J Templeton