

On board the steamer Inesperance
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 140 miles yesterday we expect to
reach Nicksburg or the Bayou to-night
making 200 to-day. We are now
down where the guerrillas fire ~~away~~
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 ~~at~~

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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} ~~our~~ ^{ammunition} vessels. It presents rather a desolate, old chimney stacks charred frames & 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 & there are more signs of civilization all along our route ~~until~~ to-day hardly anything but immense hard wood forests could be seen, but to-day we pass numerous plantations the buildings & the negro huts make quite a village so that the boys jibely ask what ~~city~~ city is that ~~is~~. Our squadron of 8 steamers loaded with troops to their utmost capacity left Memphis early yesterday just as daylight was appearing

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no directed fire and these two shells
big boys guns. Please read the enclosed letter
from the next letter to Mr. D. D. D.

It was a grand sight to see
the squadron just getting under
way & 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 port 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 E mounted on one 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

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I have seen the block head the night of the
The day morning price is the night of
Nicksburg the hour got in sight of the night of

but a gun boat keeps very near us
all the time so we are pretty well
protected. We hear Gen. Grant is hard
pressed & I notice we are hurrying on
much faster than we did yesterday
It seems to me they have been very
slow in getting us so far for we
have been on the river for five days
& hardly can reach V. to-night.

We are feeling anxious to get there
We want to help capture Nicksburg
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
aching to go down to V. & really
wished they had our chance. One
fellow came on board who belonged
to the 34th Iowa He said the boys
were in the best of spirits. He said

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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