On board the steamer Indiana, sailing down the Mississippi, 3 miles above Island No. 10; 9 a.m. of June 9th, 1863.

Dear Friends:

Dorset you a letter at Cairo yesterday. The news in that will doubtless surprise you a little. We are getting a good way from KY. 9 miles we will take a long time for letters to come. I've seen must write the efficiency of your's (11th) 5th Illinois Capt. & Battery. Regular old Artillery with all the baggage & horses all on this boat making a tremendous load it took all day yesterday to get anything on board we got started about 10 A.M. I ran only about a mile below Columbus when the boat ran aground & we did not get off.
On board the steamer “Imperial” sailing down the Mississippi, 3 miles above Island No. 10; 9am. Of June 9th/63

Dear Friends:

I sent you a letter at Cairo yesterday. The news in that will doubtless surprise you a little. We are getting a good ways from NH. I suppose it will take a long time for letters to come & go so I & you must write the oftner.

We (11th) & 5th Mass Regt’s & Battery E Regular WP Artillery with all the baggag & horses are on this board making a tremendous load it took all day yesterday to get everything on board we got started about 6PM. & run only about a mile below Columbus when the boat run aground & we did not get off.
still about daylight this morning.

We are now going about 12 miles an hour. We have now just come along side Island No. 10 & are hearing too to give an account of ourselves to the iron clad which lies at anchor near the shore. The banks on either side the river from 80 to 30 feet & almost perpendicular.

On Island No. 10 we see the earthworks on some of which are guns mounted. Here is where Admiral Dout found the rebels & Pope deng around them forcing them to surrender (of course correctly) gaining thereby his reputation & stars. The banks of the Mississippi seem to be natural fortifications & I wonder the rebels did not give us more trouble here.

We have passed Island No. 10 & how landed amongst to chase its take around while the negroes gong
till about daylight this morning We are now going about 12 miles an hour. We have now just come along ride Island No. 10 & are heaving too to give an account of ourselves to the Iron clad which lies at anchor near the shoar. The banks on either side the river from 30 to 40 feet & almost perpendicular On Island No. 10 we see the earthworks on some of which are guns mounted Here is where Admiral Foot founded the rebels & Pope dug around them forcing them to surrender (If I recollect correctly) gaining there by his reputation & stars. The banks of the Mississippi seem to to [sic.] be natural fortifications & I wonder the rebels did not give us more trouble here.

We have passed Island No 10 & have swung up to shoar to take in wood & while the negrow gang
of laborers were logging on board the wood, we have been cutting and cypress bushes against tree bark on the Mississippi shore. Hundred yard. I have a bit of cypress and some gum tree bark. The boys were busy cutting their names on the trees while the boat stopped. We are now moving slowly down the river. While on show, Brown a man who seemed to be posted about this great movement. He conveys he was not a Border Ruffian. From hence down that we are 45 miles from Cairo 165 miles to Memphis 565 to Nickleburg. At the rate we are going more it takes a fortnight to get there. The days we shall go to near Nickleburg sail on the Yazoo river and somewhere about 18 miles. Bluff that Bluff is being notably removed a Division
of laborers were lugging on board the wood, we have been cutting cypress bushes & sweet grain
tree bark on the Missouri shoar, New Madrid County. I send you a bit of cypress & some gum
tree bark, the boys were busy cutting their names on the trees while the boat stopped. We are now
moving slowly down the river. While on shoar I saw a man who received to be posted about this
great movement. I concluded he was not a Border Ruffian. From him I learn that we are 95 miles
from Cairo 165 to Memphis 565 to Vicksburg at the rate we are going now it take us a fortnight
to get there. He says we shall go to near Vicksburg sail up the Yazoo river & land somewhere
about Haines? Bluff that Grant is being rapidly reinforced a Division.
went down the river from Missouri
that large numbers of troops have
been leaving every point north of
N. for the last 10 days. Instruct all
the people here here on the coast
whom I have asked, feel confident
that Grant will bag Vicksburg & the
army there. This man thinks Johnson
will get about 75,000 men, & Grant
will have when all reinforcements
arrive 150,000. He says the country
back of Vicksburg is exceedingly rough
full of ravines, ridges, valleys.

II. All this now, as I am writing, may easily
deny what I said from the position
I am writing, we have a pen on the upper
dock where no shelter by the boat
Ann Parker, recently has been
pitched to the wind, make us shelter
from the rain. Shelter tents, muske
blankets are tied around, packed
and on being overset in a terrific
storm with sticks, guns, bayonets. Our
houses leak, some will chip off one
place to have it break out on another
place.
went down the river from Missouri that large numbers of troops have been leaving evry paint north of V. for the last 10 days. I notic all the people here have on the rout whom I have asked, feel confident that Grant will bag Vicksburg & the army therein This man thinks Johnson will get about 75000 men & Grant will have when all reinforcements arrive 150000. He says the country back of Vicksburg is exceedingly rough, Full of ravines ridges & knolls

11AM It is now raining very easily & you would laugh to see the position I am writing we are on the upper deck & have no shelter by the boat Our Yankee ingenuity has been racked to the utmost make us shelter from the rain shelter tents & rubber blankets are pined nailed tacked tied or hung over us or propeled up with sticks guns or bayonets our houses leak some & we stop up one place to have it break out in another place.