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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 canel. For hours I stoot on the high bank of the canel

watching the shells explode in the
downed city; while the burning sun
caused the preparation to run.

fully on us Yankees. The cut off
is a grand failure. I thought of the
many hard days work the four
soldiers had done on that canal
all for nothing. We encamped
at the upper end there it is about
40 or 60 feet wide & not more than
6 or 8 feet below the level swampy
land. Where we camped last
night we found a great many
negro women & children who run
north when Banks overran the
country south of here their husbands
& brothers they say are in the Col.
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

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watching the shells explode in the doomed city; while the burning sun caused the perspiration 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 canal 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 negro women & children who ran north when Banks over ran the country south of here their husbands & brothers 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

you better would find me out. But you know
your mortar said & the he would know and
up the cotton which is washed all
over the country some spots the
ground is covered & a foot deep
with it the negroes say it washed
down during high water

 By this figure you can see
where we landed No 1 is Vicks-
burg & canal at the head of which
we landed, ^(No 2) where the mortar boats
stationed throwing their shells over
the point of land & across the river
into the city No. 3 & 4 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 firing continues
to-day in the direction of N. we
heard last night that a ^{terrific} ground &
assault was to be made to-day
but now 7 PM the firing in
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On our march this morning we
passed the camp of the 3d Miss. Reg
(colored) They were the hardest looking
soldiers I ever saw the ~~weather~~ 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 very conceivible
shape & color dirt color frequently

The men have gray black blue & white
yellow ragged & dirty uniforms. However they
look as though they could fight. ~~At night~~
We are now on the opposite side of the
Warrenton. In the woods are hundreds
of ~~at~~ negro refugees they live in huts of
very description some huts are covered
with old bed blankets others with leaves
& brush. Government furnishes them
with rations they expected to go to Millikan
Creek & be set at work. I noticed an old
gray headed negro who said he was 100
years of age had 4 sons in the 1st La.
Reg. I asked some if they were not afraid
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They said no, not as long as your blue
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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"