

**George Hamill:
A Confederate Soldier
From
Onondaga County**



George Dixon Hamill

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Confederate Soldier from Baldwinsville

George Hamill, a native of Baldwinsville, worked for the U.S. Government removing obstructions in steamboat channels. In December, 1859 he went to New Orleans to get a job on the canals. Soon after the Civil War broke out and he could not get back to the North. He joined a volunteer company thinking he would be discharged in a short time. He ended up fighting for the South and saw battle at Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip South of New Orleans. Eventually he was able to return home.

Soon after, he went to China, and married a Chinese woman, Iun Laotai. After her death, he returned to Baldwinsville with his young daughter, Neenah. She was very homesick, so he painted a pagoda on the side of the barn. That farm has since been known as Pagoda Hill Farm [East Dead Creek Road].

Bonnie Kisselstein, 2011



Pagoda Hill Barn with a pagoda repainted in 1979

George Hamill's Civil War

Pagoda Hill

"My Narrative Including a Space of 4 Years"

To dispense with numerous questions when I get home, I have concluded to write the most important incidents that have transpired since I left home, which was on the 7th of April, 1858. I arrived in Keokuk, Iowa safe and commenced work for the U.S. Government on the 12th. On account of high water, had nothing to do till the 21st of July when I. O. Osgood of Troy, N. Y. took the contract to remove all obstructions in the steamboat channel on the lower rapids. Everything worked well that season. We laid up the boats the latter part of November, myself going to Hunnerwell, MO. to live through the winter with an old friend, which I never will forget, as it was one of the most pleasant winters I ever enjoyed, going to parties and balls till I got tired of them.

In the spring I went back to work on the rapids and stayed all the season and had glorious times: parties, balls and picnic excursions every week. So it was one complete routine of amusement during the whole summer. As I was forming so many acquaintances and mingling so much in society, I concluded that a change would be beneficial, so I started for the Sunny South in December 1859.

After a cold and rather tedious voyage on the steamcab, I arrived in the great metropolis of the South, the far famed city of New Orleans. I proceeded at once to my place of destination, a plantation 46 miles below the city called "Magnolia Place" and owned by E. Lawrence, containing over 1000 acres of improved land with nearly 200 Negroes, with a large sugar mill and machinery for making sugar. Nearly the whole of the plantation is devoted to raising sugar cane, and last year he made over 1400 hogshead of sugar, beside a large quantity of molasses, and one of the finest sights a person ever saw in a large sugar plantation in the month of June and July when the cane is as high as a man's head, and when the wind blows it reminds you of the waves of the ocean, excepting the color which is a beautiful green.

The Negroes are well dressed, well fed, and well taken care of. The planter has a physician hired by the year who visits the sick daily, also a preacher who preaches to them every Sunday, and I think they are the most happy and contented race of beings I ever saw.

My business in coming south was to put up 2 dredging machines for digging canals on the plantation; invented and built by I. C. Osgood of Troy, N. Y. I built and put up the machines without any trouble and concluded to stay in the South a year to see if it would improve my health. I worked on the plantation 18 months, and had a difficulty with E. Lawrence which resulted in my leaving the plantation. After a great deal of trouble I succeeded in obtaining a settlement all in their favor, cheating me out of some \$300.00. I saw how the thing was going. I concluded to take what I could get, and go home, if possible.

I got an order on his agent in New Orleans and came to the city, presented my order, and was told they had no money. After a good deal of persuasion, I finally got \$100.00, made inquiries, and learned I could not go North. My old friend, I. B. Atwood of Keokuk, being with me and in similar predicament,

we concluded to join a volunteer company, thinking we would be discharged in the fall when peace would be declared. We visited all the companies in the city, and finally found one that suited us.

July 18th we joined the Allen Guards, a company for state service. We had our election, and the result was S. Jones was elected captain, T. K Pierson 1st Lieutenant, W. S. Jones 2nd Lieutenant, Moreau, 2nd Lieutenant, Jr., W. C. White 1st Sergeant, I. G. Gussman 2nd Sergeant, I. B. Atwood 3rd Sergeant, myself 4th Sergeant, DM.C. Hughes Color Sergeant.

We had a splendid company of over 90 men, and was quartered in a large cotton prep., where we had most glorious times. We indulged in all the amusements New Orleans afforded till we got perfectly tired of it. During our stay in the Prep., the St. Charles Theater gave the company a benefit, the profits being expended in buying provisions, etc.

We were quartered some two months in the Prep. when one morning the captain announced to us to prepare ourselves to leave for Fort Berwick at 6 o'clock the next morning. We were in a complete hubbub all day, cooking, packing our knapsacks, and packing and cooking utensils ready for our departure. As a great many men had families, and the balance had friends, the Captain gave them permission to leave the Prep., provided they would be back at 5 o'clock next morning, which they all readily agreed to.

I made a few visits in the evening and came back to the Prep., at 10 o'clock, and had just seated myself for a comfortable smoke, when one of the men came running in, saying that three of our men were in a fight down to the Poydras St. Market. I immediately called a man that I could depend upon under any circumstances and started to find, running nearly all the way. When I got there I found two of our men having a regular knockdown fight with a number of the city rowdies. I immediately forced my way through the crowd till I got to the men, and commanded them to stop. The crowd of rowdies started toward me, when I instantly drew my revolver, and told them that the first man that advanced one step I would shoot him down, that I came to have peace and not to fight. They, not liking the looks of my revolver, and seeing my determined look, they immediately left the place. The two men of our company were very drunk and noisy which created the fight. I got them started and after a great deal of trouble, I arrived with them at the Prep. about 12 o'clock, and turned in my hammock for a comfortable sleep till morning. I was enjoying a fine sleep when I was suddenly awakened with the cry from the Guard, "Turn out all hands". I immediately dressed myself and found breakfast nearly ready. After partaking of a good breakfast and filling our haversacks with the beefsteak and bread, we commenced preparing to leave the Prep. All the men answered at Roll Call, and after some difficulty, we marched down and arrived at the ferry boat at 6 o'clock.

We all embarked, crossed the river, and at 7 o'clock, the locomotive gave three toots with her whistle and amid the waving of handkerchiefs, shaking hands, and three hearty cheers, we started for Brashear City, the terminus of the road and some three miles above Fort Berwick. Nearly all the men had their canteens filled with liquid and in a short time nearly one half were drunk and asleep. Nothing occurred to mar our journey and at 12 o'clock we arrived safe at Brashear City, and found the steamer "Southern Merchant" ready to convey us to the fort. After an hour's brisk work, we got all of the luggage and equipment transferred to the steamer. We all embarked, gave three cheers, and started down the Atchafayer River or bay, as it is commonly called. In a short time we arrived at our place of destination, Fort Berwick. After getting everything ashore, we commenced pitching our tents and preparing supper so

that we would be comfortable for the night. At 8 o'clock, tattoo being beat, roll called, and myself being very tired, I rolled myself up in my blanket to sleep till morning.

Reveille being beat, I got up very much refreshed after Roll Call and partaking breakfast, I commenced looking around to see what kind of a place we had got into. My attention being drawn to the lowness of the land and nearly covered with water, I made up my mind that if we stayed there long we should all be sick with fever, which proved to be too true. I found one company of sappers and miners occupying the fort. They quartered in a large wooden building, each one being partitioned off for the officers. The company of S and M immediately moved in one and occupying 1/2 and our company the other half.

I then went out and examined the fortifications. It is situated at the mouth of Wax Bayou and the Atchalafaya River is made of earthwork walls 12 ft. high on the two lower corners with picket work in the rear, the whole surrounded by a moat 20 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep. Found 2 – 24 lb. guns in the lower corner and a magazine unfinished containing a small quantity of ammunition, and came to the conclusion we would make a poor defense if we were attacked.

We commenced to dig ditches to carry off the surplus water. We sent a party of men with a flat boat to Shell Island to get a load of shells to shell the walks in and around our quarters. In about 2 weeks we had everything fixed up in good order, and quite a number of our men were sick with the chills and fever, myself included. I was taken very suddenly one morning with a chill which lasted all day. The doctor pronounced my case to be the bilious intermittent fever. Not liking the doctor, I got permission to be taken up to Berwick City to a boarding house as soon as I was able to be transferred. The third or fourth day, not having a fever, they put me in a boat and took me up to Mrs. Chestnut's Boarding House. I got another doctor and in about a week the fever had left me and I was able to walk around a little. I wrote a letter to the captain asking a furlough of 12 days to go to the plantation below the city, thinking if I could get amongst my friends I would get well sooner. I got the furlough and the next day after I arrived I was taken with a relapse. My journey had been too much for me. I sent for a doctor as soon as possible, but it took 2 weeks before I broke the fever which left me in a very weak condition. I got the doctor to write to the captain stating my case and would not be able to rejoin my company under three or four weeks. I was able to sit up the greater part of the day, but had no appetite and could not gain any strength. I continued so for two weeks not getting any better when I was taken down again. I sent for the doctor immediately and after another week of suffering, he finally broke the fever permanently and from that time I commenced getting better and regaining my strength.

I had sent three letters to the captain stating my case and thought everything all right and would return as soon as my health would permit. During this time I received a letter from him stating that Bruce with a party of men were supposed to be taken by the Lincolnites as they went out on a schooner and had not been heard from yet. While lying in bed early one morning, I distinctly heard the booming of cannon in the direction of the Forts Jackson and St. Phillip. I knew that the ram "Manassas" and our gunboat fleet were down there and concluded they had attacked the Federal fleet. During the day we learned that the fleets had had an engagement and drove the Federal fleet out of the river, the ram sunk the ship "Preble" and disabled the "Richmond". Great rejoicing and excitement in the New Orleans papers. I was getting quite strong again when one evening as the steamboat our color sergeant, D.M.C. Hughes came in stating the captain had sent him for me and if I was able to travel to have me go back with him. I did not

like it very well, but concluded to go. I arrived at the fort, reported myself to the captain who received me very coldly. Found Bruce had got back had run the blockade, had been to South America and brought back a quantity of ammunition. The captain put me on guard the next morning and the consequence was I was sick for nearly a week after. Found nearly all of the men sick with the chills and fever. Bruce had had a severe attack. Everything went on as usual till about the 8th of November when we received marching orders to immediately report ourselves at Fort Jackson. Great rejoicing among the men, they had become so tired of the place they were glad to go anywhere. The morning before we left Col. Allen's 4th Louisiana Regiment arrived to take possession when we left. They were as fine and healthy looking a set of men as I ever saw. We finally got started arriving in Algiers in the evening. We were to camp in the Depot. There were so many men that wanted to come over in the city that the Capt. got mad and would not let anyone go, and put a guard around the Depot. In the morning at Roll Call there were a number missing. In a short time they commenced to come in and by 8 o'clock they had all come but four or five. The captain came to me told me to take a file of men, load our muskets and bring those men back dead or alive. I picked out two good men and started over the city. About 11 o'clock A.M., I saw one going up the street when we instantly gave chase. He soon discovered us and left at 2:40. As I could not gain on him with my musket and accoutrements on, I called out to the police to stop him which they soon did. He was considerably frightened. I asked him why run. He answered he was afraid I would shoot him. I took him down to the Parish Prison and there found another in the lockup. I left them both under lock and key and started to find the rest. In a short time I found another, put him in safe keeping, and traveled the streets all day but could not find any more. In the evening I telegraphed to the captain that I had caught three and had them in safe keeping. He sent a dispatch back to bring them down on the next boat, as all the rest of the men were there with him. On the third day I got them on the steamboat and arrived at the fort at 11 o'clock. The captain had them marched up under a guard and put in one of the cells to be kept till they had their trial. I was shown our quarters and found them similar to those we left at Fort Berwick. After a long chat with all boys making inquiries about the fort which they did not like very well, as they said they were so strict that they could have no fun, and answering all of their questions, I finally turned into my berth to repose for my first night in Fort Jackson.

I was awakened at sunrise the next morning by the beating of reveille. All fell in, had Roll Call, then the men had to clean up their quarters. At 6:30 surgeon's call when all the sick had to march to the hospital to be examined by the doctor. At 7 o'clock, breakfast call. At 8 o'clock 1st sergeant's call. At 8:45 Dress Parade and Guard Mounting. At 10, Drill Call. At 4:30 Recall from Drill. At 5:30 Retreat. At 8 Tatum (sic), and at 8:30 P. M. Taps when all lights are extinguished, all in bed and no loud talking. And so soldiering goes day after day. Not being on duty that day, I devoted the most of my time examining the fort. As you come up from the river to go into the fort, a short turn of the road brings you to the bridge crossing the outer moat of 150 feet wide and 3 or 4 feet deep. At the end of the bridge you pass through a Serpentine alley through the outer battery which brings you to the bridge crossing the inside moat. Surrounding the whole fort and is about 80 feet wide and 10 feet deep, both moats being filled with water. As you pass the inner bridge you have to go through a Sallyport or arch with large iron doors. When you get through you are then inside the fort. In shape it has five equal sides with a large triangular bastion on each point. It is brickwork, the walls being five feet thick and about 20 feet above the water. Under each bastion are case - - - used for company kitchens each containing 2 24 lb. flanking Howitzers. The two lower sides facing the river are casemated and mount 14 - 24 lbs. guns, the lower side 6 and the upper 8 guns. The whole covered with earth and mortar forming the Glasis (sic), and

ramparts some 5p [50?] feet wide where our large Barbette guns were mounted, some 35 including 24s, 32s, 42 2 10 inch Columbiads and 17 inch Rifled Navy gun, all of these large guns being brought here and mounted after we came here, the two lower bastions mounting 8 in. Columbiads and Mortars. In the center of the fort is the citadel a large brick building having 10 equal sides, having 2 rows of loopholes for musketry, the inside being open like a court, this building being occupied as quarters for the men.

Everything went as usual, nothing transpiring of any importance till Christmas when quite a number of the men obtained liquor from the sutter and got drunk. They had two or three fights which resulted in their being confined in the guard house for a few days. Myself and Bruce got up a subscription, each signer to pay \$10.00 to have a private ball three miles above the fort at Nicolas Store. We elected the treasurer and raised about \$100.00, got our passes and permission from Gen. Duncan and in the afternoon of New Year's Eve we all started, taking our instruments, as we furnished our own music. We made arrangements with Nicolas, sent invitations to our friends, had a splendid supper and early in the evening we commenced dancing. Everything went on finely and we were having a glorious time till about 11 o'clock when a disturbance arose between Lieuts. Black and Coblesky. They had been drinking pretty freely and nothing would satisfy them but to settle the questions with revolvers. They chose their seconds and at sunrise were to station themselves at 25 paces and at the word were to commence firing and advance. At the appointed time we all met to see the miserable affair and at the first fire, both were wounded, Black supposed to be mortally as he instantly fell, the ball passing through his shoulder. Coblesky in the right leg above the knee. We got them into the boat as soon as possible, and made all possible haste to the fort where we transferred them to the surgeon who had them instantly taken to the hospital. Upon examination it was doubtful if Black recovered he was so weak from the loss of blood but strange to say he recovered first. Coblesky came very near having his leg amputated and is a cripple for life. Only through the influence of their friends that saved them from being discharged from the service, thus ended this most miserable affair, and it has had a good effect upon all the officers of this post.

The next event that took place was a military execution which I did not see. A young man named Hobson had some difficulty with his Lieut. in New Orleans which ended in a drunken fight, as near as I can find out, the Lieut. getting cut under the eye. He had Hobson arrested for desertion and striking a superior officer. He was brought to Fort Jackson and confined nearly two months before he had his trial. He was finally tried by a general court martial and sentenced to be shot to death by musketry in Fort St. Phillip on the 31st day of January at 10 o'clock 1862 in presence of the whole command. He was allowed a priest and treated him civilly but appeared very unconcerned regarding his fate. He was confined in a cell and sentinel stood guard over him. At his request Gen. Duncan had the irons taken off of him as he had made no demonstrations to escape. The night before the execution was to take place, by some means he obtained a knife, cut nearly through a very thick door, pushed out the staple, took the screws out of a lock and when the sentinel had his back towards him he opened the door and passed out, not being discovered. He crossed the inner bridge on his hands and knees, the sentinel he had to pass thinking it was one of the dogs and not paying strict attention to it, as he turned his back and was suddenly startled with something springing past him, and Hobson was clear from all harm for the present. I suppose the sentinel was so frightened he did not know what to do but he had sense enough to fire his musket and alarm the guard. The Roll Call was instantly beat, all hands turned out half dressed wanting to know what was the matter, when it was soon found out that Hobson had made the escape. Nearly the whole garrison searched the swamps in all directions but owing to the darkness and dense underbrush he could not be

found. The next day in the afternoon, they gave me a squad of nine men and told me to go and search wherever I thought I could find him. I immediately started down the river thinking to cut him off from going to the Lincoln Fleet. Was gone three days, gave up looking for him and returned to the fort, where I soon learned that he gave himself up in a nearly starved condition. The next morning after I left he was taken to Fort St. Phillip and executed within four hours after his surrender. He had no fear of death. When the guard was drawn up in front of him he took off his cap, laid in on his coffin, unbuttoned his vest, rolled it back under his arms and told the general to fire when he was ready. At the given word he fell, his heart pierced with four balls and one when through his neck. He fell without a struggle. The hold command then marched past him and returned to their quarters. I think this military execution was more for example to the Southern soldiers than a deserving one. He ran away from home from Boston, came to New Orleans, fell in bad company, was concerned in one or two murders, had been arrested a great many times and having no friends or sympathy from any one, his execution was carried into effect.

About two weeks after this event the raft that was stretched across the river between the forts was carried away by the rising of the river and the accumulation of driftwood. It took some two weeks to repair this disaster which was done by stretching three large chains across the river with schooners placed at short distances apart to hold the chain up. I think this altogether the best plan to blockade the river as all the driftwood passes down and at the same time answers the purpose of a raft. One morning at Dress Parade there was a general order read requiring captains of all companies to report to headquarters the number of machinists, engineers, shipbuilders and carpenters, as their services were immediately required at Richmond. I instantly went to the captain, told him I wanted to go and he appeared quite willing. In the afternoon all the officers assembled at the General's quarters and decided to not let a man leave the garrison. We are doomed to stay in Fort Jackson. Bruce has gotten up a string band again and we have fine music every evening. Also Spiritual Rappings or Tippings. Bruce is the medium and causes the table to tip in a marvelous manner. It is such a monotonous life we contrive all manner of amusements to pass away the time. I am getting so tired of a soldier's life I hardly know what to do. My Southern patriotism has all left me and I don't care which gains the day, although I hope the South will gain her independence for I never want to see the day when a negro is put on equality with a white person. There is too many free niggers in the North now to suit me, let alone having over four millions. I think it one of the most abused things in the world to abolish slavery. Southern country will be ruined and the North will derive no benefit whatever. There will be no cotton or sugar raised there for the whole country both North and South will be ruined.

Col. Higgins has arrived here although Gen. Duncan is here, he has given the command to the Col. and he is making great improvements in the fort. The men have to work night and day, mounting guns in the Water Battery and carrying sand bags to cover the magazines and making breastworks in front of the guns on the ramparts. Our company has been allowed the lower casemate battery and four 32 lb. Barbette guns, my gun being the 2nd from the right on the Barbette. We have been transferred to the C. S. Service without the consent of the company and are liable to be transferred to any of the C. S. at any moment. I don't like it very well and the company are very much dissatisfied about it. The Lincoln Fleet is said to be in the river and if they come up here they will get a warm reception. We have the water battery finished mounting five large Columbiads and one Mortar and the men are fatigued out with work. I am tired of this work, work, work, work. Today being the 27th of March we were busy at work mounting some heavy rifled guns, when the boom of a cannon startled all hands. The towboat "Star" was going down to reconnoiter and had got nearly two miles from the fort when a Yankee gunboat lying under

the point fired two shots at her without taking effect. The "Star" made all possible haste back, the long roll was beat, and all the men fell in expecting an engagement. We had some niggers at work and they running hither and thither nearly frightened to death. The men were marched to their respective batteries when a long low black Lincoln gunboat slowly around the point. Although it was a long range for our guns the Col. gave the command to open first on her with the large Columbiads when instantly Fort St. Phillip belched forth a column of smoke from her huge mortars. She was soon followed by another gunboat which appeared to be larger and I began to think Com. Perter's fleet had really come. They came up a little closer and stopped. We had fired about twenty shot at her when I think one struck her on the starboard bow as they instantly turned and left, not even firing a gun. Oh it was exciting, the thundering roar of artillery, the men shouting at each discharge and all was excitement. I think they merely came up to get the range of our guns and I think they have been somewhat successful. We have received and are now mounting two large rifled guns and if they come again I think they will be slightly disappointed. We have torn down all the wooden buildings in the fort. In the morning nine large wooden buildings, including the men's and officers' quarters were standing and in the evening not a stick or lath was to be seen, the destruction of property was great. How I wished some poor farmer had them for his house, barn, and outhouse. He could then say "let it rain, I am well protected." All the women are sent away up to quarantine and we have to get along the best we can without washing or cooks. The "Star" reports 42 vessels in the river at the head of the passes and no doubt we shall get a taste of their metal before long. We are making great preparations and I think there will be a hard fought battle here. There are six gunboats here now and a company of sharp shooters. They are going down and secrete themselves in the bushes and shoot the officers on the Lincoln vessels as they come up. Another company has arrived here and four or five doctors. The carpenters are making benches and hand barrows to carry the dead and wounded on and everything has the appearance of, and we daily expect, an engagement. It will be a fierce and long contested battle. No buildings to burn as in Fort Sumpter[Sumter]. We have heavy long range guns and over 30,000 cartridges for them, besides 250,000 muskets, cartridges. And Gen. Duncan has sworn to never surrender the forts, that he will blow up the magazines first. My only fear is that they have heavier and longer range guns than we have. If so, God only knows what will become of us. They will lay out of harm's way and throw in on us day after day till what few there is left to tell the tale will have to yield and surrender or be blown to atoms.

As the most important incidents are now likely to take place I will keep this more in the form of a diary. Heretofore I have written during odd spells and a great many events that would be interesting I have forgotten. April 4th the Confederate steamer "Resolute" went down to watch the enemy and in a short time we distinctly heard heavy firing. Gen. Duncan ordered the other six gunboats and the ram to go down to her assistance. The Long Roll was beat and all detachments went to their batteries. In about three hours the whole fleet was seen coming back, and upon arriving at the levee we learned the particulars. The Resolute was attacked by five Lincoln gunboats. She turned and made all possible haste up the river till she met our fleet. The shot and shell fell thick and fast around her but she escaped unhurt, our fleet instantly gave chase and they way drove them out of the river but I don't believe it, as they did not have time to go to the passes and back. We had our Hot Shot Furnaces a going and everything ready for an engagement and was somewhat disappointed when the fleet came back. I cannot account for it but we are all anxious to have a brush although I think we will get enough to satisfy us before we leave Fort Jackson.

April 5th, [probably 1862] Sunday. Our Hot Shot furnaces have been kept fired up all night and this forenoon Bruce was ordered into the casemate with his detachment to practice firing hot shot. I had first gone up on the ramparts to watch the effect of the shot when suddenly the cry was "They are coming!" And sure enough I saw one coming around the point. The Long Roll was sounded and we were all at our guns in a few moments. We opened fire with our long range guns and in a short time they were three large Men of War in sight and they returned our fire, the first shot falling short nearly ½ a mile. The next came within 75 yards of the fort striking our bridge going to the water battery and throwing the plank and timbers in all directions. The next fell about 10 ft. from the "Star's" starboard bow, making a great splash in the water. There were some 25 of our bold sharpshooters standing on her bow when they instantly jumped overboard and scrambled ashore. I could not help bursting out laughing to see these bold sharpshooters that were a going to shoot all the officers in the Lincoln fleet jump overboard after a shot had fallen into water, brave cowards, I must say. They kept coming up and firing at intervals till nearly 4 o'clock P.M. when they finally disappeared, altogether. As Fort St. Phillip did not get any signals to open fire she did not take any active part today. I think one or two of our shot took effect but don't know for certain. While looking on today I discovered that our gunners do not take accurate aim. They think if they fire fast and make a great noise they are doing terrible execution and it was not one-half the time they looked to see the effect of their shot. I would like to have one of the guns to try my skill. I think one or two of our shot took effect but don't know for certain. I think I would have made the splinters fly. The niggers we had working in the fort broke past the sentinel and started for home uttering all sorts of expressions as "Oh Lord! We is all done killed, don't like dem big guns no how. Is gone home to Massa I is." The officer of the day ran out with drawn sword drove them back like a flock of sheep. After a good deal of talk about the first amongst the men we all turned in sleeping with our clothes on and musket by our side.

April 6th. This is a beautiful morning and Bruce is ordered again into the casemate to try the hot shot. At the second discharge the shot set fire to the prairie nearly two miles off. Everything proved satisfactory and we made up our minds that if one of those blazing stars should fall in one of Old Abe's magazines or set fire to the vessel they would be in a bad fix.

April 7th. Nothing transpired of any importance today except the enemy cut our telegraph wires below and we cannot get any communications and therefore, do not know what they are doing. Today we received the news of Beauregard's great victory at Corinth and there is great rejoicing among the men and Beauregard is idolized by all the people in South and I think that he is the smartest military general that there is in the whole States both North and South. If Johnson whips McClelland in Virginia I think the North will give it up as a bad job.

April 8th. Today more sharpshooters came down and two 10 in. Columbiads and a large quantity of powder. If the enemy will only wait a few days longer we will be prepared to receive them in any good style. This afternoon there was enacted the most miserable blunders that ever was known in the annals of military history and all on our side through the ignorance of our General. I am now perfectly disgusted with him and think that he is not a man capable of filling his station. The little tug-boat "Union" went down to the point to reconnoiter and in a short time the steamer "Resolute" followed and proceeded but a short distance when she stopped and lay stationary in the river when it was soon discovered that a small boat with a flag of truce in the bow and French colors at her stern was coming up. The "Resolute" took her in tow and landed them at the levee. I immediately went down to the levee and

learned that it was the captain of the French frigate "Milan" with a boat's crew of 6 neatly dressed sailors. Gen. Duncan did not go to receive him but sent the adjt. About the time they landed a vessel hove in sight and came rapidly up displaying a flag of truce on the formast and colors at the gaff but they were so small we could not make out what she was till she came within a half a mile of the fort when we could distinctly see the Stars and Stripes. We all supposed her t be the French vessel following her commander. Gen. Duncan had started to go to receive the French captain and was told it was a Lincoln vessel coming up. He immediately came back and stood perfectly dumfounded. At last Col. Higgins spoke saying "General are you a going to let that vessel come up?" The Gen. Answered, "No, fire a shot across her bow!" She had then come up within a 1000 yards of the fort. The shot was fired, and she instantly stopped and in a short time lowered away a small boat containing an officer and boat's crew, and commenced pulling for the levee with a flag of truce and the Stars and Stripes. The Col. Spoke again to the Gen. if he was going to let that boat land. He said, "No! Fire a shot across her bow!" which was instantly done, the boat stopped immediately and waited a long time for a boat to come from the fort to meet them. At last getting tired of waiting, they commenced pulling down to their own vessel. Why in the name of common sense Gen. Duncan did not send a boat to see what they wanted is more than I can tell. The vessel commenced dropping down with the current and got nearly around the point when the Gen. gave orders to Lieut. Kennedy to take the steamer "Resolute" and go down and learn their mission. Why did he not do it when the vessel was under cover of our guns? I don't suppose he knew what to do till Col. Higgins told him. Lieut. Kennedy took the steamer with a flag of truce and overtook the Lincoln vessel down at the fleet. The Lieut. Was politely invited aboard one of their vessels, had a drink, and took supper with them. As the Lieut. Is a perfect gentleman, I think he was just the man to send. They said their mission up was to demand a formal surrender of the forts, said they would take us all prisoners in a short time, that we could occupy our own quarters and would be well provided for, and to keep plenty of whiskey for the occasion. They told him several times they should certainly take us all prisoners. They complimented us on our large rifled guns and said we made some excellent shots etc. To which Lieut. K. replied that we had several such guns and plenty of boys who knew how to work them and if they wanted the forts all they had to do was to come up and take them. Take it all in all it was a sharp Yankee trick. They followed the Frenchman up till they could see all of our large guns and where and what position they were in, could see our water battery, the chains across the river etc. and they know the strength of the fort now just as well as we do. They gained their object through the stupidity of Gen. Duncan. During all this time the French captain was treated with so much coldness and inattention as to amount to disrespect to his rank, he being entertained by a lot of 2nd Lieut. some of them speaking French. Our Capt. was officer of the day and to show his authority he put the French crew under arrest in the picket house with a guard over them not allowing any conversation with them. The French captain's papers were found all correct. He telegraphed to his consul in the city, received an answer and gave the Gen. a large bundle of papers to be sent to the city to his counsul. As it was late he was invited to stay all night which he accepted and I was in hopes that the Gen. and officers would have a sociable time with him in the evening, but no, not one came near him. The 2nd Lieut. questioned him some about the fleet but they did not make anything. He said he came on business, not as a spy. They showed him the ram "Manassas", gave him late papers containing the accounts of our victory when he remarked he wished we could gain six or seven more like it. But to cap the climax of the stupidity of our officers took place in the morning after he made all arrangements to leave. The officer of4 the day left him and did not instruct the sentinel to let him pass. The consequence was when he came down with his boat, the sentinel ordered him to stop and come ashore. Then the corporal ran out, leveled his musket at him and ordered him in and it was very

fortunate he obeyed for the corporal would have shot him as it was afterwards ascertained that he was intoxicated. The corporal then started at a slow pace to find the officer of the day and it was fully an hour before he came down. Capt. Jones begged to be excused but it was of no use. The Frenchman's temper was all gone and he went off swearing at an awful rate, saying he would report it to his government. He said the Yankees would not let his vessel come up, but offered to bring him up in one of their own vessels which he refused and started in a small boat. His crew getting tired out, the Yankees offered their assistance again which he accepted but told them positively not to tow him within five miles of the fort which they agreed to do. He then started again with his small boat, and as soon as he got out of sight the Yankee's vessel followed right up. The Frenchman said it was a rascally trick, but I think it was a sharp one. As soon as the Yankee vessel came in sight of the tugboat "Union", owing to some defect of her machinery, they could not move her. The capt. and crew set fire to her and ran in the swamp and came up to the fort frightened nearly to death. He thought he had done a great deed burning his own boat. He has lost his own boat through his foolishness and it is good enough for him. She burnt up in sight of the fort. This morning there was an order read at parade that Gen. Duncan again assumed command of the forts. We all felt very sorry for Col. Higgins as all the men like him very much and have great confidence in him. Within the last three days our estimation of Gen. Duncan has fallen at least one-half, while Col. Higgins has risen in the same proportion. We got a dispatch today from below stating that the three fleets, the Red, White and Blue numbering in all some one hundred vessels. If that is the case we may expect hot work here shortly. No wonder they are so confident in taking us all prisoners. The men are working night and day and are about worked out and would be in no fit condition for a long siege were the enemy to commence the attack now.

April 13th. Today is Sunday and everything was quiet till about 11 o'clock when the Long Roll was beat again and the enemy opened fire at a very long range, throwing a number of very large shell with great accuracy, some falling very near and exploding with terrific noise. They threw these shells from beyond the point and have at least 1 and ½ miles longer range than we have. They threw some small shot or Rifled Shells from behind the point passing over the fort and falling nearly a mile beyond. There is great astonishment shown amongst our officers at their long range. It seems as though those small shot go like a flash of lightning. They make a sharp hissing noise as they pass over our heads. We don't know what to make of them or what they are as none have fallen in the Fort. We opened fire with our long range guns but I think did no execution. One shell fell very near and exploded close to my Battery. I am well convinced now that they will take the Fort as they can lay behind the point and throw shell at us for months while we can do nothing. They ceased firing about 4 o'clock and I went and saw the holes that some of those large shell made in the ground. Could not have believed they were such destructive missiles, and towards the later part of their firing they came up with great accuracy. I think they must have old and experienced gunners. When they get the correct range, woe be unto us. If they are going to fight at long range, I am rather doubtful now if our casemates are bomb proof against those large shell. Gen. Lovell and staff were here today and --- the firing. He told Gen. Duncan if they did not come up to put the men in the casemates and let them shell and be --- and never to surrender the Fort while there was one man alive or one brick on top of another. Some of the sharpshooters came up from the swamp saying they had killed a number of officers as they were seen to fall on the deck, but I don't believe them. I think they were discovered and they gave leg bail and left with all possible haste, as we saw a great many shots fired into the woods. I have no faith in these sharpshooters, there are too many New Orleans whiskey bummers among them.

April 14th. They commenced shelling slowly today, but the majority of their shell fell short and do not appear to be very large, not doing any execution or damage to the Fort. Quite a number of those small shot went whizzing over our heads falling nearly a mile beyond us and burying themselves into the swamp. During their firing today, the Yankee vessels when they immediately sent a launch ashore filled with men when they came near the shore the sharpshooters all run but a Lieut. and two men who say they fired two rounds into the launch, but do not know with what effect, and then came up to the Fort, finding all of the sharpshooters at the Fort. Some of them tried to pass the Sentinel to go to New Orleans but the Sentinel knew his business and with all their pleadings (and in fact some of them actually cried and begged to pass) and persuasion, they could not pass.

April 15th. A Lieut. with a party of Sappers and Miners went down last night to see what they could do in the swamp. We have not heard from them today. At 10 o'clock today, they opened fire again, two gunboats coming out in full sight firing their guns quite rapidly, we answering them gun for gun, but there is a great defect in our shell as a large number of them exploded too soon and some of them burst as soon as they left the gun. We did no execution today. They kept their firing about two hours and then retired as usual. The small flag they put up to designate our range our spies brought in this morning, having secured it last night. The flag consisted of a piece of red and whit cambric nailed to a pole, but they have put up another on the shore. We are almost inundated with water in the Fort. The river has risen very slowly of late breaking the levee above us, overflowing the swamp and grounds around the Fort. The water is in our casemates and still rising. We have a fire engine with 30 men pumping all the time out of the magazine. The water is nearly up to the powder.

April 16th. This morning the Long Roll beat at 6 o'clock and the firing commenced immediately. It was kept up quite brisk for about two hours and then ceased. In a short time we were visited by an English Flag under a flag of truce. They came up in a small boat and proved to be the Commander and small boats crew of the Sloop of War Barraconta now lying below among the Lincoln fleet. They came up to transact business with their consul in regards with some business concerning the Frigate Pheaton now lying at the mouth of the Rio Grande. Bruce had some conversation with some of the crew. They said they hoped the South would win and it was true that there was thousands thrown out of employment in England on account of the scarcity of cotton. They appeared to be well pleased to have this fighting continued (until the whole United States would be completely ruined, I suppose) as the U. S. were too strong for them and yielded too much power over foreign nations. This afternoon the enemy received reinforcements, as a number of large ships have come up and the firing commenced again quite brisk until half past 6 o'clock when they retired as usual. They appear to have learned the exact range as we have had more narrow escapes today than all the firing combined. Quite a number of large shells burst directly over the Fort. One large piece of a shell struck on the parapet within two feet of Col. Higgins and the adjutant, another struck in the entrance of the casement, barely missing the Col. Nigger cook and striking in the water, making a terrible splash. The nigger fell on his hands and knees, explaining in the greatest fright, "De Lord hab mercy on us. We'll all get done killed by dem big shell yet." Another struck in the moat, and another struck on the parapet, nearly dismounting a 24 pounder and a large piece burying itself nearly 4 feet in the earth, and within a few feet of a group of officers. The Col. was standing with the officers. When it struck they all dodged and ran but him. He paid no attention to it. They had it dug up. It weighed about 25 lbs. was about three inches thick and from the appearance of the outside, I should think it was a 16 inch shell. Another burst over the Bastion, a piece striking one of the cannoners at the Columbiad, slightly wounding him. This has been the most destructive firing we have had. Fort St.

Phillip not receiving any firing yet, has been an idle looker on. This evening quite a number of officers were in the casemate talking, laughing and --- the Sergeant Major for putting them on guard while one Lieut. Cane amused the whole company with his Irish wit. He is the life of the garrison and a better fellow is scarce to find. It is now after taps and I have got a good place to sleep tonight under the table in the kitchen on the floor. We have been in such a hubbub that we all slept wherever we could get a chance.

April 17th. This morning I awakened at 3 o'clock to see a different character. A large fire raft had been lighted and set adrift and was now floating down the river. In a short time the raft was one large mass of fire, the huge flames illuminating the whole river, forming a splendid sight. It was fired too soon as it nearly burned down before reaching the enemy and when it came within gunshot, they opened a brisk fire with their large guns for a few minutes and I suppose they soon destroyed what was left of our raft. It was very quiet until 3 o'clock P.M. when our gunboats Jackson, Stonewall Jackson, and Charles Morgan went down and opened fire on their boats. They blazed away for some time when our boats returned not being hit by a shot. I think the boats only went down to try their skill. While the action lasted the mortar boats opened fire on the Fort, but very slow. I was very provoked at them, as every now and then a shell would burst overhead, making it very unpleasant to a looker-on. This evening we started another fire raft down, but it proved a failure on account of the wind blowing very strong upstream. We also experimented with a Drummond Light, the most powerful light I ever saw. A person can see objects quite distinctly the distance of three miles. The object is to reconnoiter or pass without being discovered, and I think it will prove successful, but I would not like to tend it, as it is a splendid mark to fire at. No damage done to us today from their firing.

April 18th. Today has been a day I always shall remember. The enemy commenced firing at 8 o'clock A.M. and never ceased till dark. They commenced firing very brisk in the morning and as my battery could not bear on them without they came up this side of the point. I was ordered in the kitchen with the men until further orders. A large number of shells had fallen in the Fort and exploding, setting fire to the officers quarters in the Bastion, consuming them in a few minutes. I was sitting on the table watching the effects of the shell when our Captain came running in under great excitement ordering us to our battery. I cannot describe what feeling that command gave me. I cannot call it fear, but a kind of strong impulse that something will happen - - -. We all seized our muskets and as I looked out and saw the shot and shell falling like rain, I really dreaded to go. I thought for a moment, this is no time to show cowardice and I will do my duty, let the consequences be what they may. I cried out "Come on boys!" and we started on a run, some going through the water up to their knees. Then we arrived at our battery, I looked down the river and thought the whole fleet was coming up, as the whole river was blockaded with gun and mortar boats at the point, the gunboats coming slowly up the river. As none were in my range yet, I stood there as a looker-on watching indifferent in regard to the danger I was in, and stood up against the ramparts watching the effect of our shot. One gunboat advancing faster than the rest soon came up within range of our battery. The order was given to open fire on her with all the batteries that could fire on her, and such a roar of artillery never was heard. We opened fire with three large Columbiads and mortar in the water battery, three 8 inch Columbiads in the Bastions. Two 10 inch - - -, one 7 inch Rifled navy, eight 42 lb. and four 32 pounders, and all firing as fast as the guns could be worked. In a short time the smoke became so dense we could hardly see the fleet and it was impossible to see the effect of our shot and shell. This firing kept up for about one-half hour when the order was given for the 32's and 42's to cease firing and as the smoke cleared away, the bold gunboat was making its way down

among the fleet. Another large frigate was being towed down and looked as if she was in a sinking condition. We were ordered back to our casemates to await further orders. We had just got in when the cry was the large citadel in the center of the Fort was on fire. The men were turned out to work the fire engine and in a short time they had the fire put out. I stood watching them, when a large shell struck and exploded, not over 20 feet from them. Although there was a good deal of digging, no one got hurt. Our citadel had been on fire and extinguished several times until about 4 o'clock P.M. when it broke out in so many different places that it was impossible to put it out. At 6 o'clock it was enveloped in one mass of flames lighting up the whole garrison. As the flames increased, the enemy slackened their fire, and at dusk they finally ceased firing. I went out to see what damage had been done. The ground was literally torn up, the magazine No. 2 had been struck several times, all of the offices were burned down, our large citadel was nearly burned, 4 guns were dismantled, three in the fort and one in the water battery, two men were wounded in the water battery, and one killed in the Fort.

April 19th. The shelling commenced again this morning about 7 o'clock this morning, never ceasing all day. The gunboats come up occasionally when we open fire with our large guns and they retire immediately, their firing has not been so accurate as yesterday, but they are throwing them in this evening hot and heavy. One shell struck our casemate, going through and exploding. The kitchen was filled with men and only one of the cannoners was wounded. Another struck the - - - casemate going through and exploding amongst at least 50 men and strange to say no one was injured. Our magazine No. 2 took fire today and every one had to go out to help quench the flames. Three men were killed while trying to put it out, one man killed in bastion No. 6, one man killed and one wounded at a Columbiad in Bastion No. 5, and I just heard there was one man killed in the water battery last night. As my gun was dismantled yesterday, I have been transferred to the casemate to take charge of a gun. I am very glad of the change as I am more protected, especially from small shot and pieces of flying shell. I am now convinced that our casemates are not bomb proof, every shell going through when it has struck and exploded. I expect every moment the magazine will blow up and that will be the end of us all, and put an end to this onesided engagement. The mortar fleet are laying below the point out of harms way throwing their shell while we can do nothing. Up to this evening they have thrown nearly 8000 shell averaging 3 or 4 a minute.

April 20th. The bombardment was kept up all last night and all day today without intermission, but not doing much damage, dismantling only our gun. The magazine No. 2 took fire again last night and while putting it out, I heard that one man was killed. The Col. Thinks they have thrown nearly 1000 tons of iron, and that their mortar boats must be pretty well shaken. At roll call this morning one man in our company was missing, supposed to have been killed. Today our company moved a large quantity of powder out of our casemate to another. Although they worked most all day, we did not have a man injured. I feel a little safer now.

April 21st. All last night and today the shelling has been kept up again without intermission. Last night about midnight the whole garrison was thrown in a state of alarm, as it was reported that a vessel was trying to pass. Our casemate battery was now opened for the first time, firing hot shot. It was so dark I could not see any vessel, yet I was ordered to fire in the direction of the raft and I blasted away at the darkness a short time when we were ordered to cease firing. I am getting completely fatigued for want of sleep and rest. We all have to sleep around our gun (whenever we can get a chance) to be ready at a moment's notice. I sometimes get really provoked, just as I get set down to write, a large shell will

strike or explode near us and all hands will jump or just as a person gets most asleep, one will strike the casemate, knocking pieces of brick down, and shaking the whole Fort. This incessant shower of iron hail is gradually wrecking our strong Fort and I am now well satisfied they will keep on till they batter it down. The General has ordered the new ram to go down tonight.

April 22nd. Shot and shell all night and today, casualties, one man killed and one man wounded. My battery on the Barbette is perfectly useless all the guns being dismantled. The Ram did not go down last night for some reason was not ready, but she reported to go tonight certain. I was on guard yesterday and last night and had to be up all the time. Oh! When will they stop? I am so tired of this bombardment that sometimes I almost wish that a shell would put an end to me. This afternoon they slackened their fire a little and all the men were turned out carrying sand bags to fill and if we don't get help soon I don't know what will become of me. I hope the Ram will go down tonight and stop their firing so that we can get one night's rest.

April 23rd. All last night and today the shelling had been kept up as usual being heavier in the night than in the day time. Casualties – slightly wounding one man. They have not done much damage today and all the men have been employed in carrying sand bags to fill up the holes. The arches and foundation of our casemates is cracked the whole length and is settling and leaning outward. Every shell the exploded in the Fort or Moat shakes the whole foundation so it makes everything rattle. One of our hot shot furnaces has been destroyed and we have only one left now as the other is submerged in water and cannot be used. They did not go down last night for some reason or other. She is never ready and none of the gun boats will go down either. The Lieut. and his party of the Sappers and Miners got back last evening not accomplishing anything, there being so much water in the swamp, that the men could not travel around through the bushes. When they were coming back in their - - - they had to pass an open place in the Prairie and were discovered by the Lincolmites when they instantly opened fire on them, but did not injure a man. I think I will not get much sleep tonight as they are throwing them in four or five a minute.

April 24th. This morning at 3 o'clock I was awakened by the cry to open fire as the fleet were trying to pass. All the batteries on the Barbette had already commenced firing. While I was waiting for the men to bring a hot shot, I looked out the embrasure to see if I could see the vessels, thinking it was another false alarm I did not have to look but a few seconds when I saw flash after flash from vessels in the river. I soon had my gun ready but it was so dark I could not see the vessels and had to fire in the direction of a flash. In less than two minutes every gun that could hear on the river was belching forth its shot of fire and missiles of destruction, being one constant roar of artillery. Once in a while I could distinguish a loud cracking noise caused by some shot or shell striking the wall of our casemate. Once I thought a shot had come through my embrasure as my gun was covered with pieces of brick and mortar, but it was no so. It struck within a few inches of the embrasure but fortunately did not glance in. The light of our port fires threw a green and bluish hue in everything around causing the men to look frightful. In a few minutes our casemates soon became filled with smoke so that a person could hardly get their breath and causing great thirst. I drank water, but it did not seem to quench my thirst. My mouth and throat being so dry and parched like that it was very disagreeable. This terrible battle lasted two hours. In a short time after we had ceased firing the mortar fleet ceased their fire, when we all ran up on the ramparts, it being reported that our fleet were engaged with some of the vessels that had passed the Fort. I saw two or three boats burning but could not tell on which side they belonged. We heard very sharp

firing up the river for about one hour. Our gunboat Mc Bea soon came down apparently all right but could see a number of shot holes in her. It was soon reported that thirteen vessels had succeeded in passing the Fort, but one was sunk at Quarantine Station. Our company lost three men and five were wounded, Lieut. Pierson being among the killed. The casualties among the other companies I have not been able to learn yet. The Fort looked a perfect wreck. Guns dismantled, large holes through the casemates, the walls of the citadel cracked and ready to fall down, and the ground in and around the fort was completely torn up. Shot and pieces of shell lying all around. I went over to the Bastian to look at the outside walls when I saw the embrasure at my gun had been struck three times within a space of two feet of the opening. Col. Higgins said it was the most bold and gallant affair on record for a fleet to pass two such strongly fortified forts. In the afternoon the whole mortar fleet set sail and started down the river. There or what they are going to do not must remain a mystery till events take place.

April 25th. We have been working all day mounting guns, repairing the fort, cleaning out the casemates, etc. Two regiments stationed at quarantine threw down their guns and surrendered. The Lincolmites took their arms and let the men go. They have burnt a number of our gunboats as some of the wrecks have passed the fort today. Whether the vessels have gone to take New Orleans or intend to attack us from above and below remains yet to be seen. If they adopt the latter course there will be great slaughter on our side for we will be exposed to a cross fire and not have much protection. The men are getting discouraged some and say they have done all they could do and as we are surrounded, think it perfectly fine not to fight anymore. One of our company that was wounded died today. Our losses in the action yesterday morning were - - - - killed and 35 wounded.

April 26th. We had no fighting yesterday or today. Still we are making great preparations to have another fight. We have learned that they have landed a large force at Quarantine and I have no doubt it is true as there are five vessels in plain sight back of Fort St. Phillip. We expect a land attack and burnt our bridges this evening. An officer came up today under a flag of truce demanding the surrender of the forts which was promptly refused. The Gen'l's motto is still "Never Surrender". Great dissatisfaction among the men and I think there will be trouble with them.

April 27th. All hand working making preparations for the coming fight. We are in great uneasiness concerning the fate of New Orleans, as all communications are cut off. We get no news from that quarter. A large floating battery known to have been at New Orleans passed the Fort today, nearly sunk which denotes fighting above. They are still landing troops at Quarantine. We sent all of our sick and wounded to the city on the Mc Bea last evening, but do not know whether they were allowed to pass or not.

April 28th. Last night at 12 o'clock the whole garrison rose en mass with loaded muskets, took possession of the guard, station man at the magazine, spiked nearly all the guns and about 300 left the fort in spite of all the entreaties of the officers. It was a very bold maneuver and the reason was Gen'l Duncan had sworn that he would blow up the magazine before he would surrender. As Orleans was taken, the men thought it a useless sacrifice of life to fight any longer. They determined to leave which they did.

April 29th. We all delivered ourselves up to the Federals this morning at Quartine, was taken across the river, a guard placed over us, but was fed and kindly treated by the officers and men. The forts surrendered this afternoon and a number of the men re-enlisted in the U. S. Service. The officers were taken to the city as prisoners of war.

April 30th. We were all required to take the oath of allegiance to the U. S. today which was done without much reluctance, and a number of the men started for the city. Bruce and myself not thinking it safe to go the city so soon, Col. Jones consented to let us remain long as we wished. We went up to Mr. Mills this evening to get our trunks and staid all night.

May 1st. Came down to Quartine and Col. Jones wanted us to go down to Fort St. Phillip to drill the men in heavy artillery which we consented to do and went down to the fort in the evening.

May 2nd. Today Bruce is sick with his chills and I had to take the company out alone and drill them. I gave perfect satisfaction and the men obeyed and regarded me the same as one of their own officers.

May 18th. During this time nothing has transpired of any importance excepting I am having the chills. I am taking quinine, and I think I have them broke. We mess with the officers and they treat us very kind and wait on us when sick. The Col., a few officers, the band, Bruce and myself went on board the steamer St. Charles and made a pleasure trip down the river a few miles to the jump and back, arriving at the fort in the evening. I feel a great deal better tonight than I have for a long time. Oh! How I long to get out of these hot forts when I can get a cool breeze and pure air again. Col. Jones has written to Gen. Butler about us and we expect to go to the city soon to get a boat to run till we can earn money enough to take us home, as our confederate money is of no value now.

May 19th. We got on board the St. Charles after a good deal of trouble last night and today we are on our way to the city making very slow progress on account of bad management of the boat and having a large barge loaded with army stores in tow. The band of the 26th Mass. Reg't is on board going to the city to play for Gen. Butler. They enliven us with splendid music occasionally, making the time pass agreeably. Saw two large crevices below the city on the east side of the river, which have destroyed the crops on several plantations. I feel first rate today and I hope I have left those forts for the last time, and if I can get my money in the city, I will leave the country on the first steamer bound for New York.

May 20th. We arrived in the city this morning and it looks almost deserted, and I fear we will not be able to get a berth. I went and saw Mr. Ca - - - and he offered to pay me in Confederate money which I refused to take as I think it will be perfectly worthless in a few days. The rush of people was so great that we were not able to see Gen. Butler today. We found Major Portell of the 26th Reg't who introduced us to the Quarter and Harbormaster. We got no assistance from that Quarter as he said the berths were all filled on the boats. We have heard that they had a patrol in the city to take us dead or alive, and we are constantly on the alert, and do not separate from each other. We knew the danger in coming to the city and we came fully prepared. This evening we wrote a letter to Gen'l Butler stating our case and enclosed a letter of high recommendation from the Gen'l from Col. Jones of the 20th Reg't. I expect we will get an answer tomorrow and know if we get a situation or not.

May 21st. As we left our trunks on the bargue, we went and slept on her last night. We have received no answer from our letter and have given up all hope from that quarter, and have given up all hope from that quarter, and are now looking around to see if there is any possible chance to get to New York. We rented a nicely furnished room today and will take possession tomorrow. All the boarding houses and hotels are closed on account of the scarcity of provisions. We have to depend entirely on the coffee stands in the market to get our living. Poor people are constantly rushing around trying to get work

to escape starvation. Gen'l Butler has taken possession and established his headquarters at the St. Charles Hotel, and his troops are quartered in the large Rotunda. He has a strong guard in and around the hotel, besides steel rifled cannon planted in front of the doors on the sidewalk. Last night the band played on the veranda of Gen. Shepley's headquarters at Lafayette Square. Then they played "Yankee Doodle," the crowd applauded them which completely astonished me as I did not think Union sentiments would show itself so soon. If a man had attempted to whistle "Yankee Doodle" two months ago he would have swung from the nearest lamp post. Gen'l Butler has issued a proclamation compelling the merchants to open their stores. The city is in a very unhealthy condition, and I should not be surprised to hear of an epidemic breaking out at any day.

May 22nd. Last night we took lodging with the band at the St. Charles Hotel and this morning we moved our baggage to our room at No. 184 Gravier St. and are now very comfortably situated. I went again today to get my money but met with no success. We learned that Gen'l Butler sent our letter to Capt. Snow, the Harbormaster, and he told us we should have the first chance if we were there, as he could not tell at what moment he wanted a man.

May 23rd. We have taken turns and watched Snow's office all day, but no berth yet. Met Major Sortell and Lieut. Perkins of the 26th Reg't They wanted us to take a commission in the U. S. Army and said we were too well acquainted with military tactics to give it up now, but we have had enough of the Army and do not wish to see any more service. A good hit was given to a lady today. Some Federal Officers stepped into a street car where there were three or four sicish ladies. They instantly moved to the farther end of the car, giving to the officers as wide a berth as possible. The officers assured them they were in no danger and would be treated with civility. When one of the ladies more bold than discreet, remarked that she did not wish to sit beside a Yankee Rooster, the officer quickly replied, "Madam, my advice to you is to be very careful, as you might lay a Yankee egg." The ladies pulled the strap and immediately left the car very mortified, no doubt, as they were laughed at by all passengers.

May 24th. Gen'l Butler has shown himself to be a man not to be trifled with. Yesterday he required all the Old Police to take an oath of allegiance which they refused to do. He instantly put them out and stationed a soldier on every corner with loaded muskets. He said it made no difference to him, as he had 30,000 soldiers doing nothing; that if the people preferred soldiers for watchmen they could have them. He advertised today for 500 men of good reputation to go on police duty, and if we do not get a situation before long, we will have to apply for a situation. Bruce had a chill today, and I feel as though I am going to have them again.

May 25th. Bruce got a berth on the St. Charles this afternoon, and has just started to go on board at Carrolton. I have felt very bad today and have stayed in the room nearly all day.

May 26th. Do not feel any better this morning. Went down to the office when Cap't Snow told me to go on board the same boat. I did not feel able to go to work but concluded to go. Have been towing vessels around today and do not feel any better tonight. There is a large crevice above the city which threatens to inundate it.

May 27th. This morning we took on board a lot of stores, part of a Michigan Reg't and took a barque loaded with coal, and left the city, destination unknown to me. Although the river is very high, we are making good headway. Nothing transpired of any importance today, and I feel a little better.

May 28th. Ran all last night and today till 4 o'clock when the pilot ran the barque aground through carelessness, but we got her off without much difficulty. At 9 o'clock P.M. it was reported that there were two feet of water in the hold of the steamboat. We finally got her pumped out toward morning and found that one of the hot water pipes leaked badly and the wheel splashed a large portion of water in under. The guard found one of the boilers burst. All hands worked all night and I nearly fatigued out, and not as well as yesterday.

May 29th. Arrived in Baton Rouge this forenoon, and we are discharging our cargo as fast as possible, so we can get away, for Gen. Lowell has a large force ten miles back in the country and threatens to attack the place. Nearly all the fleet are here expecting a few gunboats that have gone above. There are two very large crevices just below here and all the plantations for miles, are inundated. It is reported there is a good deal of sickness among the Federal Troops here. We are not allowed to go ashore, and I don't much care as the town looks as though it was entirely deserted.

May 30th. Lay all day here keeping up steam ready to cast of4f the boat at a moment's warning. We expected an attack this morning but fortunately were disappointed. I hope we will leave today for I have had enough fighting and do not wish to see any more.

May 31st. Still here lying at the levee. The str. "Morning Light" went up to Red River today with a battery of light artillery on board. The transport steamer "Mississippi" arrived here this afternoon with two batteries and two regiments of infantry from New Orleans. We had a very heavy squall last night, but it did not do any damage to the boat. I am not getting better, if anything, worse.

June 1st. Still lying here and no attack yet. The steamer "Burton" arrived here today from Orleans with Nim's celebrated battery on board.

June 2nd. Here as usual. Bruce is having the chills most every day and both of us look like skeletons. The steamer "Bee" arrived today with more troops. The Federals have a large force here now and intend to attack the Confederates tomorrow. We are lying here doing nothing and cannot find out when or where we are going.

June 3rd. We left Baton Rouge today at 1 o'clock P.M. took a barque in tow for New Orleans. The crevices are getting larger and mor in number and the whole country is completely inundated for miles. There have been so many niggers run away and gone to the Federal camps that the planters have not the help to stop the crevices. The Federals hate the niggers and do not want them, but under the present law, they cannot return them to their masters unless they are willing to go. We have 12 or 15 on the St. Charles. The captain abuses them every possible way so that they will leave the first opportunity, and I think the most of them wish they were back with their masters. They think if they get to the Federals they will be supported, and have nothing to do, but they are mightily mistaken. On account of the pilots not being acquainted with the river, we have come to an anchor to lay till morning.

June 4th. Bruce was very sick last night. We got an early start and arrived in New Orleans today at 1 o'clock P.M. Bruce went ashore this afternoon to see a doctor, and I feel as though I ought to go myself. I am getting so weak I can hardly work my engine. If I could only spend time to rest and recruit myself for a few days I think I would get well. I am well satisfied that overworking caused my sickness.

June 5th. We are lying at the levee waiting for orders. I went ashore this afternoon but felt so bad I came back to the boat and went to bed. Everything quiet in the city. Business is gradually increasing and provisions scarce as ever.

June 6th. Bruce is very sick today. I went and got old Dr. Hyde to come and see him, and got some medicine for myself.

June 7th. Not much better today. A good deal of excitement in today. This afternoon the Union men fired a salute of 32 guns in favor of the Union, and a man was hung for tearing down the U. S. flag from the mint, when the Federals took possession of the city. Gen'l Butler shows no mercy to those that disobey his orders. He has sent quite a large number to be confined in Fort Jackson. Porter's Mortar Fleet passed the city today on their way to Vicksburg.

June 8th. We have been repairing today and I don't get any better. I shirk from my work all I possibly can for I am so weak I cannot do much of anything anyhow. Porter's Mortar and Farragut's Fleet passed the city last night on their way to Vicksburg. As soon as we finish repairing we will have to go up the river and tow the mortar boats from place to place, and I expect will be constantly exposed to fire which I don't relish much. I am going to try again to get my money tomorrow and if I succeed we shall leave the boat and sail on the next steamer for New York, which is the "Ocean Queen." She is a splendid vessel. The river is falling slowly and creating a very disagreeable stench along the levee, and I should not be surprised to hear of an epidemic breaking out at any day. Bruce has been quite sick today and has gone to see the doctor again this evening.

June 9th. I worked till 2 o'clock today when I was taken with a very severe fever and I had to go to bed. God only knows what we shall do as both of us are sick now, and if we do not get any better in a day or two, we will be discharged off the boat. We have got a great deal of repairing to do and have got to get it done at a certain time, and if we cannot work, the consequences will be we will have to go ashore and other men fill our places, as there are hundreds here idle and cannot get anything to do. If we lose our berth we cannot get another one here. Bruce is cross and pettish and thinks no one can be sick but him.

June 10th. I am not any better and have kept my bed all day. I cannot imagine what ails me. I have very little pain, and when I am lying down I feel as though I could get up and go right to work, but as soon as I get up and move around I am all out of breath and so weak I can hardly stand. Bruce is better and has gone to work today.

June 11th. I felt a little better this morning and concluded to go to work again and have stood it first rate all day. We are still repairing and it will take fully a week before we get finished. I went again today to get my money but met with no success. He said he would pay me as soon as business commenced again so he could sell sugar. I have nearly given up all hope of ever getting a cent of it. Bruce thinks they never mean to pay me.

June 12. Still lying here repairing. We received the news today of the fall of Memphis and the fleet here fired a salute in honor of the victory.

June 13th. Worked repairing as the fine steamship "Mc Clelland" left the levee today to go and get a tow of mortar boats. She ran full headway into the man of war "Mississippi," smashing in her wheel

and wheelhouse and otherwise injuring herself, but very little damage done to the "Mississippi." It was one of the greatest pieces of carelessness I ever saw.

June 14. The long roll was beat last night, caused, I understand, by the escape of about 180 secessionists by way of the Jackson R. R. to join Gen'l Lovell at Camp Moore. This is the flying report around town, but can't say how true it is. Our captain was discharged from the St. Charles today and put on the steamer "Whitmore" now called the "Fox." He wanted myself and Bruce to go with him but she being a low pressure boat we could be of no use to him and therefore, stayed on the "St. Charles."

June 15th. I was so sick last night I had to send for a doctor. He left some medicine and I feel a little better today. The steamship "Roanoke" lying just above us sailed for New York this afternoon. Oh, how I wished I could have went on her. I think a change of climate would restore me of my health again.

June 16th. I went to work again today and feel very tired tonight. An execution took place today at the mint. Four men were hung for plundering houses on the pretence of being Federal officers looking for concealed arms. They took \$1875.00 and some jewelry from one house.

June 17th. This afternoon our old captain left the "Fox" and myself and Bruce went with him on board of the "St. Maurice," a large side wheel passenger boat with a fine cabin and machinery in good order. Bruce is first engineer now. She was lying at Jerseyville. We got up steam and brought her down to the foot of Canal St., and through the mismanagement of our pilot got her fast on the levee which took all the afternoon to get her off, but finally succeeded about sundown, and run down to the coal yard below Algiers and laid up for the night to take in coal. We are a going down the river tomorrow to find a lot of cotton stowed away on some plantation. Col. Butler (Gen'l Butler's brother) is on board.

June 18th. Got up steam and run down to one Smith's plantation and found some 250 bales, but for some unknown reason, he did not take it. We then run down to Point a la Naches where we landed and the col. Went ashore and had a long conversation with Judge Foulhouse. We then started taking a schooner in tow and arrived in the city in the evening. Bruce had a long conversation with the col. This evening, Bruce informing him of our circumstances, when he remarked that he would make Lawrence pay me. The first opportunity I have, I will ask him again for the money and if he don't pay me, I will apply to the col. for assistance. I have some hopes now of getting it.

June 19th. Today we were made into a Revenue Cutter, taking on board a lot of - - ustomhouse officers and preceded down the river stopping at every vessel and leaving an officer on board, although it is tiresome work running back and forth across the river from one vessel to another, yet we have the best berth on the river here.

June 20th. I quit work today, and as we had another engineer on board, the captain told me to stop work and rest for a week or two till I recruited up. He is very kind to me. We are proceeding down the river at a very slow rate as there are so many sailing crafts of every description to overhaul to look for contraband goods.

June 21st. Laid up all last night just above Tropical Bend Plantation, and this morning proceeded down the river on our revenue business. Bruce had a chill today and I had to go down in the engine room again. We run down below the forts and came back and laid up for the night at Dr. Westerfield's opposite Quarantine Station.

June 22nd. This morning myself and Bruce got some medicine of the doctor and I hope it will take good effect. After we had started we hailed a Peddler's Lugger to overhaul, took her in tow, and in going across the river, by some means, capsized. The Peddler's saved themselves but lost a large quantity of goods and a trunk containing \$800.00, but fortunately, we recovered his trunk for him. This afternoon we started for Southwest Pass, and are making good headway as there are no vessels in sight coming up.

June 23rd. Arrival at Southwest Pass last night at 11 o'clock. Got up steam this morning and examined about 25 vessels, then went to Pass l'Outre, and then turned the tow of our boat for the city and not making any stops.

June 24th. Arrived in town this morning at 9 o'clock. The cause of our being so late, we took a Spanish schooner in tow and brought her to the city on account of her papers not being all right. I left the boat this forenoon and intend to stay till I get better. I immediately went to Lawrence's agent, and fortunately found Lawrence in the office. They gave me a check for part of the money with the promise I should have the rest the next day. I went to the bank and got the check cashed and went to our room and engaged board. I feel a good deal better tonight. Saw Bruce this evening. He had cleaned out his boilers, taken on 1000 bushels of coal and came back to the levee to lay all night.

June 25th. I went down to the levee this morning to see Bruce, but the St. Maurice had left. Not feeling well, I went and got two bottles of port wine and came up to the house, took a large dose of laudanum and port wine and lay down till dinner, when I felt a little better. Did not go out this afternoon and will take another large dose tonight. This is a medicine of my own invention and will try the experiment on myself.

June 26th. I rested better than usual last night and feel better this morning. Took a walk to the levee after breakfast but the sun being so hot, I came back and made up my mind to stay in the house, take my dose of L. and P. W. and pass away the time the best I could which I did in reading old letters, overhauling my trunk, etc.

June 27th. As I was not well enough yesterday, I went to the office and got the rest of my money, stayed in the house the most of the day. We have corn bread for breakfast, corn bread for dinner, and corn bread for supper, and made very poor at that. Flour is \$30.00 per barrel and cannot be had at that. The landlady says she cannot get a loaf of bread at the baker's but I think if she was a little more free with her money she could get some. I feel a little better this evening and have just taken a short walk on Canal St. This city seems as though it was deserted now to what it did two years ago. Then a person could hardly make their way along Canal St., while now you will hardly meet a person except soldiers.

June 28th. I was very sick nearly all last night, but feel better this morning. Went to the levee to see if Bruce had got in, but saw nothing of the St. Maurice, did a little shopping and came back to the house. If I was able to walk around town, it would not seem so lonesome, but to be shut up in a room all day is not very agreeable.

June 29th. Not any better this morning and no Bruce yet. I can't imagine what keeps them, for they have had ample time to go to the bar and back. To pass away the time, I packed my trunk ready to travel when Bruce came back, if he had made up his mind to go home after being paid off.

June 30th. Today is my 29th birthday and a very lonesome one to me, but I feel a great deal better and that is one great consolation. Bruce has not got back yet, and I think he will be in tomorrow.

July 1st. I feel a good deal better today and have walked around town considerable, nothing transpiring of any importance. Business does not seem to be getting any better. All the stores close at 5 o'clock, P.M., and they ask enormous prices for everything. No amusements of any kind whatever.

July 2nd. Bruce arrived in town this evening. They had not been down below the forts and had done but little business. Bruce insists on staying another month, so I have finally agreed to stay.

July 3rd. The St. Maurice is still lying at the levee and Bruce and myself sauntered around town, a little today. There is a rumor around town that the Confederate flag will be raised on the City Hall and on the masts of several foreign men of war now lying here.

July 4th. Today the captain asked me to come on board and go to work again. I am not feeling quite well but concluded to try it again. Last night everyone was expecting an uprising would take place. The police force was doubled and soldiers stationed all over the city. This has been one of the gloomiest fourths I ever experienced. There was a salute fired at sunrise from a man of war lying uptown. This was all that took place till noon when the large man of war "Mississippi" lying opposite Canal St. fired a salute. Shortly after dinner it commenced raining never ceasing until about 4 o'clock P.M. when it cleared off and we had a beautiful evening. At sundown there was another salute fired from a battery of light artillery on the levee and a general review of the troops by Gen. Butler and staff at the same place which closed the proceedings of the day, if a person can call them such. All the foreign armed vessels carried their flags at their masts all day, except two English men of war who lay without showing their colors. There was no attempt to raise a Confederate flag anywhere and everything passed off quietly. I hope I shall never experience another national holiday like it.

July 5th. Today we went down to the coal yard below Algiers and took on board a very large quantity of coal. We have got orders to go to Vicksburg and as boats are subject to being fired into from guerilla parties, we made large coal bunkers alongside the boilers to protect them from shot. I don't like this expedition at all as every boat that has been up the river has been fired into. We came back to the city and laid up for the night at the levee. After tea, Bruce and myself concluded to saunter around town during the evenings as we were going up St. Charles St., we came to the conclusion to take a little exercise, so stepping into the bowling alley, we rolled a few games, when a friend told us there was a large ball up town, and invited us to go, which invitation we accepted. Went to the boat, prepared ourselves, and started for the ball. Arriving there, we found a very large attendance and a number of ladies that we were acquainted with, we danced and enjoyed ourselves till 11 o'clock and then came to the boat and turned in perfectly satisfied with one night's amusement.

July 6th. Today is Sunday with a nice gentle breeze, and not so hot as usual. Being rather tired and sleepy, I have stayed aboard the boat all day. Nothing transpired of any importance.

July 7th. This morning we got up steam, took on board part of a battery, 70 horses and 5 companies of soldiers and started for Baton Rouge. Of all the cargoes that were ever put on a steamboat, soldiers are the worst. It has been a very hot day, and the soldiers are continually rushing from one side of the boat to the other to get on the shady side keeping the boat careened so that the boilers on the upper

side of the boat would not show any water, while those on the lower side would be full to overflowing, besides stopping the headway of the boat as one wheel would be nearly out of the water while the other would be entirely submerged.

July 8th. Arrived at Baton Rouge today at 11 o'clock, discharged our cargo and lay here waiting for orders. There is no business done of any account. There is a report that there is a large force of Confederates back in the country, and intend to attack and destroy this place.

July 9th. This morning we took on a lot of cotton and started for a plantation below Donaldsonville³ to take on a lot of sugar. Arriving there, we landed, but for some reason or other, we did not take it, and are now proceeding on our way to another plantation 12 miles above New Orleans to get sugar there.

July 10th. Last night the pilot landed the boat at the supposed plantation, but upon inquiries, we were ten miles above it, which so enraged the captain that he ran straight for New Orleans, arriving at 2 P.M. and have been all day very busy cleaning out the boilers, discharging our cotton and taking in army stores to take to Vicksburg. As this is a very valuable cargo, the General has sent us a splendid sawyer gun to be mounted on the forecastle to fight guerillas. I cannot find out whether we are going to have a convoy or not. I cannot find out whether we are to have a convoy or not. If not, I think it will be ten chances to one if we ever get to Vicksburg, as there are so many guerrilla parties along the river, and there is a report that the Confederates have a gunboat fleet at the mouth of the Red River. I am inclined to not go, and if it was not for Bruce I would quit the boat for if we should succeed in getting there I have no doubt we will have to lay there 'til after the battle.

July 11th. We took on freight nearly all last night and all day today till five o'clock when we took on board a number of passengers and Gen'l Shepley and staff and started without any convoy. We have a tremendous load, just as much as the boat will carry.

July 12th. We had a fine run all last night and today, arriving in Baton Rough at 2:30 PM. We met the Mortar Fleet just below here. Going down the captain hailed them, but could get no information but told us to look out for Grand Gulf. The second steamer we met (a New York ferry boat), lost a man overboard just opposite to us. I was so intent on looking at the mortar boats that I did not see him 'till he sank for the last time. They threw him life preservers and mattresses overboard, stopped the steamer and sent two boats after him and just as the first boat nearly reached him the man in the bow reached out to catch him but he sank so he could not reach him. If he could have stayed up one second longer he would have been saved. We learned here that Vicksburg is not taken and not likely to be very soon, that the mortar fleet had done all it could do and was now on its way to Mobile. We intend to lay here all night, but keep up steam so we can handle the boat in case anything happens. Gen'l. Shepley and staff went ashore this afternoon.

July 13th. We have laid here all day with steam up waiting for a strong convoy as the quartermaster has concluded it is not safe for us to go up alone as we have a very valuable cargo, and it is needed very much by the Federal's Troop above and I think they will not run any risk for fear the Confederates will capture us and cargo. We are having very warm weather here and I hope we will get to running again so we can get a breeze.

July 14th. We are still lying here at the warfloat waiting for a convoy or a vessel to transfer our cargo into which latter course I hope will be adopted. We have to keep up steam and stand our regular watches, which is never done except in case like this and I think there is no use of it here. It is very disagreeable and lonesome to stand a watch and have nothing to do. Myself and Bruce went ashore this afternoon (this being the first time I ever went ashore here), to take a look at the town. It is pleasantly situated with nice shady trees on each side of every street and reminds me of a small country village. As there is no business done and but very few people in the street except soldiers, it has the appearance of a city that has been stricken with some plague or epidemic.

July 15th. Still lying here. Gen'l. Shepley and staff went to New Orleans today on the steamer Whiteman. I heard that the quartermaster also went to see about a convoy. No news or excitement of any kind here and I am getting tired on staying.

July 16th. Early this morning we had a very hard blow and rainstorm, but being well secured we sustained no damage. I hope I will get out of this country before we have a hurricane which invariably takes place next month. And I begin to think now we will be detained so that we will not be able to get home next month.

July 17th. Still lying here keeping up steam as usual and pumping the boat occasionally. She has leaked considerably since we have had this load on her on account of being loaded so deep. Just after I came off watch this evening he clerk came up and called Bruce who was then sick with a chill, saying there was a disturbance in the engine room, went down and one of the engineers was drunk and kicking up a fuss with the other. Bruce drove him out of the engine room and I had to stand a double watch, which did not put me in a very good humor.

July 18th. Still lying here. The quartermaster arrived here this morning on the steamer Bee, but has learned nothing in regard to our going up the river or transferring our cargo. It is awful hot weather. Have to drink river water without ice which is not very delicious.

July 19th. The gun boats No. 2 and 4 passed here today from Vicksburg. No. 2 was disabled and was towed by No. 4. A small boat went out from gunboat No. 3 now lying here, and boarded them, but have been unable to learn any news concerning them or from Vicksburg. The steamer Whiteman arrived from New Orleans.

July 20th. The news from the gunboats yesterday was that the Confederate Ram, named Arkansas had come down the Yazoo River and succeeded in running through the whole upper fleet and landed under the guns at Vicksburg. This - - - - ran was building at Memphis and at the time of its fall, they towed her up the Yazoo River finished her. She came down a few days ago in morning. Drove two gunboats stationed at the mouth of the river and commenced running through the fleet at her way to Vicksburg. The whole fleet opened fire on her but with no effect. They tried to board her but were driven back with hot water. The shot fell on her as thick as hail, but she went through all right. As soon as she landed at Vicksburg, the levees were covered with people cheering her on her successful voyage. The Federals threw a few shell among them and they disappeared instantly. If they don't succeed in capturing this for - - - - ram soon, I fear she will destroy a good deal of the fleet. We are expecting an attack here every day, and the people are in the highest state of alarm and leaving the city by every possible way. Those that are staying have dug large holes in the ground and covered them over to get into

when the firing commences. The pickets have been extended farther out of town. One of our convoy gunboats No. 9 came up today from New Orleans and I expect the balance will be up in a day or two.

July 21st. Still lying here. Worked nearly all last night cleaning out the boilers. The boys had a good deal of fun early this morning at the expense of a certain individual who has been stopping on the boat for the last few days. He came out here in the 14th Maine Reg't. as a Lieut. but has got his discharge, and now makes a practice of sponging his living wherever he can get, and for the last week, he has been staying on the boat and the boys concluded to get rid of him if it was possible. He makes it a practice of taking his mattress and sleeping in the port gangway where we have to pass up and down from the Texas. Last night after Bruce and the second engineer had filled the boilers, they took the hose and passed it out under the boiler deck and within six or eight feet of the sleeper. Bruce and the fireman - - - down on the pump while the second engineer held the nozzle. He held his thumb over the end of the nozzle until there was such a pressure that they nearly burst the hose, when he pointed it at my bold Lieut. and let go. The instant the water struck him he rose up in a sitting position when the stream struck him full in the face knocking him back. He rose up again, exclaiming in a frightened tone, "Oh, my God!" and rushed for the cabin, the stream of water following him, but the doors being fastened on purpose, he could not get in. He then started off and finding one of the doors open, went into the lader's cabin, and stayed till morning. As soon as it was sufficiently light he sneaked off the boat, went up to the Provost Marshall and made a complain, but as he could not tell who done it, they concluded it would not be proper to arrest the whole boat's crew, he came back and after a long search he found his valise and overcoat, he grabbed his overcoat, but here was trouble again. It was nailed hard and fast to the rain and guard. He tore it loose and went off swearing at a horrible rate, and we have not been troubled with him since.

July 22nd. This forenoon the U.S. Transport steamer "Kennington" came down from Vicksburg. Reports all quiet and a great deal of sickness among the Federal troop and that they are all ordered down except the gunboats which I hope will be the case as we will not have to go up the river then. There is great excitement here this afternoon and evening. It is reported that there is a very large force of Confederates marching on this place. The pickets and artillery have been ordered in, the gunboats have taken their position with spring cables ready for action at any moment, and we have hauled ahead so that we command one street with our Sawyer gun. The Quartermaster and Paymaster have brought their safes aboard our boat and now we have three safes containing about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million of dollars. They are guarded night and day by a squad of soldiers. The people are wild with excitement. Some have crossed the river, others have gone to the lower part of town to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, while the balance have taken refuge in their holes, and everything denotes an attack. As soon as the attack is made, the gunboats have been ordered to destroy the town. We keep up 100 lbs. of steam and will be guided by circumstances. We have a large amount of money and such a valuable cargo that I think the captain will make all possible haste to New Orleans as soon as the fuss commences. Just now, quite a number of ladies have come on board, seeking our protection, and more are coming at every moment. Our men have had muskets distributed to them and are guarding the gangway. The steamer "Bee" arrived this afternoon from New Orleans. No news of any importance.

July 23rd. The night passed off very quiet without any alarm whatever, and today there has a scouting party gone out to reconnoiter composed of cavalry, infantry and part of a battery. The Str. "Bee" left for New Orleans this afternoon. We had a heavy rainstorm this afternoon and at sunset heard heavy firing in the direction, and supposed to be Fort Adams about 20 miles above this place.

July 24th. The Str. "Whiteman" arrived today from New Orleans with the mail and despatches (sic), but with no orders concerning us. Last night just after I came on watch, I was sitting in the engine room reading, when all at once the captain came rushing in swearing and pitching around and told me to stand by our engines. I went and had the fireman hurry up the fires, then called the second engineer and then stood by the engine to answer the bells. The captain was rushing around calling all hands up and casting off the lines ready to back out the boat. I asked some of the deckhands what was the matter, when he told me that some of the gaslights had gone out, and all this hubbub was caused probably by some derangement in the pipes, and the scaring of our captain.

July 25th. Today the scouting party returned with success. They broke up 5 Guerilla's camps, captured 14 prisoners, a large number of horses and mules, provisions and military stores, and a large quantity of cotton. The Str. "Whitman" left for New Orleans. No news as to the disposal of one cargo, but think we will discharge it here.

July 26th. This morning at 5 o'clock the whole of Butler's fleet that went to Vicksburg came down here and landed. The vessels of war are the Brooklyn, Hartford, Oneida, three or four gunboats, five motorboats and two barks. The transports are the Oberville, Laurel Hill, Sallie Robinson, W. Burton, Ceres, Diana, Morning Light, Algering, and Rosalie, with the troops on board who are in a very sickly condition. A large number died on the way down, and were thrown overboard, the officers refusing to have the boats landed to give them a decent burial. It is one of the most barbarous acts that ever was known among civilized nations. Just think of the relatives of a father, son, or brother, who had volunteered to defend the union, and had died from exposure and want of care, and then thrown overboard like a brute, not even being sewed up in canvas or their blanket with a weight attached to sink them. A few moment's delay would give them a decent burial and marked their final resting place. Can a nation that upholds such barbarous proceedings prosper? I think not. Talk about the United States sending missionaries to the East Indies and islands in the Pacific Ocean. They had better keep them at home. I expect we will discharge our cargo here now as nearly all the troops have landed here.

July 27th. One of Davis's gunboats, the "Essex" and the Confederate gunboat, "Sumter": that was captured at the fall of Memphis, arrived here this morning. They say she stood the firing well in passing Vicksburg. She has a number of shot marks and I believe one when through her side at any rate. It has the appearance some of the large vessels of war left today for New Orleans.

July 28th. There is a regular fuss here among the troops today. Gen'l Williams ordered the 6th Michigan Reg't. out of the barracks to go and camp out without any tents to give place to the Connecticut Regt., a pet Reg't. of his. The Michigan 6th Col., Lieut. Col., and the two ranking captains refused to obey the order, but the 3rd Cap't. marched his company out. The Gen'l then had the officers that refused to obey orders put under arrest, and sent for their flag which they refused to give up. He then ordered Cap't. Nims with his battery to go and take the flag which he refused to do. The boys swear they will never give up their flag as long as there is a man left. The 21st Indiana and 4th Wisconsin Reg't. have sworn to stand by the Michigan boys to help them keep their flag. Gen'l. Williams is very much disliked by all of the troops and this expedition of his to Vicksburg has been the most fatal to the Federal troops than any one during the war. Last night we heard heavy firing above, and this morning the transport steamer "Oberville" came down and reported a masked battery had opened fire on her, but did no

damage. A gunboat immediately went up but could not find it. They discharged all of our hay today, making it a great deal cooler in the engine room.

July 29th. This morning the steamer "Burton" and "Louisiana Belle" loaded with troops and part of a battery went down to Plaquemine to capture a band of guerillas that had fired into the str. "Empire Parish". They fired two shots into the town when the guerillas ran like a flock of sheep, two of the dead bodies that were thrown overboard from the transports washed ashore here his morning, their features being horribly disfigured. The steamer "Whitman" came up this evening from New Orleans bringing no news of any importance.

July 30th. The str. "Empire Parish" arrived here this forenoon reporting that the troops on the "Burton" and "Louisiana Belle" had captured some 200 guerillas about the same number of horses, number of cattle and a quantity of cannon and two pieces of light artillery. The "Parish" had the cannon on board. The 4th Wisconsin Reg't. are all under arrest at the State House and guarded by the 6th Connecticut for refusing to take the colors from the Michigan 6th. The steamers "Sallie Robvinson, Burton, and Laurel Hill left for New Orleans. The Sallie Robvinson took the two barks in tow, the Burton came back this afternoon confirming the report of the capture of the guerillas, cleaned out the boilers and put our Sawyer gun ashore.

July 31st. The str. "Ceres" arrived this afternoon from New Orleans with more troops. No news of any importance from the city. The Parish and Ceres left for the city this evening. We hauled the boat ahead today opposite the warehouse, and there is some talk of discharging soon which I hope will be the case as our month is up. We will get paid off as soon as we get to New Orleans and then good bye to the Sunny South.

August 1st. Still lying here waiting for orders. Keeping up steam and standing our regular watches. The str. "Morning Light" arrived from New Orleans this afternoon with troop and stores. The str. "Empire Parish" and "Oberville" have been given up to their owners.

August 2nd. Myself and Bruce went ashore this afternoon to go through the Penitentiary, arriving there and after some delay, we found the gate which lets only one person in at a time. It is round and resembles a cistern revolving on a pivot with a small door on one side. When they admit a person they turn the gate till the door is on the outside, a person steps in, is turned around and is landed safely inside. We went up to the gate, asked if visitors were admitted, and was bluntly answered "No." We walked back to the boat through hot boiling sun and dusty streets in not a very good humor. Arriving at the levee we saw about 50 niggers discharging our cargo and soon forgot out walk. I think we will go to New Orleans now for certain, in 3 or 4 days.

Aug. 3rd. Today is Sunday and a very beautiful day indeed with a fine breeze blowing all day. This forenoon the strs. "Burton" and "Laurel Hill" arrived bringing up a band of captured guerillas, 60 or 70 miles, 10 or 15 horses, sheep, poultry, and in fact, everything that was of any value found on a plantation. The horses, mules, sheep, poultry, etc. were owned by a planter worth some 3 millions, by the name of D.F. Kenner Now in Rebel army in Virginia. The horses were all race horses, among them the celebrated horse "Planet". This evening about 25 guerillas were brought aboard of our boat and supper given them. I feel very bad today and have all the symptom of a fever.

Aug. 4th. The "Morning Light" and "Empire Parish" arrived and left for the city this evening. The "Parish" is run by her owners now as a passenger boat between here and New Orleans and this is her first trip up. She had freight for nearly all the towns and when she would land no one would come and receive the freight. The inhabitants would not even buy a paper. I was very sick last night and have not left my bed today, but feel a little better this afternoon.

Aug. 5th. This morning at half past three I awoke, hearing considerable loud talking on board, I asked the carpenter what was the matter. He said the Confederates had attacked the place. As there have been so many false alarms here I doubted the report but as I lay thinking about it I was soon convinced it was true, as I distinctly heard the roar of artillery, and looking out I saw the people perfectly wild, some running one way and some another. The whole levee was completely filled with the citizens, soldiers and niggers. They all made a rush for our boat, quite a large number getting on board. Our captain taking his sword and revolver went down and soon drove them ashore but let all the women and children come aboard. He then backed the boat out from the levee and lay in the stream waiting for orders till about 10 o'clock when we landed at the wharf boat again and learned that the Federals had driven the Confederates back in the woods. There are so many reports I hardly know what to write, but I will write what is the general report. It is supposed that the whole Confederate force of Camp Moore numbering some 6000 made the attack. They partly surprised the Federals and drove them in taking possession of their forts, etc. but as soon as they organized and formed in line of battle, they stood their ground and fought like madmen. One Vermont and one Wisconsin company had lost its regiments and they stationed themselves in rear of Nim's Battery to help protect it if needed. One Confederate Regiment made a charge on Nim's Battery to take it. The men stood by their guns till they got within 30 feet of the battery when they fired the whole battery at once. Then those two companies in the rear of the battery made a charge and drove what few there were left. They say the battery mowed them down like grass. The 14th Maine Reg't was at one time nearly surrounded but fought their way out at the point of the bayonet. The 9th Connecticut made repeated charges driving them every time. The 21st Indiana and the 30th Mass. distinguished themselves gallantly. The 4th Wisconsin was on the extreme left and not engaged. The 7th Vermont are considered cowards. At the commencement, the Confederates took two pieces of light artillery, one being useless having a broken wheel, but when they were driven back they lost the piece that was in good order and left the other on the field. A captain was brought aboard our boat in a disordered state of mind. He had a splendid stiletto and said he took it from a rebel and had killed two rebels. One Federal soldier was nearly surrounded and was loading his gun when the rebels rushed in on him and made him surrender. He gave up his gun when a Rebel took it, put on a cap and shot the Federal soldier with his own gun. A Federal soldier that saw the transaction shot the Rebel, Gen'l. William Co--- [unable to transcribe from original]. The Federal was mortally wounded and died this afternoon. There are two Rebel Generals killed. One is Gen. Allen. The gunboats threw shell over in among the Rebels helping the land force a great deal. The fight commenced at 4:30 A.M. and ended at 9 AM. At 3 PM the Rebels made another faint attack but the shell from the gunboats drove them back. Nearly ½ a reg't. supposed to be the 7th Vermont have been hiding behind logs, piles of wood, and fences along the levee. Their lieutenant came down and succeeded in driving part of them up to the field of battle but the most of them are perfect cowards. A citizen came aboard, the Captain ordered him ashore, when he insulted the captain, saying he would not go ashore till he got ready and finally drew a sword cane, the captain caught him, took the sword cane, a pistol, and slingshot from him and then put his arms around a stanchion of the boat and put handcuffs on him, exposing him to every passerby. One of our firemen went out to see the

battle and came back with a Minie ball lodged in his knee. When the Rebels were driven back, they hoisted the U.S. Flag thinking it would save them, but the Federals saw the trick. The Brigade Sutter has brought all his stores aboard our boat. They have taken quite a number of Rebel prisoners. It is estimated that the forces engaged were 6000 Rebels against 3500 Federals. I was very sick all last night, but feel a little better today and this afternoon left my bed a short time.

Aug. 6th. All last night the gunboats threw shell every half hour over in the woods where the Rebels ere supposed to be. Otherwise the night passed off quietly. This morning the Federal Ironclad Gunboat Essex of Dan's Fleet and our gunboat No. 9 went up the river some 4 miles to reconnoiter to see if the Rebel ram Arkansas was around the point (as all day yesterday there was a smoke seen around the point and it was the general opinion it was the Ram come down to cooperate with the ___? Force in the attack). We all went up in the Pilot House to watch the proceedings. As soon as the Essex got up to the point we was the smoke from the supposed Rebel Ram moving down towards the Essex. She came down but a short distance and fired a shot at the Essex, missing her mark. The No. 9 signaled to the gunboat Sumpter [Sumter] when she proceeded on her way up. The Ram started up the river after she fired and in a few minutes the Essex let go a shot when the Ram appeared to stop and fired two more shots. The Essex have her two more and stopped and drifted down with the current a short distance and proceeded on her way up again slowly. In a few minutes there was a dense column of black smoke rising from the Ram and we were all certain she was on fire. The Gunboats No. 3 and No. 8 had started up as soon as the firing commenced but as soon as they saw her afire they came back here reporting it to be the Rebel Ram Arkansas on fire. The Essex went up and passed her but she was abandoned. She burnt about one hour drifting slowly down the river when her magazine took fire making a terrific explosion and that was the last of the formidable Ram Arkansas. Whether they set her on fire on purpose or a shell from the Essex set her on fire is not yet known. The Essex and Gunboats came back and took their old positions opposite the city. This afternoon the Str. Whiteman with the wounded and the body of Gen'l. Williams left for New Orleans convoyed by the gunboat No. 3. Our carpenter went out on the battlefield today. He says it is an awful sight. He stood in the woods and counted 22 dead bodies lying in sight around him. In the butt of a small tree about 8 inches through he counted 13 bullet holes. In a graveyard where the Rebels made a desperate charge they have found 283 dead bodies. Nearly all of Nimms (sic) Battery horses were killed. They were picketed and were not let loose. We have a number of wounded officers aboard our boat. Last night there was a great deal of plundering going on in the city. Have not heard the number of killed and wounded yet but everyone who has been out in the battlefield say there are fully 6 Rebels to 1 Federal among the killed. I have been up all day but am very weak.

Aug. 7th. Last night the steamers "Sally Robinson" and "Morning Light" came up. This morning the steamers "Diana", ' ___ville", "Empire Parish", Steamship "Tennessee (sic) and tugboat "Baltic" arrived from New Orleans. They did not bring any troops. There is a report on the boat that the fleet are going to hold a council of war if they come to the conclusion that this place is not worth holding they will withdraw their forces and destroy the city. This afternoon the man of war "Hartford", Brooklyn", "Oneida", two New York ferry boats and "Louisiana Belle" arrived from New Orleans. They came up to have an engagement with the Ram Arkansas but was disappointed, the gunboat "Essex" receiving their intended laurels. The news from the city is still very discouraging. Dull time and nothing to do. As the Oneida was coming up through some _____?she ran into the Whiteman sinking her instantly, not a soul escaping. She had a great number of sick and wounded soldiers and the body of Gen'l. Williams on board. I learned today that the Rebels lost two generals, one being _____ and the other shot through

both legs, taken prisoner and now lying in the Federal Hospital here. They are still burying the dead and up to this evening they have not got all finished yet. They found one man with 30 bullet holes in and through him, The captain drove all the women ashore yesterday but some four or five who are nursing the wounded. They and their children have completely ruined the carpet and cabin furniture. There has some transaction taken place here which I think is worthy of remark. Among the ladies who came on our boat for protection are some 8 or 10 prostitutes, and when they brought the wounded officers on board they instantly commenced nursing and taking care of them vieing (sic) with each other who could do the most good, while the respectable ladies were turning up their noses and finding fault because there were not better accommodations on board, hardly casting a look at the men who lay there writhing in their agonies. Those poor forsaken creatures that are prohibited from all respectable spciety showed more true kindness than all the people on board the boat. There have been three or four on the boat since the battle being up day and night administering to the wounded. The tud "Baltic" left this afternoon for New Orleans. They are putting the sick and wounded soldiers on the steamer _____, Morning Light and Burton. I feel quite well today and have stood my watch.

Aug. 8th. Last night the gunboats threw shell over in the woods till about 11 o'clock. It was a splendid night, but I have become so familiar with the sound and knowing what destruction they make that I never want to hear another. At 10 o'clock the captain, Bruce, the two pilots and carpenter were ordered to go on board the Iberville and run her to New Orleans as she had on a large number of sick and wounded soldiers. They were afraid to trust her captain with them fearing he might play some trick as he was known to have been a strong secesh. About 1 o'clock this morning the Strs. Iberville, Morning Light and Burton with sick and wounded soldiers left for New Orleans convoyed by the gunboat No.1. This morning a New York Ferry Boat came up bow knocked off by running into the Whitman. The St. Charles and Anglo American arrived from the city. Up to this evening they have buried 400 Rebels and 150 Federals. As the St. Charles came up past Donaldsonville she was fired into, and one hurt.

Aug. 9th. Last night everything passed off quiet without any firing. The Hartford, Brooklyn, and gunboat left for New Orleans. The steamship Tennessee left last evening. Nothing occurred of any importance today. This evening the Lieut. Col. of the 21st Indiana Regiment who is wounded was conveyed to a private dwelling to be taken care of.

Aug. 10th. Today is Sunday and we are still lying at the Wharf boat. At Baton Rouge. I am so tired of staying here I don't know what to do. If I every leave this place I hope I may never see it again. I have not been ashore for nearly a week. It is rumored around on the boat that we will go to New Orleans as soon as the Captain comes back and I hope it will be true. The captain, Bruce, Pilot and carpenter came up on the Morning Light at noon. This afternoon I went ashore out in the back part of the city and I must say it is the most desolate looking place I ever saw. Nearly all the people have left leaving furniture, libraries, pianos, etc. I went into one house. There was a splendid piano setting in the parlor and music scattered all over the floor. In another room was a large French library, books and papers on the floor. I picked up a few volumes of English works and some music and left to look in more houses to see what I could find. Every one is picking up property of any value and I think I have just as good a right as any one. I came very near having a serious adventure, went into one house and after getting in, found it occupied, but I managed to get out without being seen. The Laurel Hill left this evening for New Orleans.

Aug. 11. Went out in town this afternoon. Every one is moving, some to the Wharf boat, some across the river, and some to the lower end of town. The people are nearly frightened out of their wits again. The report is the Rebels are a going to make an attack tomorrow morning. The Federals are well prepared to meet them. They say they can repulse 20,000 Rebels now as they have their breastworks and Rifled Pits finished. There were only 15 lost by the sinking of the Str. Whiteman. In the official report of the battle of Eaton Rouge there were 115 Federals killed, ---- and wounded and over 600 Rebels killed.

Aug. 12th. This morning at 3 o'clock the long roll was beat, and all of the steamboats were ordered to run up and lay at the barrack. It turned out to be a false alarm. One company marched out 8 miles into the country but did not see a Rebel. I don't think they will make another attack. The Federals have begun to tear down and burn the houses in the upper part of the town.

Aug. 13th. Early this morning there was a party of white men and niggers on the opposite side of the river hollering and crying out. "Murder!" etc. when it was soon seen that two or three men jumped into the river and attempted to swim across and almost at the same time two shots were fired and one of them sank to rise no more. A skiff was sent out to pick up the men in the water which they succeeded in doing. They were niggers and say that the overseer and some Rebel men were forcing them to go and fight with the Rebel army. The Federals sent the Str. Ceres (which arrived this morning from New Orleans with a detachment of soldiers across the river and captured the overseer. He says the niggers attempted an insurrection. I don't know which to believe, but am inclined to believe the overseer's story. He is now confined as a prisoner. We cleaned out the boilers this afternoon and when nearly done the long roll was beat and such a hubbub. The captain was perfectly wild again. He swears he will not let us clean out again if we lay here six months. The long roll was beat to collect the soldiers together as they were scattered all over town plundering. They continue to burn the town. The steamers Laurel Hill, Morning Light and Gunboat No. 7 arrived this evening from New Orleans. No news from the city. The Str. St. Charles left this evening for New Orleans. This evening the whole town and river is illuminated by burning houses. The Str. Anglo American arrived from Bayou Sara with the wharf boat. The people at Bayou Sara attempted to stop the Anglo from taking their wharf boat but a shot from the Essex scattered them in all directions. The niggers are building breastworks all through the town. I suppose there are 1000 niggers here now. We ran up the barracks again this evening to lay over night.

Aug. 14th. This morning we went across on the opposite side of the river with two companies of soldiers on a foraging expedition. They plundered one plantation of nearly everything they could carry. They took some horses, mules and carts, about 50 loads of corn fodder, a lot of sheep, ducks, geese, etc. and while loading the Str. Ceres came over after the soldiers, the long roll had been beat and it was reported the Rebels were advancing on the Town. We came back as soon as possible and found the whole town in commotion, but no fighting. Our boat was soon crowded with women and children. They are still destroying and burning the town. This evening there was a flag of truce come in from the Rebels. It is reported there are 2000 within a few miles of here. A soldier that I am acquainted with told me that a scouting --- that was out last night came very near capturing Jeff. Davis.

Aug. 15th. It was reported that the flag of truce that came in yesterday evening was the demanding of the surrender of the town at 6 o'clock this morning which was refused. There is no fighting yet but expect an attack every moment. The Federals sent out a flag of truce this afternoon. I went up town this afternoon to see what damage had been done. It is an awful sight. Some streets there is not a house left.

The shade trees cut down and piled up in the streets and I suppose there are not 20 families in the place now and they are leaving as fast as they can get away. The gunboat Sumpter (sic) went up the river, ran aground and they could not get her off, and the consequence was the whole crew abandoned her. I think it was a cowardly act, I hear that some of the boats are a going to haul her off. We had a hard blow this afternoon, but did no damage. The Man of War Mississippi came up from New Orleans this afternoon.

Aug. 16th. The Str. St. Charles came up this afternoon from N.O. bringing no news of any importance. The Str. Ceres went up to Bayou Sara to get the gunboat Sumpter (sic) that was aground but when they got there the Confederates had blowed (sic) up. They fired into the Ceres wounding 4 men. I went uptown this afternoon to get some figs. Found plenty and ate all I wanted. Saw two splendid pianos in houses that were deserted, found some oil paintings which I brought with me to the boat. All of the north part of the town is destroyed and breastworks thrown up with light artillery commanding all the streets. I heard that the flag of truce was for the exchange of prisoners. The captain issued an order this morning that all the ladies will have to pay \$.25 per meal. Some of them left this afternoon thinking they were imposed upon. The Str. Laurel Hill left this evening for N.O.

Aug. 17th. Today is Sunday. The large steamship Ocean Queen arrived this afternoon from New Orleans. What is her mission we do not know but surmise that they intend to evacuate this place as I think it is of no importance to the Federals as the river is blockaded both above and below. When the Ceres was trying to tow the Sumpter (sic) off at Bayou Sara the guerillas fired into her wounding 4 men. All sorts of stories are afloat concerning the force of the Rebels but we have had no attack yet.

Aug. 18th. Today the Str. Ceres has been taking in stores all day till 9 o'clock this evening when she left for N.O. and it is rumored around that they are going to evacuate this place certain, which I hope they will do for then I can get to N.O. Nearly all the people have left the town. We have our usual number of ladies on board and are having the gayest kind of times.

Aug. 19th. Last night we commenced taking on horses and have taken on a large number today. There is a report that 300 guerillas came in today and delivered themselves up to the Federals. They say they are nearly starved. All the boats are loading with stores, etc. The Sallie Robinson came up today from New Orleans. Our boat is nearly loaded with horses, stores, etc. Our cabin is filled with sick soldiers and our boat will be a complete hog pen in a day or two. I expect we will start in the morning for New Orleans.

Aug. 20th. The Laurel Hill came up last night and this morning the levee has the appearance of old times being filled with sugar, cotton, furniture, army stores, etc. All the boats are loading as fast as possible. One o'clock P.M. I have just come off watch and have an opportunity to write. At 10:30 this forenoon, the long roll was beat, and such running for the boats, Bruce arriving with a lady just in time to get aboard. We backed out in the stream and lay till I came off watch. The Mississippi gunboat No. S.3? 7 and 8 open fire throwing shell very lively for about an hour, then fired occasionally till 12. Have not heard any news from shore yet. The Str. Ceres arrived from New Orleans to get another load. Our Str. Is the flagship and will be the first to follow the Mississippi. This afternoon we commenced loading again. 6 o'clock P.M. there was an advance guard of Rebels numbering about 200 that drove our pickets in and it is supposed our shells killed a good many as they were seen to fall and explode among them. One nigger was killed on the levee by the explosion of a shell.

Aug. 21. All last night all hands were hard at work loading the boats. I think we will get off today. The shells from the gunboats killed five Rebels and three Federal Pickets. Not a Rebel in sight today. They let all of the convicts out of the Penitentiary (numbering some 350) yesterday afternoon. One of them got drowned this forenoon. 6 o'clock P.M, 35 miles below Baton Rouge and making a fine run. At 2:45 this afternoon all the boats cast off their moorings and proceeded up the river a short distance so they could turn around and take their positions according to orders, the Man of War Mississippi taking the lead, the steamship Ocean Queen next the Empire Parish 3rd, our boat 4th, the St. Charles with the wharf boat in tow, the Ceres, Diana, Sallie Robinson, Laurel Hill, Louisiana Bells and a gunboat bringing up the rear making quite a fleet. We had proceeded some five miles down when the Mississippi fired a gun but do not know what at. We passed the village of Plaquemines without a shot being fired. I expected we would have trouble there. The levee was lined with women. The Federals set fire to the ferry boat at Baton Rouge. Just as we were leaving she was aground. Bruce had a severe chill this afternoon. (A soldier died on our boat last night).

Aug. 22nd. Run all night no accident occurring and arrived at the fortifications 9 miles above New Orleans at 4 o'clock this morning. This morning early the troops went ashore and we have commenced discharging. This afternoon we got orders that this boat was to lay here to be used as a commissary store boat. There is a report here that Gen.l Van Dorn is in this vicinity with a large Rebel Force. The troops here had a sham battle this afternoon. It was quite a lively time for a short time.

Aug. 23rd. This forenoon we had a severe squall which lasted about an hour. It blew us loose and we came very near coming in collision with the Man of War Portsmouth. We were fortunate enough to have just enough steam to run her ahead enough to clear her. It seems that our captain will never learn to make a steam boat properly secured. I think the Federals are loosing a great many men here today. There were three funerals close by the river. The month is so near out now I have concluded to stay so I will get two months' pay. It is getting so late in the season that myself and Bruce almost made up our minds to go to Cuba and stay the winter and take off a sugar crop. On account of the blow today we have to keep up steam and stand our regular watch tonight. I am nearly fatigued out, it being over six weeks that we have not had a good night's sleep. I was so sleepy a few nights ago that I fell out of my chair onto the duty deck and lay there for an hour or more not knowing how I cam there when I woke up.

Aug. 24th. Today is Sunday and we are laying at the encampment just above Carrolton. Nothing occurred today of any importance.

Aug.25th. Rained nearly all day. This forenoon I came down to Carrolton, took the Ceres ? and came to the city. Very dull time, nothing doing of any account except working on the new levee. Went out in the evening and called on a lady acquaintance. Had a very sociable time. Quite a good deal of talk about the late battle and defeat of Stonewall Jackson.

Aug. 26th. Bruce came down this forenoon, did our business in the city and came back to Carrolton on the 3 o'clock train. Found they had brought the boat down to Carrolton and is now lying opposite the depot discharging some stores. Blowed off the boilers this evening and intend to wash out tomorrow.

Aug. 27th. Lay at Carrolton all day and cleaned out the boilers and finished discharging the boats.

Aug. 28th. Lay at Carrolton all day, nothing transpiring of any importance. Not feeling well this evening. I am afraid I am going to have another spell of sickness.

Aug. 29th. Took on a lot of stores and brought them back to the camp. Such humbugging all the time a person never knows what to do. I have had a hard time of it today and don't feel any better this evening. I can't imagine what ails me. I have no fever or chill but otherwise have all the symptoms of an attack of fever. My last sickness at Baton Rouge was of the same character. I think it is the relics of the swamp fever I contracted a year ago.

Aug. 30th. Last night was one of the most miserable nights I ever experienced. The pains were so intense it nearly set me crazy. Today they have nearly left me and I am in hopes I will pass a comfortable night. The battery here within a hundred feet of the boat have been firing guns every half hour all day in memory of the death of ex president Martin Van Buren.

Aug. 31st. Today is Sunday and I feel quite smart. Packed up my baggage and came to the city this forenoon and if they get me back to work again on the St. Maurice they will have to be sharper than I think they are. Too much humbugging among I.M. ? to suit me. Everything dull and quiet in the city. Rained most all day.

Sept. 1st. Rained almost incessantly all day. Bruce came down with all hands to get paid off. Went to the office at 2:30 P.M. Was told we would not get paid today, that the steamboat would be brought down tomorrow and laid up and all hands paid off. Bruce went back to the boat in a very bad humor, he having brought all of this baggage down and did not intend to every put his foot on her again.

Sept. 2nd. Rained all day. Looked in vain for the boat. She did not come down. Dull time in the city and no news of any kind.

Sept. 3rd. Went to the levee this morning but found no steamboats, took the cars and went up to the boats, found them discharging, which was finished about noon, run down to Carrolton and lay ½ hour, then proceeded for N.O. to lay up the boat, but did not get into the city in time to get paid off. Great time among the engineers to get our berth. Received a letter from Missouri.

Sept. 4th. Got two months' pay this afternoon and I have got my guns ashore and safely packed in my trunk. If some of my friends do not inform on me, I think now I can get them safe home. Heard today that my old partner W.C. White is second overseer for Laurence on Magnolia Plantation. Our pay was in Louisiana money and we will have to give 17 and ½ per cent to get it exchanged into U.S. Treasury notes. I think it a regular swindle cheating the laboring class out of their just dues.

Sept. 5th. Did not get our Sept. pay today. Went this forenoon engaged and paid \$50.00 for our passage on the schooner I.W. Congdon to New York. She is to sail tomorrow. Got our passports which cost \$1.00 and we are in great glee this evening to know that we have finally got everything arranged to leave this once prosperous but not ruined country. Myself and Bruce talked the matter over and concluded it was better to buy clothing with our Louisiana money than to give it to the brokers, (17 and ½ per cent to exchange it for U.S. Treasury notes) so we went downtown among the French and bought 2 suits each. Clothing is very high but I think we have adopted the wisest plan.

Sept. 6th. The schooner did not sail today. Could not get a tow boat and did not have a fair wind. Had quite a good time among our friends this forenoon. Could not get our Sept. pay at the office but sold our account so we have saved our wages and got off better than we expected.

Sept. 7th. Today is Sunday and have not been able to sail today. The captain says if the wind is not fair tomorrow morning he will get a tow boat to take us below the English Levee ? Nothing transpired of any importance in the city. Stayed aboard the schooner all day.

Sept. 8th. The captain got a tow boat this morning and at 10:30 A.M. we cast off our lines and started down the river. The towboat cast us adrift at the lower end of the Turn ? and we are now making good headway down the river having a fine breeze. We have to stop at ___nnsel ? White's plantation to take in some 300 bbls. of molasses which will detain us a day or two. Came to an anchor just about the plantation early in the evening.

Sept. 9th. Floated down to the landing opposite the sugar house this morning and got stages built and everything prepared to take in cargo and discharged a lot of empty molasses barrels that we brought down. I expect we will have lay here two or three days as White will have to fill the barrels before we can take them aboard.

Sept. 10th. Took in a few barrels today. Very slow work. The niggers have nearly everything their own way. White has had to make an agreement with them to keep them from running away. He gives them 1/3 of the crop if they will stay and take it off. Yesterday all the niggers on three or four plantations had a strike and did not work. The planters are afraid of them. McManus's overseer had to leave the place and now the niggers have everything their own way. They are selling everything they can. I am thinking there will be a general uprising among the niggers on this coast. All the niggers but 6 on Woodland Plantation have left. There will be but very little sugar made this year and I fear there will not be any.

Sept. 11th. All of us are nearly out of patience, they are so slow in bringing the molasses to us and the worst of it all is the mosquitoes are so bad a person cannot get any rest night or day.

Sept. 12th. Passed a most miserable night. The mosquitoes so thick they get into our eyes, ears, and mouth and keep a person continually fighting them. Took on a few barrels today.

Sept. 13th. Finished taking in our cargo of molasses this forenoon and through some misunderstanding of Mr. Parker, the consignee at New Orleans, we will have stay till tomorrow. If White does not hear form the city in the morning he says he will sign the bill of lading on his own responsibility.

Sept. 14th. Sunday and still in the Mississippi River. Got everything arranged and at ? A.M. we cat loose from the levee and made our final start for New York hoping we will be fortunate enough to reach that place in 20 days. Run down within 2 miles of the fort and made fast to the levee to lay all night. While coming down today, one of the sailors refused to obey the captain's orders. They immediately put him in irons and the captain says he will leave him at Fort Jackson if we will sustain him. Saw James Johnson and Henry Loura ? today.

Sept. 15th. A short time after I went to bed last night the sailor that had the irons on him made his escape as the schooner lay against the bank. He went ashore on the line that held her fast. When he got a

short distance from us he called out to the captain saying he would find him in For Jackson in the morning. Just as we were getting under way this morning an officer from the fort came alongside of the schooner and enquired for the captain as he was wanted at headquarters. The captain went with the officer and we followed with the schooner. Arriving at the fort the captain came aboard to get the sailor's clothes, pay him off and leave him in care of Gen. Neal Dow at Fort St. Phillip. We ere detained about an hour and then proceeded on our way again having a fine sailing breeze to help us on our way homeward. Passed the lighthouse of Pass l' Cutre at 6:45 minutes P.M. and crossed the bar at 1:30 P.M. Squally weather with showers of rain, Wind N.W.

Sept. 16th. Was quite seasick yesterday afternoon, and last night but feel better this morning and we had beautiful weather this forenoon but squally this afternoon. Wind during the day from the Southward and Westward.

Sept. 17th. Am nearly over my sickness and feel quite well today but have no appetite yet. Bruce is well of his sickness and is all right now. Did not make much progress today having light winds from the S.E.

Sept. 18th. Do not feel very well today. Kept my room nearly all day. Light variable winds form the Southward and Eastward.

Sept. 19th. Nothing transpired of any importance. Kept my room nearly all day. Head winds form the Southward and Eastward. Did not make much progress towards Tortugas running nearly all day toward the eastward.?????

Sept. 20th. Winds from the Southeast making hardly any progress.

Sept. 21st. Today is Sunday. Squally weather, wind Southeast.

Sept. 22nd. Made some progress today. Wind from the Eastward. Tortugas bore at 12 M. South 2 Dys. ? today. Feel a little better this afternoon but am not well yet.

Sept. 23. Had a fair wind form the Eastward nearly all night. Made a good run this morning. At 6 o'clock a large bark met and passed us and after going to leeward some 3 or 4 miles, turned and made chase for us in about an hour when she fired a gun and we run up our ensign and layed to. They lowered away a boat, came aboard and examined our papers etc. Deterred us about an hour and then let us proceed on our way. She proved to be the U.S. bark Roebuck bound to St. Marks, Florida. Wind during the day form the Eastward. Calm in the afternoon and evening.

Sept. 24th. Made a very good run last night. Did not see Tortugas Light. Saw a brig to the leeward this morning. In sight all day. Fine weather but head wind during the day form the Eastward.

Sept. 25th. Made a splendid run last night. Brig in sight till 2 o'clock P.M. Saw a steamer to the leeward this forenoon bound westward.

Sept. 26th. Find weather in forenoon with fine breeze in afternoon. Nothing worth of any remark. Wind North by Northwest.

Sept. 27th. Light breezes and fine weather. Wind Southeast.

Sept. 28th. Cloudy with light breeze. Wind south.

Sept. 29th. Squally rainy weather. Wind South by East.

Sept. 30th. Fine breeze and clear weather. Wind S.S. West.

Oct. 1st. Cloudy weather with calms ending with strong breeze. Wind E. West East.

Oct. 2nd. Clear weather with fin breeze. Wind East by south.

Oct. 3rd. Fine and clear. Wind E. by S.

Oct. 4th. Fine breeze. Made Cape Hatteras Light at 4 P.M. Wind #.

Oct. 5th. Calms with light breezes. Wind East by South.

Oct. 6th. Light breezes with fair weather. Wind N. by East

Oct. 7th. Fine strong sailing breeze. Passed Barnegat Light at 8:30 A.M. Passed the Highlands lights at 3 P.M. and came to an anchor at the Battery at 7:15 P.M.

A very interesting, entertaining, amusing and instructive story. In fact, worthy of publication!

By the Author.