

to talk. Banks says the
"object of the expedition is
entirely accomplished," and
I believe he would have said
the same if it had ended in
a grand review & retreat to
New Orleans. I went up there
on Tuesday fully expecting to
be sent right into the fight,
& hoping to be able to stand in-
side of Port Hudson within a
week. I took nothing with
me save my Overcoat, Haversack,
Blankets & Sword for
I wanted nothing but what I
could carry with me personally.

In my Haversack I put some
handkerchiefs, writing paper
& soap, and in the other side
a lot of the surgeon's & crutches

ORDNANCE OFFICE.

Headquarters Department of the Gulf

New Orleans Mich 19th Feb 1863.

Dear Sir

I came down from
Baton Rouge yesterday so you see
I have lost his chance of writing

I sent Edw a letter from up
river, & enclosed a note to you
in pencil, both of which I
hope have been safely received

I sent them by different parties
and cannot be sure therefore
that they were safely mailed,
but it won't make much difference
at any rate, for as far as I re-
member there was nothing in
either of them. I found quite

a mail waiting me when I got
here & have been getting two or
three letters per day for all the
time I was away. Among them
are your letters Feb. 25th and

March 3^d and one from Ed. dated "Feb." - which is not exactly definite - as it gives me a choice of 25th days. They were all very grateful but ever for I doubt if I ever could get too many letters. I believe I have nothing to answer in either of them, for I have told you nearly everything you ask about already. There is one question as to the "shooting a Gen. Banks" which I think I have told you about but am not certain.

It is all a humbug & mistake. The fact is simply this. Gen B. was getting into his carriage at the City Hotel one evening when Maj. Robinson, Chief of Cavalry, Comd. 1st La. Cav. not knowing the Gen. was anywhere near, threw an percussion cap-bridge out of the window into the

street. He had just drawn the lead from a French pistol he had, & threw it away without thinking. It went off however as soon as it touched the ground, and struck the General's carriage. The report was spread of course that Banks had been fired at, & although contradicted in the papers here, was still believed & talked about.

I know Maj. R. quite well & heard him tell the story. I told him then, we would not give him any more advance if he would not sign bonds to keep the peace. I suppose you want to know all about my trip to Baton Rouge. I have but little to tell for I am so utterly & entirely disgusted that it is almost needless

to bring on a general engagement & I found that beyond skirmishing there would be but little fun. On the other hand scouts had just brought in word that a strong force of rebels were on the Amiah-river at the Marietta Ferry, & that it was their intention to cross as soon as the troops left the town to advance. I was told that if any fighting took place it would undoubtedly be in Baton Rouge, for there were a large number of valuable stores left there, which would aid the rebels much should they succeed in capturing them, and

5
you sent me, a box of sardines, & my flask of whiskey, and half a dozen oranges. I had all my stores on board the boat by 11.30 A.M. & had just told the Capt. I was ready & he might go, when I got a message from the Sr. Quarter asking if I would not take up some ambulances & a section of a pontoon bridge which had been telegraphed for. I sent back word "yes" if he did not keep the boat over night," so it was six P.M. before we really cast off from the levee. About 4 P.M. a detachment of soldiers came down to go up with us, & as soon as they got on board I had four men placed over my stores to guard them, & keep anyone from smoking in that part

of the boat. At tea time I was given the head of the table, as Officer in Charge, and had quite a pretty little French girl placed on my left hand, & two other ladies on the right. The evening did not prove quite as dreary as I had expected, for I found the former young lady quite pleasant, although deadfully deceitful.

By mutual consent we dropped politics until the end of the eve. and then had a dreadful fight, and she finally went off very mad, & the next morning at breakfast got the steward to change her seat some six places down the table. I notice she lost most of the hot cakes!

We got up to Baton Rouge at 2.30 P.M. and I went up to the Dr. office and then over to the

camp of the 18th Bat. In the evening I rode down town to see Col. Chickering & find out how things were. He was just appointed Act. Brig. Gen. & Comd^t. of the Post, & the 41st Regt. which I was expecting to join was ordered to remain in Baton Rouge to guard the place. I found out very soon from what I knew to be good authority, that the whole movement was merely to be a strong reconnaissance, to draw off the attention of the rebels from the river batteries as much as possible, while the gun-boats ran past. It was also intended to find out for certain how far the country was defended around P. R. & to draw the fire of the field batteries. It was not a part of the plan

The troops were moving all night long & by noon the next day the whole town looked pretty well deserted. I was in the saddle pretty constantly, riding out to the pickets & so all the time I was there. Saturday I was rather under the weather & tried to keep still a little. I turned in about 7 P.M. but had not got to sleep at 10 when an order came down from Hd. Qrs. for the 18th Bat. to turn out immediately. Each section was sent off to a different road & I joined Lt. Mumford who was stationed on the Clejot road on the side of the town. It was the

9
would equally embarrass our forces should they be destroyed. I was offered a position on Chickering's Cliff & so concluded it would be as well to stay where I was. The force left in town consisted of 41st Mass. 173^d and 175th Reg. 18th Reg. Bat. 12 Mass. Bat. 21st Ind. Light train, and 8th Lu. Native Guards. In all about 2500 effective men. The next day was a grand review & inspection which lasted all the morning. In the afternoon I was busy with my ord. stores & in the magazines &c. At night I went over to camp of 41st and saw a number of old friends & then several of us started out on the road & went off some three miles outside of the

pickets but never saw
a "reb." It is rather exciting
to be riding at full gallop
over an unknown country
on a dark night. The next
morning the 18th Feb. was
reviewed, & I went out as Lt
Chief Carson. We got home
early, & in the afternoon Gen
Glover Div. commenced its
march. I rode out on the
Bayou San road with them
some ways & then joined Major
Carr & struck across country
to the Clinton road & then
by cross lanes & over broken
land to Sandy Creek. We went
over to burn a bridge but found
our work already done and
nothing left save a few
blackened timbers. We
then went back, & up the
stream some 3 miles, &

upon striking the river again
came to a smaller bridge.
Here we found four rebel
pickets who fired upon
us & then skedaddled in very
quick time. We had no chance
to fire more than a few
shots after them from
our revolvers before they
were out of sight in the
woods. We got together all
the hay, tied beams, brushwood
&c we could find & made a
big fire on & under the
bridge & then watched it
burn until we were certain
it could not be put out
when we left the scene
& came off. They bivouacked
in the woods & after taking cap-
per I left them & took my
lonely way home & got to my
quarters about 2 Am.

All the rebels in the neighborhood must have been praying for my capture or death. I told one lady whom I distinguished in rather an uncommensurate manner that I was studying the natural history of the inhabitants and had just discovered that the people in Louisiana never went to bed. The next day I got a telegram from Hill to come down, as he was very busy, so I had to take the first boat & return. The army came back to within six miles of the town on Sunday & Gen Banks took up his Head Qrs. on the Clinton road but a little ways out. I do not think we shall have

13
 road which led to the Marquette ferry & the one by which I knew the enemy must advance first. We got our guns in position to sweep the roads up & down, & threw out sentries & pickets for over a mile and then Winford & I started to examine the country and see where we could best make our stand if forced to fall back and also what kind of ground the rebels had to advance over.



We were busy all night long for the rebels in the houses all around us were throwing up lights for signals and doing all they could to help their friends.

I noticed one house which was perfectly dark in front while the back was lighted up most brilliantly. I rode round to the yard & fastened my horse and looked on. First one gas light would be turned down, then another, then all would be turned up, then all down together &c.

I drew my revolver & walked in. The entire family were up & dressed. The woman told me her child was sick and they were nursing it &c, & went on with a long story, which I very impolitely cut short by telling her to take him into the front room & light a candle

I arrested a man who was sitting by the bed, & he commenced "You can't take me Sir, I'm a good Union man & you've got no authority to arrest me, & I've seen Gen Banks &c &c". I gave him one minute to make up his mind whether he would go with me dead or alive, and he wisely thought the latter would be best. If he had attempted the least non-sense I would have shot him quicker than thought. I made them put out every light and told them plainly if I saw another signal from the place they would not have any horse to sleep in the next night.

I suppose I went in to at least a dozen houses that night to order the lights out & I had some very funny times

17
any fighting here now for
a month or six weeks at least.

That is, not any hard fighting,
of course there will be picked
shooting ad infinitum. I should
not be surprised if our forces made
a dash at Clinton Miss. before
many days; but that is only my
supposition. The night I
was out with the battery, the
Mississippi was destroyed,
& we watched the flames
from 2 Am. until 5.18 Am
when she blew up. It was
a beautiful sight! Since I
came down we have been quite
busy with papers &c, and I have
been in the office pretty much
all the time. I don't suppose
we shall have much to do
after to-day until the 1st April
when the monthly papers will
come in & give us a weeks work

again. The weather is per-
fectly beautiful, & the streets
are filled with flower girls
who have great bunches
of roses & violets for sale
at ten & twenty-cents each.

I make my "nip" put a fresh
bunch on my desk every morning,
so that I combine beauty
& utility. We are all enjoying
your fingerbread very much, for
I have brought it over to the office
& we have very jolly lunches.
The crackers & other things which
will keep, I mean to take up the
river when I go again but the
fingerbread will have to be eaten
before it spoils.

Ever your loving son
Appleton.