

On a Packet in the woods
between Port Hudson & Baton Rouge
Sat. night March 14th 1863

Dearest Maria

I shall scrawl a line
to let you know I am still alive
& well & not yet carried off by any
Reckless bullet or guerrilla band. The
army is in advance, but I found
from "high authority" that the
move was merely to draw the
fire from the field batteries
& to distract the attention of the
rebels, while the fleet ran the
batteries on the river, and that
the chance of a fight was very
small. On the other hand it
is confidently expected that the
rebels will attack the force
left here to guard the city &
protect the stores. There being
therefore more chance of a
fight here than beyond I have

stayed. I am with a section
of the 18th My Bat. to night &
we have one two guns posted
to command the Clegg's
Champagne roads. We are ex-
pecting the rebels from the
Massachusetts ferry & are ordered
to hold the place as long as we
possibly can & then retreat to
the town by the Clegg's road.

I am about tired out for
I have been on the saddle
since 8 last night, & have ridden
over 60 miles since Friday night.

I will write you full accounts
as soon as I return to N.O.,
which I suppose will be
in a very few days.

With much love

Your affectionate son
Appleton