



Franklin City La. Feb. 27th, 1864

Dear Sister Perse

I believe I wrote last, but I want to hear from you so here goes again, It has been some time since I heard from you, the last was by Tommy, I believe it would do me good to get another of your lectures, and I hope this will bring one along. We started from Augusta Sunday the 1st of this month stoped in Portland two night, and you better believe I had a good time what little time I had to myself. We went on board the De Moolay Steamship seventeen hundred tons and sailed about noon of the 2^d. We had a very pleasant passage

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(Coll. 2239, Box 6/1)
MMN #35515

Date: Feb. 27, 1864
Description: J.E. Mitchell to Persis Blanchard

and arrived at New Orleans on the night of the 18th. When four days out there were two cases of small pox broke out, they were in a bunk about fifteen feet from mine, I was not much frightened so I guess I did not catch it. We put into Key West for coal, but they would not let us land on account of the small pox. The orange and banana groves looked splendid, but we could not get at them. We landed at Algiers right across the river from N Orleans. The 30th arrived about two hours after we did, they had a nine days passage. We stayed three days at Algiers three days, and then took rail-road for Braiser City from there we took steamer for Franklin we steamed up a bayou that is hardly wide enough for two steamers to pass. This is the greatest country that ever I heard of it is one continued swamp, and the chief productions seem

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to be alligators mesquitos black flies
spiders and fever and ague, there
is some of the awfulest spiders here
as big as two months old chickens
The weather seems like midsummer
in Maine but the night are rather
cold with very heavy dews. The greatest
trouble I find here is water, we have to
drink the standing water as there is no
running water. Our camp is a very
pleasant place for this country side of
a live oak grove. We have little
shelter tents, or what the boys call dog tents
I wish you could see our camp two
hundred and fifty little tents three feet
high. We drill about six hours a day
now which takes up the most of our time
with cleaning up our guns and equipments
I suppose when the hot weather comes
on we cant do much in the day time
There are five in my mess
four besides myself they are a whole souled
set of fellows, Serg's. of company C.

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All excepting the orderly ^{are} about my age, - the orderly is about seventy-eight. We have rather a hard set of fellows to take care off, but we manage to handle them, There is now eighty-six men present for duty in our company anumber were left at home sick and two at N Orleans

I see Tommy every day, he is well and healthy - he is now a Sergt.

Give my love to Maria and tell her I will write before long, that is if she wishes it. I wont write any more now prehaps the next time I can find something to write about

Address Co. C 29th Me Regt
19th Army Corps
Via New Orleans
La.

Yours Truly J. E. Mitchell

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