

2025

they think their best friends here, and I
believe we are. You will not mind this
rainy decent clothes, but others may so
do not communicate the last few agitations
to anyone. One of the hardest cases is
my Leo - but a quick saucy fellow
withal - said the other day, in hearing off
my Agent - "Capt. Miller de best captain
for a mulete I ever saw - the food in
Camp too - you want to borrow a dollar, he
always lend, but you be absent from
coll-call once, den you have to tote
cartridge - box shove". This toting a
cartridge box consists in carrying a box
of cartridges weighing seventy lbs. for a
length of time proportionate to the officer -
that is enough of self-praise, but I know
you like to hear these things, and therefore I
waive my modesty to tell them.

Imagine the weather here what it is in
Monistion in July - here's enough - but the
sun intensely hot. we are to build barracks
soon & believe which will shelter protect us from
the sun when the tents can. Come to all, the
flowers will be in flower in the evenings
soon will they not? I have not found the descriptions

get. of which you wrote. I will let you know, affectedly, but do not wait for me.

Vicksburg Miss.

May 8-1854-

Dearest Mother

Where are my letters from home laundry-
work from you or Harry or Eddie for so long
a time! My last communication was from
you dated April 25th, in which he says among
other things that you are all glad to hear
of my promotion. An event which has not
come to my knowledge yet, whether the future
may have in store for me. If it would give
me an opportunity to go somewhere, where there
is traveling or fishing instead of digging, I
should receive it with much pleasure.
This regiment will no doubt remain here during
the whole summer, as part of the garrison of
Vicksburg. Were the promotion for some regiment
under Butler or Fillmore there would be a
chance of more activity. This is Sunday &
Harry's birth-day. I wish I had some wine
to drink the boys health with. But there is
no such luxury for me until after the
Paymaster comes - which will at first be

this week. Strawberries are ripe here now - the roses all in bloom. It is sad to see the fruits and vegetables struggling through the hard ground of our camp, where there used to be a beautiful garden. Desolation is all over this Southern land, and note that our forces are continually at the important points, and leaving the plantations to themselves the Rebel Guerrillas come in and make it more desolate each time. But this is far better than the vain attempt to force cultivation in the midst of the ravages of war. That constantly resulted in the waste of valuable property and life. Here is an old Preacher holding forth over here in camp. He said just now - at the top of his voice as follows - "I was like a man a-walking round without ~~any~~ head on at all". "I say to de Lord how shall I pray? I dunno how to pray. He say 'come unto me with all thine heart - & I will tell thee.' Then he goes on in a perfect rapture of prayer and exhortation which is really affecting certainly effective with his audience. They constantly speak of Heaven as Home, poor bliddered souls never knew a home here, and they long

for one hereafter. General Slocum, who has been on an expedition to co-operate with Banks, in his unfortunate ~~sabotage~~ - speculation: writes to Gen. Hawkins the admirable commander of our division of colored troops, that the colored men fought more bravely than any soldiers he had; that their leaders were splendid, and their disregard of death heroic. I am much better pleased with the appearance of Longstreet now, than I was a few weeks ago. Gen. Slocum, now in command, is a strict disciplinarian, and is intent upon the end of the Rebellion, and not money-making. How pleasant for you to have Harry with you in the old home. How I should like to break in upon you some evening with my uniform to surprise me. I am sure you would not know me. I am tanned as black as any orderly Sergeant, and I look rough and weather-beaten.

This month is full of sweet memories for me but my work alone brings me peace. It almost makes me happy sometimes to see how my men respect and love me, and not only they but all the men of the regiment took up to Capt. Miller for help & defense. Truly a good Col.