

Sept. 3-62.

Dear Elizabeth:

Here we lie
aboard the "Ocean Queen" at
the docks in New Orleans.

Let me tell you what I have been
thru' for a week. Last week Monday
afternoon I received orders to report
my company with 2 days rations on
the centre pier at 4 o'clock the next
morning. We did so & found two
steam-boats ready to take us some
where. Two other companies beside mine
were there & some regulars & a dozen
saddle horse. Just at day light
we steamed away north towards
what is called East bay. At nine
o'clock we stopped at a place about
25 miles from Pensacola where the rebels
had burned a large steam saw mill.
At ten two of the companies including

mine, started on a march none of us
knew whither. Except the Quarter Master
of the Post who was in command of the
Expedition & the guides. The country
thro' wh. we travell'd was precisely
like the Oak Openings of the west,
except that the trees were Pine instead
of Oaks. We had a forced & fatiguing
march, thro' an entirely uninhabited coun-
try for 20 miles. The expedition was
hard but successful. It seems the
rebels had been collect'g cattle for
some days, & some of it had reached
the powder at Pensacola, & we were
sent to appropriate to ~~our~~ use
what was designed for Rebel sol-
diers. We found between 70 & 80 in
the inclosure, & caught also the four
men who had collected them & their
horses. We got back to the Boats
with the drove about noon the next
day, & were at Pensacola before sun
down. I was awful sick with di-

asked & vomiting on the way back
to the boats the second day, but
was supplied with a saddle horse
& lived thro' it. Thursday & Friday
I was on the Doctor's sick list for
the first time in some months. Sat-
urday I went with my Company on
"Advance Guard," & during the day
word was sent up that Our Regt
was ordered to New Orleans & were
to go aboard the Ocean Queen at
2 o'clock P.M. the next day, Sunday.
I sent in application to be relieved
from Picket, but it could not be gran-
ted. It was the day for re-mus-
tering the troops, & in the circumstan-
ces, our Regt had to be mustered at
six. ^{in the morning} The expedition & sickness had
thrown me back on my muster rolls,
so I sent for materials & in an
old building out on the advance, pre-

para for a hard night's work. Before
day light my rolls were in complete
order. At 9 we were relieved, & worked
like slaves till 2 tearing down & packing
up; but we conquered every thing &
were ready with the rest. But it
rained awfully all the afternoon &
night so that we did not have
every thing aboard & did not
weigh anchor till 3 o'clock Monday
afternoon. In just 26 hours
that is yesterday afternoon, at
5, with our decks black with
soldiers, the bands playing & chure
resounding, we steamed majestically
up this mighty river with the piers
of this great city crowded with
spectators. Thousands of the doublees
were mad to see us come. I have
written this in my shirt sleeve, expect
every minute the gong for breakfast. I give this
to a boy to mail, I will write again as soon as I can.



Mrs. Lansing Porter,

Auburn,

Cayuga Co. N. Y.