C

Steamer "Dew Drop", head of Sunflower
Bayou, Apl 12th 1863.

Dear Wife,

I have not the smallest idea when I can have an opportunity to send you a letter, but it is Sunday and I have a little leisure, So I will keep up the habit of holding a social chat with my dearest one. I can fancy it a talk & in that way enjoy, as in a dream, the pleasure of that which, if real would be almost perfect happiness. I wrote you a note after I started on this trip to let you know where I was going, & that I would be beyond the reach of mails. I am now at the head of navigation on these waters. In fact we are many miles higher than a steamboat ever ran before. This is the richest part of the Mip. bottom. We are eighteen miles South east from Yazoo Pass, and eight miles east of the Mip. River, and about two hundred miles, by water, from Vicksburg. My command is alone - there is no body of our troops in a hundred miles of us. Nearly all of the land in this part of the world is under water. Now and then we find a few fine farms above the water. We traveled over fifty miles in this narrow crooked stream, without seeing a foot of land. That being the condition of the country, the enemy though in less than a days march cannot get to us, except in small boats. At least I have as yet found no way to which

they can come in with their gun boats. The purpose of this expedition is to learn what the enemy are doing and what they could do in the way of bringing their boats into the Sunflower River. They are making no effort in that way at this time. We do not know at what time they may attempt it and are therefore particularly watchful.

There was a fight at Greenwood on the Yazoo the day after we started on this Expedition, but we have heard nothing of the result. In fact there is almost no communication between Vicksburg & this part of the State. This community is cut off from any trade with other people; but they have evidently been trading with the Yankees on the Mip. river. They have abundant supplies of coffee salt candles and all manner of provisions. I have not been very favorably impressed with the spirit of the people here. They have not felt the horrors of the war, nor even its hardships, and they seem inclined to keep aloof from the struggle. They are good Southern men, but prefer to exercise their patriotism at home. It is true that some of this young men are in the service - but many are not.

My health is excellent, and the health of the soldiers with me is good. This section is abundantly supplied with bread, bacon, beef, chickens, butter, eggs &c. &c. In fact we live better here than we have ever done since we left Kentucky. The prices too are much more moderate than at Vicksburg and other points where the troops are stationed.

I have met here with some Alabama families. The man who owns this landing is a Mr. Bobo from Lawrence Co — brother of the great Tavern Keeper, who lived near Brown's Ferry. The Trembles & Sevres of Franklin live near here.

"Then rest ye here till break of day" —

Tuesday Morning, Apl. 14th

This is a cold rainy morning. It is a real February morning, and pinches a little because of the pleasant open weather of last week.

The enemy are making no effort to get their boats into this stream up here. But they are sending a large force down the Miss. towards Vicksburg. I am growing anxious to return to the points where the mails run. I want to hear from my dear ones. I was at the house of Mr. Bobo yesterday and saw his little boy, about Frank's age — and as I fancied, there was some resemblance. How I long to see my children & their mother! But I can see no prospect of being with you soon. I really expect the war to last during Lincoln's administration.

Good-bye & May the Lord bless you all.

Your affectionate hus-band

Edmd W Pettus