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Thomas L. Evans letter to his brother from Milliken's Bend, April 13, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Millikens Bend Apr. 19th 1863

Dear Brother

It has been some time since I got a letter from you so I take this rainy night to let you know that you owe me one & I am sure then that I will get one for I know you will not object to paying your honest debts. We have had fine weather for sometime until Saturday it was very warm & like a warm day it brought forth rain at night. & we have had a rainy muddy time of it since. It is raining hard now & mud here is so sticky I think it would not be hard work to make bricks of it even without straw. This is just the kind of weather we may expect orders to move & we are not disappointed this time for to day we received orders to be ready to move tomorrow morning at 8.

The place of our destination is

Carthage or thereabouts it is some
20 or 30 miles back in the country
& we will have a terrible muddy
march to get there & perhaps a
mud-hole to camp in when we
stop. Leaving our present camp will
be a little like leaving the comforts
of home. To give up our dry floor
and lie on the ground. To give up
our seats and tables & sit on the
ground & eat off our laps &c. &c.

But such are the fortunes of war
It is thought by some that we
will go into camp at Carthage as we
have been here, by others it is
thought we in connection with
the heavy forces which have already
gone on in that direction will
push on to the river below
Nicksburg, & perhaps a crop it. So little
do we know of the work before
us. There were several Gunboats
& several thousand troops came down
the river to day. They went on down
& more are still passing, you know
just as much about where they
came from & where they are going
as I do, But it looks like work
I raining with such a dash my paper is getting wet

Apr 14th

This has been a drying day after raining hard all night. but we have not moved yet but are going to move in the morning.

Our communication with home will not be so prompt now for a while so you need not be surprised if you don't hear from me for a while again & if you do hear from Dickburg.

We drew our pay to day and send home \$550 to father.

I have nothing more to write but don't be uneasy if you don't hear from me for a while again & be slow to believe any evil rumor about the ninety sixth that you may hear. We will come out all right. Write soon & often.

Your affectionate Brother Thomas

Millikens Bend, Apr. 13th, 1863.

Dear Brother:

It has been some time since I got a letter from you so I take this rainy night to let you know that you owe me one and I am sure then, that I will get one for I know you will not object to paying your honest debts. We have had fine weather for sometime until Saturday it was very warm and like a warm day, it brought forth rain at night and we have had a rainy, muddy time of it since. It is raining hard now and mud here is so sticky, I think it would not be hard work to make a brick of it even without straw. This is just the kind of weather we may expect orders to move and we are not disappointed this time for to-day we received orders to be ready to move to-morrow morning at 7.

The place of our destination is Carthage or thereabouts. It is some 20 or 30 miles back in the country and we will have a terrible muddy march to get there and perhaps a mudhole to camp in when we stop. Leaving our present camp, will be a little like leaving the comforts of home. To give up our dry floors and lie on the ground, to give up our seats and tables and sit on the ground and eat off our laps, etc., but such are the fortunes of war.

It is thought by some that we will go into camp at Carthage as we have been here; by others it is thought we, in connection with the heavy forces which have already gone on in that direction, will push on to the river below Vicksburg and perhaps across it. So little do we know of the work before us. There were several Gunboats and several thousand troops came down the river to-day. They went on down and more are still passing. You know just as much about where they came from and where they are going as I do but it looks like work. It is raining with such a dash, my paper is getting wet.

Apr. 14th.

This has been a drying day after raining hard all night but we have not moved yet but are going to move in the morning.

Our communication with home will not be so prompt now for a while so you need not be surprised if you don't hear from me for a while again and if you do hear from Vicksburg.

We drew our pay to-day and send home \$350 to father.

I have nothing more to write but don't be uneasy if you don't hear from me for a while again and be slow to believe any evil rumor about the ninety sixth that you may hear. We will come out alright. Write soon and often.

Your affectionate Brother,

Thomas.