

6-11-1863

Thomas L. Evans letter to his sister from camp near Vicksburg, June 11, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Trident near Tacksburg
June 11th 1863.

Dear Sister

This is a beautiful day. Yesterday & last night we had a heavy rain which made it very muddy. To day it is clear & the wind is drying up & the air seems clear & pure & the dust which has bothered us so much since we have been here will not trouble us again for a few days. We still keep our old position have our tents pitched which keep us dry & which keep off the hot sun through the day.

We have fancy beds made of cane. We drive stakes ^{forks} in the ground as high as we want our bed. Then lay a ~~fine~~ stick across at the head and foot & on those instead of laying boards which we have not we cut cane and lay on them weaving the strips together with bark & tying them to the cross pieces to keep them from sliding off. On this we spread our blankets & have as nice a bed as man need want

Indeed I don't know how sound
I would sleep or whether I would
wake up at all or not if I had a
better one. - During the past day
or two while it rained things
have been pretty quiet along our lines
except the mortar boats which as
the boys say have been playin
base for our amusement. But to
day they are firing away again
pretty lively & how long they will
have to continue before the rebs
will give up is hard to tell but I
would not be surprised that they
would surrender any day.

Here is the news boy and I must
stop & ^{read} hear the news.

Nothing very exciting this time. It is
strange how we look for great news
every day after knowing that we
have gained at least something.
But we must be patient
(Labor & Wait).

I expect you have fine times
teaching this ^{summer} - You know you like
the trade so well you cannot help
enjoy it. Is it not fine to spend the
day amid the confusion of a houseful of
children? After spending the day this

Field near Vicksburg.

June 11thm 1863.

Dear Sister:

This is a beautiful day. Yesterday and last night we had a heavy rain which made it very muddy. To-day, it is clear and the mud is drying up and the air seems clear and pure and the dust which has bothered us so much since we have been here, will not trouble us again for a few days. We will keep our old position, have our tents pitched which keep us dry and which keep off the hot sun through the day.

We have fancy beds made of cane. We drive forks in the ground as high as we want our bed then lay a stick across at the head and foot and on those, instead of laying boards which we have not, we cut cane and lay on them - weaving the strips together with bark and tying them to the cross pieces to keep them from sliding off. On this we spread our blankets and have as nice a bed as man need want. Indeed I don't know how sound I would sleep or whether I would wake up at all or not if I had a better one. During the past day or two while it rained, things have been pretty quiet all along our lines except the mortar boats which as the boys say, have been playin base for our amusement but to-day they are firing away again pretty lively and how long they will have to continue before the rebs will give up, is hard to tell but I would not be surprised that they would surrender any day.

Here is the news boy and I must stop and read the news.

Nothing very exciting this time. It is strange how we look for great news every day after knowing that we have gained at least something but we must be patient. (Labor and wait.)

I expect you have fine times teaching this summer. You know you like the trade so well you cannot help enjoy it. Is it not fine to spend the day amid the confusion of a houseful of children? After spending the day thus