

[LETTER 6]

Near Vicksburg
July 1st

My Dear Wife

I honestly feel like scolding a little this morning. I am out of humor and as you used to say feel much like "spitting". I can't account for the non receipt of letters Mails come in almost daily. I watch eagerly for the carrier as he rides up with his bag open one package after another but am always doomed to disappointment Jim has also been equally as unfortunate Make Annie write when you can't spare the time ___ her that's duty if nothing else should prompt her to miss me. I feel so woe-be gone at not hearing from you my own dear child. Yesterday I heard that Capt Hopkins of my rgt [regiment] had just returned from St. Louis Of Course I suspected something I hastened over to his camp and was told the same old story - no letters The Capt said he had seen Ben a day or two before leaving and that all were well. Try and keep up your spirits - my own dear child. Do this for Binnis sake. I should be un happy indeed were I to think that you were miserable There seems to be almost perfect quiet along the lines this morning. Yesterday the rebs raised a white flag and all supposed that it was an indication of surrender. We all crowded on the hills to watch the course of Affairs It turned out to merely a flag of truce sent by the secesh [secessionist] for the purpose of passing their English subjects through the lines two men and one woman. The excuse given was that the woman was about having a baby and was anxious to leave the town. Gen Grant sent them back with remark that Vicksburg was quite large enough for one woman to have a baby in. Each night bring in quite a number of deserters They all have the same tale of scarcity

of food etc. We still continue to dig away
at our rifle pits and before many day are
past we will be in such a position that
we can force them to surrender food or no
food. The days are quite warm but the
nights are so cool that blankets are in re-
quisition. I don't expose myself much with
to the sun or night air. I try and take a
ride once a day for health or pleasure
I miss my home very much. I do so hope
you have not delayed in sending them[?]
down. Nothing new has transpired this
morning. Write often my own dear
child Hug the children. Love to dear
Mother Ma Annie. Remember me
to the servants

Truly yours
Binnie