

Pensacola Fla  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 1862

J.A. Roosevelt Esq  
Dear Sir—

The U.S. steamer transport Philadelphia has just arrived with the 91<sup>st</sup> N.Y. and as she sails early in the morning I take this opportunity of writing you.

I presume you have ere this read of our occupation of this City, for such as regards numbers of houses it is but there are but few (say 200 inhabitants) left here now—however this gives our men fine quarters so I shall make any regrets on that score. The Enemy are quite near us and we are continually bothered by the long [ ] every day or two. We captured several of their men including a cavalry Serg't—they say we shall be attacked in a few days don't believe it. Our Reg't is in the advance, none have yet been picked off. I rode 2 miles before the pickets but nary ball did they send after me, still I am positive they are on the lookout. I understand that they will not be backward in picking off your humble servant as they know I had the extreme pleasure of arresting or capturing a supposed spy which of course they don't appreciate, at least he don't and by his actions I guess he won't forget it, but they like to “Blow” or “Bragg” much.

In regard to the Allotment Rolls I spoke to both Col Wilson & to the officers of the 75<sup>th</sup> Regt, they had it seems had them sent before but did not do any thing about it on acct of being only paid once in 4 months—the 75<sup>th</sup> officers say that their men send all their money home and that as they will only be paid twice more while in service they think it useless. Our men the Col says send all of theirs home—the Regt sent by mail over 30,000 dollars to their friends last pay day.

I did my best toward putting it through but some one else had been to see about it and it failed, it would have been a good thing if broached sooner but we are so far off that it is apparently no use pushing it further. You will be kind enough to mention this to your Bro. Mr Theodore Roosevelt.

A Rebel captured yesterday says we may expect an attack tonight.

The long looked for Pay Master delays his visit, though he will certainly be here next [ ], then I shall feel easy once again.

I am saving something toward going into business when this war is over, my ambition is to open a Book Store in some city—of 20,000 inhabitants or more. This has been my wish for two or three years, but my scanty earnings were all eat up by my losing my sight. Mr. Woods (book store) is apt from what he says to give me an opportunity of trying to start. I still believe in my old motto those who help themselves also are the only ones who succeed. I often thought long and [ ] whether or not my [ ] would permit of my success and I now conclude that it is undoubtedly the business for me and that soldiering is not. I may possibly be brave enough, I may do all that is expected of me, but yet I am still turning toward some quiet business where I can feel independent of all.

Hoping I may have a line occasionally

I remain your  
Obd't Servant

Oliver Matthews