

Headquarters, Defenses New Orleans
New Orleans, July 13 1864

My dear sir

I rec'd a few days since a letter from Genl Dow, who it seems is intending to come out to this out of the way Dept. He spoke of having written you a letter which I hope you have rec'd.

The only excitement here is the great expedition, the destination of which none seem to be aware of. Madam Rumor says Fortress Monroe, perhaps she's right. Some hint at Mobile, others think Mobile is played out etc, so everyone guesses and none know. The heat is "perfectly awful." The mosquitoes are terrible and the innumerable "big and little" bugs are only to be compared to the Egyptian plague, or the copperhead of New York City.

The health of the city is good—comparatively—and there has been no official report of yellow fever as yet, although I have heard that there were quite a number of cases. At Key West the deaths arising from it have been numerous, as high as an officer a day for "5 days running" in one Regt (1 Col. 1 Adj, 2 Capts and 1 1st & 1 2nd Let). I am in hopes we may escape it this year. I am so long in the office each day that I am nearly used up. I go to the office at 8 am and remain until 5 and 6 pm and often until 10 pm., which in this climate is too much, but I can not get through with the work to suit me unless I do.

Genl Sickles is here, I think inquiring into this Red River Expedition. Genl Davis is also here, I think Genl Franklin will at least I hope so. If I get my commission as Major I shall make another effort to join it. There is plenty of time yet before it actually goes into active campaigning.

The boys are of course devising some new methods to have "such jolly times" and Mrs Roosevelt is looking out for the interest of the soldiers, so all goes greatly as usual.

I send you papers still which I hope you receive I receive yours as usual and many thanks for them.

With best wishes for yourself and family
I remain as ever
Yours sincerely
Oliver Matthews
AAG