

wounded that I should need some money, for I lost
my pocket book & over \$70 that day - all I had in fact.
I had to borrow \$40 to meet my expenses, such as Mess
bill, clothes from Dr. Master, (those I had on in the fight were
totally ruined & had to be thrown away) Hospital bill &c, and
I shall have to borrow more when I get down to M.O.
to pay my board & get what I need there. I think
however that \$70 or \$75 will be all I shall need & I
shall spend as little as possible of course. If I were
able to go back to the office for a month I could easily
make it, but I'm afraid I shall not be able to do that
for some little time. I think Govt. will furnish
me with transportation but I am not quite certain. If not
I shall of course visit more. From letters I have received from
Mother I learn that you have written to me to come home
I have only rec'd two letters from you lately - one of the
10th May, (rec'd on 22nd) & the other 16th May received on 14th of
June. Neither of these letters said anything about my return
but merely told me what was going on with the troops &c. I
have had a number of letters I feel quite sure for
I cannot understand several things which are spoken
of in my letters (the ones I have got) as if I knew all about
them. However I am coming home now at any rate.

Give my love to Mother, Grandmother & the boys

Your loving son
Appleton.

Hospital & Baton Rouge La.
Hotel de Folie
June 25th 1863.

June 25th 1863
Dear Father

I have written you & Mamma quite a number
of notes since I left New Orleans in order to keep you
posted as to my personal affairs & things. I had to
yesterday however that although the mails were sent
from New Orleans same as usual, no letters from
Port Hudson or from "up river" were allowed to go until
the affair was settled one way or the other. In this
case you of course have not heard from me since
the last of May for I went to Springfield Landing on
the 30th May on my way to the front. I expect to
be sent to some place in Louisiana & I shall have
as to be able to mail this letter immediately upon
my arrival. I cannot tell what is allowed
to be published about Port Hudson & therefore do
not know how much you may have heard, or what
list of killed & wounded has been sent North. I do
know however that it will not be a correct one
for we have lost too heavily for it to be acknowledged.

I was wounded in the leg on Sunday morning the 14th inst. while with Gen. Paine, on whose staff I was acting. I am getting along very well & hope to be able to get off the bed in the course of a week. I shall have to use a crutch for a month or six weeks I presume but as the bone was not injured I have no fear but what I shall recover the full use of the limb in time. It makes me very helpless now as a matter of course but there is no use in being "down on your luck", and the great wonder to me has been how I got off as I did. We went up under the hottest fire that could be brought to bear on one little spot. The place was enfiladed by a cross fire from five different points & it was nothing but "ping! ping! ping!" as the bullets flew past & struck all around. I was hit eight times, counting the balls which struck my sabre, & cut my clothes, & got off with a Minnie ball in the leg! You may judge of the fire when I tell you that the 4th Wis. Vol. took 210 men in & brought out 102, and the 8th Hamp. Vol. took in 224 & came out with 93. Our division lost 823 men, & remember the whole of it

was not under fire. The 3rd Brigade lost 920 men & never fired a shot. Gen. Paine fell (also hit in the leg,) five minutes after I did, & from that time everything went wrong. The skirmishers were not supported & the advance was stopped. Of course we were beaten, while at the same time Wittge (on our right) was driven back, & that ended the fight for that day. It was a mere slaughter pen that we got into but I'd believe that if Paine had not been wounded we should have taken the place. The troops will go anywhere with him for he is known as the fighting man of the Division & as one who can say "come on", but over, "go on."

This is the fourth hospital I have been in since that day but I shall be very glad when I get out of them all & back to Mrs. Pipers. As soon as I am able to travel I am coming home, for the doctors tell me I must have change of air & get strength before my leg will really get sound, & besides that I feel that the climate here is affecting me more than I thought for. It will be some little time yet however & probably the 20th or 25th July before it will be safe for me to travel alone. I must wait moreover until I can hear from you. I write when I was first