

lonely yards I ever saw since here  
Arrived at Alex. about 8 1/4 o'clock  
Went on board the boat expecting it  
to leave but in this were disappointed.  
Alexandria is not so large as I  
expected to find it I seemed no larger  
than it did <sup>(nearly)</sup> twenty years ago.  
Called at Mr Robertson's store to see him  
He lived out of town & as his wife  
was not well did not stay much  
in town. Bought "Ben Loh" & employed  
my time pleasantly reading it. Wrote  
home to Betty also to Lin.

May 22. Remained on board the boat (Doctor  
Batey) all day reading. Took a walk late  
in the evening down the river. Saw some pretty res-  
idences. May 23. To day it rained.

all day. After finishing "Ben Loh" I  
wrote to dear Bessie & enclosed a spray  
of arbutus gathered in yesterday's  
walk. Became very much wearied  
with staying at Alexandria, & being  
deceived about getting off.

This evening Lieut. Rich took a party  
of ten men & went on board the  
Grand Duke to compel her to  
take us.

May 24. The Grand Duke is stirring  
up & taking in wood & we expect  
to be off in a short time, but it  
is probable we may be disappointed  
again. Orders came for us to remain  
on the "Dr Batey" as the Grand Duke  
would take provisions & beef cattle.

for the army at Corinth & might  
pass fearing to be going to N. O.  
as Gen Butler allowed all boats  
carrying provisions to pass down.  
Got off at sundown, ran down  
to the cattle pens waited awhile  
on the Duke & left, running 22  
miles. We then tied up waiting  
for the Duke who was to precede  
us. May 28. Grand Duke did  
not come up until late in the evening.  
We had run about 50 miles &  
were wooding & waiting for the Duke.  
While we were wooding two men  
passed down in a yawl & being  
suspected by Maj Dawson who  
was A Master & in command, we

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got up steam<sup>35</sup> & over hauled them  
brought them on board & went  
back to the wood yard. One  
of them had no pass but I  
think their intentions<sup>were</sup> good.  
They were going to N. O. to their  
families. After the Duke passed  
we followed. Red River  
below this point had overflowed  
its banks. The water was running  
all over the country, fields, yards  
& even in the houses. Those fam-  
ilies that remained moved from  
place to place in boats. I saw  
a <sup>man</sup> ~~man~~ <sup>about</sup> dressing cans.  
Hogs were swimming about & poor cattle  
& horses up to their sides in water.

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All the stock must perish.  
About dark entered the mouth of  
Black River which is formed by  
Little River, Washita <sup>Quadrata</sup> & Texas.  
We ran up a few hundred yds  
& tied up. Found the blake there.  
We were 100 miles from Alexandria.  
The color of the water was dirty  
brown from the concretion of  
Black & Red Rivers. Red river much  
narrower than at Alexandria & had  
no current as it was backed up  
by the Mississippi. Eight or ten miles from  
Black River ran through a raft  
440 yds long of heavy timber com-  
pletely stopping up the river.  
We had not been tied up but a

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little while <sup>37</sup> I had fallen  
asleep when I was awoken by the  
men running over me, & all were  
calling out "a boat, a gun boat".  
I quietly asked them not to run  
over me & started to lay down.  
Knowing that no enemy's boat  
would run up such a crooked  
stream at night but I was sur-  
prised so much I got up & went  
on hurricane deck to the pilot house  
and kept a look out down the river.  
In the mean time we had run  
a mile up Black river. Maj. Dawson  
went down in a yawl to reconnoitre  
& make signals. Several thought that  
signals were made to go up higher

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I saw none. Presently I saw a  
light down the river & asked the  
pilot. He waited a while &  
said it was a boat coming up. At  
first we thought it the Duke but he  
soon told by his puffing that it  
was a little boat called Homer  
going from Atchafalaya Bayou  
up Black River. The fear being at  
laid we tied up & went to sleep.  
May 26. Started at sunrise ran  
back up Red River a mile  
to get a little flat bottomed steam  
boat. The intention was to go up  
Black & Texas & take the flat  
to go from Texas across the rap.  
All the country was under water.  
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Stopped for the night at Trinity  
at the confluence of Little Ouachita  
& Texas Rivers. The town was all under  
water. Ran up Ouachita 15 or 20 miles  
to Harrisonburg & delivered the cattle.  
Harrisonburg was dry ground. The  
only piece seen since leaving a  
point 60 miles below Alexandria.  
Returned & went up Texas 40  
miles & up Chuckta Bayou 15  
miles on Dr. Brady & then got on  
the little steam flat. Some spar  
ring between Lieut Rich & Maj. Daw  
son about all getting on.  
Stopped for the night on the bayou  
6 miles from Mississippi. Slept on  
the pilot house. Some went ashore.  
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May 28. Got up early & started  
up the Bayou. Ran a few miles  
& waited until a party went  
towards the Mississippi distant  
3 miles & make a reconnaissance  
& saw the Provost Marshal who  
would endeavor to get a ferry  
boat to take us over. Waited  
until in the evening ran up  
a lane for a mile & a half  
on the flat & then went to land  
in the canoes. Camped near  
Prof. Preston's. Had a very uncomfortable  
night in consequence of mosquito  
May 29. By 10 o'clock this morning  
Prof. Preston had 3 wagons to move us to  
the ferry. He was very kind to us;  
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He has a fine place & splendid gun  
& great mill propelled by steam  
In going to the River we passed  
two miles through a splendid  
farm of Mr. Bass, a single man.  
It was but little overplanted  
although the river was 20 inches  
higher than ever known. All that  
we could see was in corn and  
looked beautiful. Got on the River  
2 miles above Water Proof at 11 o'clock.  
Ran down the Mississippi  
6 miles & then up Cold Creek to  
Bever's Landing 4 miles. When we  
took the boat was on island  
& the stream we were on was narrow  
not being the main one & thus we  
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