

[Transcribed from photocopy]

Office of Surgeon in Chief
Third Division, Seventeenth Army Corps
Vicksburg, Miss. Aug. 8. 1863

Dear Brother and all Relatives

I write you this evening because I just recd [*received*] a letter from Emma saying that on the 17 July 1863 it being Friday morning 5 o'clock A.M. a beautiful babe was born unto [Sil---] making our household consist of 4 girls & one boy. Mother & Daughter doing well. My little folks are in great [extac---] over the tiny adventurer and Mary - our youngest until the babe - says many very smart, independent. Things concerning baby and all together I presume Mrs Emma is having a great season of joy over her

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responsible family relations & Sile sits at a distance and photographs on his mind's background his interest in Decatur with liquid drops (of sweat- for it is awful hot here now) upon his face swears low but deep every time he sees a rebel and loud and long when he hears of a copperhead. The tune of sycophants & wheedling blatant cowardly lying beggars here is You have subdued us and now have every opportunity to show that you are charitable. It would do you good to see the She Schivalry come in & ask for "hard tack and sowbelly" as the soldiers say all in their fine carriages driven by themselves. I hear their left handed compliments concerning the powers which made their darky drivers leave them. They insist that the rations issued should

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comprise butter, tea, coffee &c [*etc*] but Gen. Grant they are now better fed than when he found them & being methodistick [*Methodist*] in his discipline he prefers taking them to the Union altar [*altar*] on Probation a& as their Union faith grows so will the feed increase. Grant is a great man as his Vicksburg Campaign plainly shows. He has been a good boy and learned his lessons well since Shiloh and although I once complained bitterly of him yet his recent developments show finely & cover up a multitude of remissness and at present I would trust him sooner than any General now or at any other time since this rebellion broke out in the field. He has hard sense & knows what the movements against

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by the enemy is better than any man I ever saw. In fact it looks occasionally like prophecy to hear him tell where the enemy was what doing by whom commanded & their forces. Hoorah for Grant. I want to follow him to Charleston & wish they would send him & his army there. Today & yesterday I have been visiting John Trowbridge who is here close by & quite sick with bilious fever & a bad diarrhea. But he is much better today & will be better in a day or two. He is in the 94 Ill. [*Illinois*] & now detailed to Gen. Herron's Division Hospital as Steward his son Billy is with the Regiment & that is in New Orleans. But John said today that they were ordered back up to Port Hudson to go by land to the rear of Mobile. I saw Minor Ellis of Co. K 69 Ind [*Indiana*] & Captain Jessie Holton today just as they were putting on boats for Port Hudson also. Minor was looking rather slim from fever and diarrhea but was well enough to return to duty. Holton looked better than usual. Minor Thomas had just gone home on "five percent furlough of merit" from his regt [*regiment*]. I saw no other old acquaintances. Give my compliments to all inquiring friends and relatives accept my everlasting regards. Write soon as
Your affectionate brother
S. T. Trowbridge