

1865

New Orleans, April 4  
Dear wife I write you  
a few lines from this  
place to let you know that  
I am still well and good  
spirits I have enjoyed good  
health ever since I left home  
excepting some cold we started  
from Cairo on last Sunday  
morning and arrived at this place  
on Sunday night we had a tolerable  
pleasant trip down the river  
excepting one ship wreck which  
happened the first night after  
we left Cairo just below New  
Madrid the Boats run against  
a snag and knocked a hole in  
her and come very near  
sinking her if it had not been  
for the soldiers she would  
have sunk but we went to

work and throwed over a  
lot of freight and they got the  
Pumps to work and saved her  
from sinking we laid over  
a bout twelve hours and then  
started down the river the  
country down along the river  
looks very desolate most all  
the houses are burnt down  
and the river is all over the  
bottoms till we got below  
Vatohere and then <sup>the</sup> country  
began to look better there  
is some fine looking <sup>plantations</sup> down  
about this place this is a  
large place appears to be a  
good deal of business I am  
heare we do not know how  
long we will have to stay in  
this place we go from heare  
to Hoboale per haps we will  
start from heare to day they  
are fighting at this time than

we do not know with what  
success as yet the papers think  
we will have the place soon  
I hope it will be so I care wife  
I want you to keep in good  
spirits as you can I still feel  
in hopes we will not have to  
stay our years out perhaps  
we will have to stay the whole  
years I trust our heavenly  
father will still preserve  
my health and permit me  
to arrive safe home take  
good care of our dear little  
one and make yourself as  
comfortable as you can  
I want you to take what  
money you want to make  
you comfortable I want you  
to write as soon and as often  
as you can I want to hear  
from your fathers let me  
know how they are taken <sup>with</sup> you

I have not heard from  
any of you since I  
left excepting Hutcheson  
he wrote to me that he  
had sent the money home  
to father & the  
Baby for me &

Remaine your affectionate

Husband

Wm. H. Coy

Direct to Me  
Co. E 47 Regiment  
Ill not via Cairo  
Illinois