

Belmont, Mo. March 10<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Brother as I have an  
oppertunity of writeing to you I take  
My pen in hand to write these few lines  
to you for to let you know that I am well  
at present and hopeing that these few  
lines will find you and family the  
Same. We left Virginia the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb  
eight hundred strong and march to  
Washington and took the cars for Baltimore  
We had no arms but revolver we march  
through Baltimore and had a good  
time I seen a great deal of the country  
we went through Penn. Indiana  
Ohio Illinois we stop at upwards  
of fifty towns and city and was

kindly receive going through Ohio  
the wemon came to runing out with  
loaves of bread and butter and gave  
us they are mostly Irish and duch  
we arrive at Cairo after a passage  
of four days and Join the fleet destination  
for New Orleans Some of the boys went  
In gun boats and Some in Mortor boat  
I am in a Morter boat No 11 first division  
there is four from the 6<sup>th</sup> Maine with  
me the crew numbers 14<sup>th</sup> all told  
we have the best of time we advance  
of Columbus KY and took it it being  
avacuated that night the rebels  
went of in a hurry leaveing all theire  
guns and amunition behind them  
we had one small skermish here lately  
we kill five and took twelve presioner  
our lost was three kill we expect to  
move on amediately we are perfectly  
Safe in the mortar boat we stand  
three and a half miles of and shell  
the shell weighs 221b? when filled

ton  
the Mortar 17,196 lb we fifty of that  
Sort we expect to be discharge  
from this service in two months  
as all the rebels hole on the  
Miss. will be taken Nashville is  
taken and we are going to take  
Memphis the rebels is about dead  
I seen fifteen thousand rebel prisoioner  
taken at fort Doleson  
the weather is quite cool here  
My best respect to all inquireing  
friend No more at present write  
Soon Direct to me  
In C. No 11 Morter Boat

Care Comadore Foote

Cairo

III.

I remain your affectionate

Brother

Amos Downing