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OCTO. 25. 1863  
Barre Croquette Bayou

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VERMONT

I have not much store of news to  
write you, nor am I much in the mood  
for writing. But I know that if you  
do not hear from me [once a week] you  
will think I am not keeping my promise  
& so I set down on a nail with my feet  
towards the fire & attempt to tell you how  
I am & what I am about. We are now  
8 miles from Opelousas (beyond) the place where  
Capt. Craig died when we were here before  
& no one seems to know where we are  
going or what we are to do. The water  
is so low that boats can not come here,  
or near here from N.O. & the roads are  
so bad that a supply of food cannot be brought  
by wagons & so we lay up for a week or  
so until we get two or three days rations  
ahead & then march one or two days &  
wait again.