



SCENE ON THE HURRICANE DECK OF THE "NORTH STAR."--SOLDIERS OF THE FORTY-FIRST MASSACHUSETTS WRITING HOME ON THEIR ARRIVAL OFF SHIP ISLAND.—FROM A SKETCH BY F. H. SCHELL.

Letter writing days were periodical in certain parts of the country, especially the far South. The mails were dispatched whenever there were vessels going north under convoy. Soldiers' letters, of course, contained some military secrets in the shape of semi-official rumors. The correspondence sent home from the camps was not always grammatical or finished in a literary sense, but it was from the seat of war and therefore welcome in the homes of the absent ones. If the gems from it all could be gathered into a volume there would be the most wonderful collection of war stories ever compiled. The Union soldiers were deeply smitten with the "scribbles itch," and nothing escaped their keen observation. No detail of army life or experience was too trifling for their pens.



ADVANCE UPON PORT HUDSON.—BAGGAGE TRAIN OF GENERAL AUGUR'S DIVISION CROSSING BAYOU MONTECINO, MARCH 13, 1863.
FROM A SKETCH BY W. F. SCHELL.