

On board Steamer Ames

Mississippi River

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

My Darling.

I am not sure I can write so you can read it. The boat stops so. And then the passengers are moving ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> front. Every man seems to be moving in every direction at the same time. There are not many soldiers on board. One Co of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Cav. and two or three Detachments like ours, all moving for the front. I see but few soldiers going South. That is a good sign. I would much rather see them going to the front. Would it you? I saw Jake Grimes in Keokuk. He is looking tolerably though I know he is not well. Not near fit for military duty. He seems to be doing very well for himself. Has no duty to do and is furnished with a good room and all the Medical Books he wants to read. He attends Medical lectures every day. E. C. Phillips says he is a favorite and is favored. I am glad of it, because he can't do duty in the Army, and he might as well be studying as doing nothing. He is as patient as ever. He thinks a great deal of Uncle Abe

While I think of it lets talk a little about Uncle  
Abraham, though perhaps you are as well posted  
in regard to his course with Major Gen Blair as  
I am. If you are so you like it? Do you think  
the President of the United has acted wisely, in as-  
signing him to duty, on his old Commission. You will  
see by the President's explanation, that Blair wished to  
take his seat in Congress, but that he did not want  
to give up his Commission in the Army, so he went  
to the President and told him, that he wished to  
go to Congress, but that he wanted the matter so ar-  
ranged as to enable him to enter the field again at his pleas-  
ure. The thing was so arranged, and the Gen. spent the  
winter in Washington, a very nice place you know tho'to  
stop for a few months. During that time he has shown  
himself to be the bitterest enemy the Secretary  
of Treasury has in the whole Country. And after he had  
so shown himself the President sent him to the field.  
But you will see he has been to St Louis on his  
Major Gen Commission, making political speeches.  
But may I tell it must aim. Uncle Abe has done  
wrong. He cant carry Blair and the Conservative, Pro-  
slavery, Rebel party in Missouri, and all the other mother  
or lay States on his shoulders.

We are all getting a long very well. My health  
is first rate. never better. The boys are all well  
Corpl. Markler is getting a long letter than I expected  
he would. He has been a little serious this afternoon  
but is all right now. About 3 o'clock this P.M. he  
said he would like very much to be at home until  
tomorrow morning. The boys are all cheerful, and have  
a good deal of fun. From present indications we are not  
going to get up with our regiment very soon. We  
will have to go to Little Rock, and wait until the  
regiment returns, or go through with a supply  
train. Our camp is all standing, as it was when  
I left it last November. I met Mr Wolfe - our  
sutler in St Louis. He was there buying goods  
Nov. 20th. This sheet you see is nearly full, and  
I mailed you a letter yesterday at the St City. This  
makes either the fifth or sixth letter - such as they  
have been - that I have written you since I left home.  
That is one nearly every day. Henry and I are going  
to inquire at Cairo tomorrow for letters. We think  
we will get one or two.

Before I go to bed Dottie, give me goodly kisses.  
You know I want 'em. God bless my Dottie  
(I can't read this love) Verminian

Steamer Ames

Mississippi River

May 2<sup>d</sup> / 854

My Darling

We are now lying at Cairo Ills  
We landed here about two o'clock this P.M. The  
boatmen have been taking on freight ever since  
I thought were heavily loaded before but there  
is no telling how much a large boat like this can  
carry. There are now about eight hundred troops  
on board. Some five or six hundred of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Michigan heavy Artillery came aboard late this  
afternoon. They are nearly all new recruits and they  
think they know it all. When they first came  
on board, they all rushed into the Cabin, and inquired  
whether they should put their baggage. What a question  
for a soldier to ask!

The men all disappointed when we got here. Each  
one of us expected a letter from home, but each one  
didn't get a letter, so each one is disappointed. The next  
Chance man will be at Memphis, and I expect to meet  
with some luck there. I know you have written, but I  
think I am getting a head of the letter.

But I am going to inquire at Memphis his & Helena. Perhaps  
I will get me at one of the other places. I don't know when  
I will get there. Perhaps on the day after tomorrow  
I will see something on our trip down of any importance  
after we get to St Louis. Cairo is a hard place harder  
than you can very well imagine. This night is no  
good, so I will quit until morning.

May 8<sup>th</sup>

My Darling, We are traveling slowly. We left  
Cairo about 10 o'clock this P M, and are now stop-  
ping at New Madrid. We will get to Memphis  
Tomorrow about 3 o'clock P M, not before. We  
have seen nothing to day worth notice. I got a  
sight at Columbus Kentucky for the first time  
although I have passed it twice before but  
each time it was after night. I expected to see  
the town on the hills, but I was mistaken it is  
in the bottom with very high hills all around it  
which are covered with forts & batteries. Judging  
from the looks of the place, I should think it hard  
to take. We saw quite a number of troops, I could not  
tell how many. Our boat left two or three recruits  
who run off as soon as the boat landed. They will have  
lie over and get down the best they can

We have shoveled out again. The clerks and  
Cabin boys are making down beds in the  
in floor. I expect I will have to quit for to  
night. I will mail this as soon as I get to  
Memphis. That will be the first Post Office we will  
pass. I hope I will get a letter from you there  
I know you have written plenty of them, but I  
don't get them, I may be a head of all you have written  
Sometimes they remain for several days in the Dis-  
tributing Post Office at Keokuk. I will get  
one at Little Rock I am sure. The boat men have  
shut off the light so I must quit. Good by my  
Dollie I am quite well. Don't be uneasy. The  
boys are all well. I have heard nothing from the  
regiment since I left home. I was going to quit  
Goodly,

May 4<sup>th</sup>

We are nearly to Memphis. I can't write  
any more now. Goodly my Darling  
Vernie

Steamer Silver Lake

Memphis Tenn

May 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

Rollie

We arrived here about 3 o'clock this P. M. all right. The news from below is not good. Gen. Steele has fallen back to Little Rock. He had a close run with the rebels Gen. Smith and Price. He got there but six hours ahead. The rebels have captured all of his train, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Ind. Caval, the 7<sup>th</sup> Missouri Caval, the 6<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry, and the 2<sup>d</sup> Wisconsin Drifts. So you see the whole South Western thing is a failure. Banks failed, and then of course Gen. Steele failed. There are flying rumors that Oudalls Bluffs is in the hands of the rebels, but I don't quite credit the rumor. We will be held until something more definite is known of the condition of things in that region.

May 5<sup>th</sup> 64

Gen. Kimball came up the river last evening. The reports I understand <sup>are</sup> all confirmed, except the capture Oudalls Bluffs. The Gen. does not know that to be a fact.

We have no orders yet to go out. Though we may get this evening. From here out we are going to have poor accommodations. The State rooms were all taken before we came aboard. Perhaps some of the passengers may leave before we start, or they may drop off on the way. If they do we will try very hard to get a room. E. M. Clarty is here, and I understand will be aboard sometime this forenoon. I am not particular whether I see him or not. Capt Wright of our regiment has resigned, and left his wife and family. She is on board with his trunk & chest. They are bound for Little Rock. She is taking some good ant. I wish the Quarter Master had sent us by or on some other boat, for I think there are several hard character aboard.

I love you my Darling, I will not forget that Be cheerful. I must put this up. The boys are going to the Post Office. They are awaiting for this. I did not get any letter here. Perhaps I will at Helena. Direct your letters to the regiment Little Rock, just as you used to do.

Write after Dolie Sevelly  
Vernilion



(No 7)

Thursday Evening, May 5, 1864

My Dearest Love:

We are just done planting corn "to our house." We had a piece about as large as the garden and we planted it for roasting ears. I "dropped," and father covered it with his plow. We have everything planted now. I am glad of it, for the work seems pretty hard for me. I am lazy, darling. You have spoiled me, I'm afraid. Father is going to the office now, and <sup>I am</sup> going to send you a short letter by him. It can't be mailed till Saturday, but I may have no chance to send it down to-morrow. I intended going myself to-morrow evening just to take my letters for Saturday's mail, but it looks like rain, and I think it will be a bad day. I guess I had better make sure of even a bad chance. Lizzie went down for me last evening. She says Mary Wainen got two letters from Henry last mail. One was mailed at Clinton. So you were really gone from Iowa, my pet. I hoped you might stay a day or two at Keokuk, - though I knew there was no reason why you should. It seemed you were not quite gone from me as long as you were yet in Iowa. I am as uneasy as I can be about you, sweet love. I am afraid you are sick, and I am afraid of the guerrillos along the river. I am afraid you want go to Little Rock, and will be captured while trying to get to the Regiment. I shall not be contented a moment till I hear you have got through safely. I cont.

It is just beginning to rain. I'm afraid father can't go for the mail.

I feel mean, pet, to send you any a half sheet, but I will write another letter by Adams's mail if I can

You didn't tell me whether you were taking down any recruits, or how many were on your boat. I should like to know. I wish I knew whether you are going to Little Rock. I don't think you can get to the Regiment now. If there was any line open we could hear from them. I often think of Mrs. Drake, how uneasy she must be. I should like to see her. I wrote a long letter to Jane this morning. I didn't say a word to any of the rest - I didn't know what to say. I think, if Henry is able, he will be sure to go out now for this short term. I don't think any of the others will, for they hate Morton, and he is going himself, at the head of his twenty thousand. David Moiken has enlisted, I hear. The old gentleman will have to stay at home now, and he will have to stir out of his corner too, won't he? I expect to find him plowing the next time I go there. I feel a little sorry for him, pet, because he could be lazy with so good a grace! But David <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ to go I think. There is a war meeting at Corinth this evening. I guess father will know who are going when he gets back. The volunteers leave in a week, I believe. I suppose Merice will get a commission. I fear he don't deserve it. I don't know whether you have plenty to read, love, but I want to send you a couple of scraps. The letter is a fine thing and is "Lincoln" all through. I know of no man living who can put a case so forcibly and clearly as he can. Do you, darling? And what plain words he uses! haven't you noticed it? The poem is saddening, but you remember Miles O'Reilly don't you? I am quite well.

Write very often, my precious love. I write every day to you. Send long letters and kiss me always. I love you my pet. Goodbye. Your Dottie

Memphis Tenn.

May 5<sup>th</sup> / 1864

Collie.

We have just seen Capt Haden -  
ben Steeles chief of Artillery and he says  
Col Drake was killed at Solon River  
Arkansas on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. He was com-  
manding the Train that was captured  
I send you the Bulletin's report  
that is all I know about it. Only  
I hope it was only but a detachment  
of the Regiment that was captured

Tell the people I will write as soon  
as I can ascertain the facts. The 20<sup>th</sup> regt  
of Iowa troops spoken of is the 80<sup>th</sup>. The  
20<sup>th</sup> is not in that Army.

Truly my Darling  
Wm Vermilion

You see I have written you eight-letters since you started, pet. That is plenty  
I have five from you, and (No. 8) You dont know how I miss making  
I know there are more on the way somewhere. Thanks!  
the reports, and doing our business  
writing. I had got so used to doing it

Friday Afternoon, May 6, "1864

My Own Darling:

I received a letter - a good, dear letter - from  
you last night. It did me good, pet. It was written at St. Louis  
last Saturday. I wish I could know where you are now, dear one.  
You had a hard time of it at St. Louis. I was so sorry for you.  
I love you so tenderly that I cant bear hardly to think of your  
having any trouble or hardship to endure. I dont believe, love,  
that many women feel as I do in this respect. Got many  
love so much. I couldn't help crying because your feet hurt  
you so. Poor darling! And there was no one there cared much for  
you. But you know there is one who always cares for you, and al-  
ways thinks of you, and loves you more than her own life.

I am glad you were cheerful, and contented, though. It know that  
helps me to be cheerful too. I am a little afraid you didnt  
have a good boat, but it didnt make so much difference above  
Memphis. I am afraid of the guerrillas below there. I cant help it.

Father went to Cassin last evening. He saw eleven volunteers  
for one hundred days, sworn in. Mr. Stewart was one, and Jones  
and Eads and Mullinnix and John Pykes, and Ray Witten. I  
believe these are all I know. Will Phillips is going; and Steve  
Benson and Frank Gilbert are raising a squad. Mullinnix  
sent word to me to come and see him before he starts. He said  
he couldn't come here, as he was going to plant his corn before  
he goes. I will go I think, for he may want to make some arrange-  
ment about his note. I would like if he could. Wouldn't you? He  
wont get any bounty you know, only his pay.

I will write again to mamma, and every day. It is such a comfort to tell them my love.

We got a letter from Matt last night. He left Davenport two days after you did, going by way of Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville. He didn't know their destination, He was well. He had been paid, and expressed his money to Albie. Father is going for it soon. I suppose he can get yours then if Mr. Marthen don't go before. But it is safe in doubt. I am sorry you didn't have time to get the photographs, sweet love, but I know you couldn't help it. I won't tease you about it any more. You will get them for Pอลลie as soon as you can. I will wait. Did I tell you about the nice Album Matt sent me? I forget, but I expect I did, for I was greatly pleased with it. It will hold twenty-four pictures. Poor old fellow! I'm afraid he will never see it again. Somehow, darling, I don't feel like he will ever come back any more. But he may. God only knows. He told us a dreadful secret, love, about poor Jim Gleason. It shocked me, and I didn't get over it for days. I will tell you but you must never tell anybody. It is the "dead secret" of Co. "E"! Jim was not killed by the enemy, but by one of his own men! Young Cyrus Blue of Lagrange did it. It was an "accident" of course, but how it could happen none of them could understand. Matt and Jim were very near each other, and some paces in front of all the others. They had just reached a safe cover - a tree, and log - when they heard the report, and saw the flash of Blue's gun, and Jim was shot in the back! The poor fellow never knew whence the shot came. Blue took it terribly to heart, at first, and for his sake, and for the sake of Jim's friends, they vowed among themselves to keep it always a secret. It has been better kept than most secrets of that nature could be.

I believe Mrs. Gibbney would be croged if she knew it. I hope she never will. They fought over the dead body two days, and both his legs, and both his arms were shot off, and his head almost. This is part of the "secret," that they never tell. How Blue could come home, and mingle with Jim's friends as he did, and get married, and seem to enjoy himself quite as well as any of them, is the mystery, to me. There cannot be much sensitiveness about him. You wont speak of it to any one? You know I cant, pet darling, keep a secret from you, but we can keep one.

I wrote to Jane yesterday, and last night I got a letter from her. I have good news from her, and astonishing news too, my love. She is in Green castle going to the seminary! What do you think? She went with one of George Hurst's girls - Melissa, and is rooming at Mrs. Hibbs's, and Tom and Isiah are paying expenses! She said she knew I would think it very strange, and she thought it very strange herself. But they wanted to send her, and she wanted to go, and there she is. She seems delighted with everything. They are doing their own work. She learns rapidly. Is going another term. Are you not glad for our Ginny, my love? I am. I think I know just how it came about. Your writing to Jane last winter and offering her a home, and protection, and all the money she wanted shes made Tom and Isiah ashamed of themselves. I hope, too, it opened their eyes till they could see themselves as we saw them. They know Jane has shined and worked for them for years - ever since she was born almost - while she did nothing for you, and none of them did anything for you. And then for you to make such an offer was enough to arouse their pride, if nothing else.

the mother is present. My father is very good, only I am often in my  
I am sure nothing but this has done it, and I should <sup>not</sup> be sur-  
prised if it has done them almost as much good, as it has  
Jenny. They were so wrapped up in selfishness that they never  
thought perhaps how they were all breaking that child's spirit  
ruining her temper, and sapping the very springs of her life.  
I opened her eyes, and made her ready to take advantage of  
the first chance to escape, and now, thank fortune, she has escaped.  
They will never fetter her down again. If she ever loves deeply  
her husband might be able to do that, no one else ever can. I  
know the sort of soul she has, too well, to be afraid for her now.  
I am just as <sup>glad as</sup> I could be, dearest, if she were my own sister - and she is.  
When she leaves school she will be more willing than ever to come  
to us, and she will bring us much more pleasure. She will  
learn a great deal that is not in her books, and this will do  
her the more good. I could wish different associates and  
different surroundings for her, but we can't expect all we want.  
She said she hated to leave mother so much work to do, but  
she was willing for her to go. Mother had been quite sick, but was  
well again, as usual. There was no home news at all. She didn't  
mention any of the rest. Said they hadn't heard from us since  
Adams came home. Wouldn't we like to hear what he told them?  
See, love, I have written you a long letter without stopping once.  
I am afraid my letters won't go to Little Rock and you won't get  
them. I don't know how I ought to direct them. Mother  
wants me to tell you again to write to us anything you hear  
from Mill. She takes it very hard about not hearing of him.  
I will send this to the office to day yet, if I can. Write me long  
letters, dear. I love you, sweet pet, with my whole heart. You know it.  
Goodbye now. Your own Dottie

Bill and Jess that trouble me. It is much worse of night. It will soon be well again!

(No. 9)

Saturday Evening, May 7, 1864

My Dearest Love:

I sent you a long letter last evening, - or tried to, but am not sure it got to the office in time for this mail. I hope it did, though. I don't know what to write to day, darling. There is not any news. There is to be a war meeting at Osprey to night, that is all. Gilbert and Benson are working hard to raise men. It is said that they won't go in with Mericle. I believe they are going to join some men in Albion. It seems Mericle isn't popular.

Mr. Hickey and Procter have just started to the post office. I do hope I shall get a long letter, my pet, when he comes back. It is a whole week now since I heard from you. It seems such a long time. It has been raining all day - not all the time, but in showers. I have been so lonesome, I could hardly get on, sweet darling. I wander around, out doors, between showers, and look at every growing thing. I can't bear hardly to stay in the house. I have read "My Southern Friends" again, since I came home. I finished it to day, and put it away in the book-case. I am so sorry you didn't write your name in it. That, and the papers, are all I have read since I came home. Did you see Dr. Lambert at Downport, love? I thought you would perhaps, and I came very near sending his note to you by Matt. But it is well enough I didn't perhaps. I believe the officers in that regiment have not been paid for a long time. There is another shower coming, pet. I will quit writing, and watch the rain. I love you, my precious one. I want to see you, so much, love, that I can't help having the "blues" a little. I do want to see you. God bless my darling always. I will wait till the mail comes.



Sunday Forenoon, May 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Darling:— You never saw such a rain! Yesterday evening and all night it rained hard, and still it is pouring down so if all the windows of heaven were opened. The ground is flooded, and the "branches" are higher than they have been for several years. It really looks like we shall have another deluge, if it continues much longer. Cheriton will be booming again. I shall not get to Woodside soon, now. I wanted to go last week, but I had such a pain in my side and breast that I couldn't ride. It is better now. — Now the rain is slacked a little, but it thunders ominously. The yard is a lake. Hardly anybody is done planting corn yet. This is going to put them back sadly. What was planted, they say, is washed up. I look for a wet season, but I hardly expected this. I got a good letter from you last night, sweet love. It was mailed at Cairo. You have been so good to write to me, my pet. You don't know how much I love you for it. You are so good in every way, and so noble and true, that I love you more every day I live. I do, my precious one. I thank God, for my husband every day of my life. I want to be worthy of you, darling, and to secure your love, as you have mine! There may be other men as good, pet, but I don't believe there are. You laugh at me for this, but I am sincere about it, dear one. You said you thought you would get a letter at Cairo. I am afraid you did not, and you felt disappointed I know. Dottie couldn't help it. I sent you a letter there, but it lay two days at Iconium before it was mailed, and I don't think it reached Cairo as soon as you did. I sent one to Memphis too, but you will not get that one either, I fear. But you will have plenty, love, when you get to Little Rock— if they are not sent to the Regiment. I thought it was safer to direct them thus.

We have no word from the boys yet. We are very anxious about them. Darling, I don't want you to go out to the Regiment with a supply train. I am afraid for you. There is a rumor in our late papers that a train has been captured out there, and one thousand prisoners taken. I trust it isn't true; but it may be. Don't go that way, sweet love, if you can help it. I think Steele's army will fall back to Little Rock - if indeed it can get back. There is no hope now of their forming a junction with Barths. Steele is not strong enough to drive the rebels from the Red river country himself. I fear it is this way, pet; but it may not be. We shall have plenty of war news now. The Army of the Potomac is moving on towards Richmond! Will Lee fall back to his Capital, or will he fight on the route, do you think, dear? I think he will fall back to Richmond, and stand a siege. But the great battle may even now be fought. You ask what I think of the Lincoln-Blair arrangement. I think just as you do, love. It is one of the President's most egregious blunders. No two men have done more to injure our cause than the two Blairs. I have no respect for either. I wonder how long we must suffer for their sins? I am glad to see that the Senate Committee will not sanction the President's course. They have decided that Blair is not in the Service at all, because he held his commission in violation of law. We shall see how it will end. If the Blairs should go over bodily to the Confederacy we should be about as well off as we are. - The rain has ceased now, and it looks a little like clearing up. I feel very dull and lonely, my pet. I want to see you, and kiss you, and tell you how much I love you, darling. You are nearly to Little Rock now, if you have had no ill luck, I think. I am so glad you kept well. Be very careful of your health.

Friday - It is cloudy again, and looks like it would rain a few minutes.

Monday, May 9, 1864

My Dearest: - Just fifteen months more! Have you thought of it this morning? Fifteen months, and then, if God wills, my love will be free, let the war last long as it may! The time does pass, darling. Our reunion will come. Let us be hopeful.

I am well, my pet, and cheerful as I can be till I know you are safe. I feel a constant dread lest something bad will befall you. When I hear you are at Little Rock, I shall feel so relieved, dear.

It is pleasant this morning. I think the rain is over. Everything looks so green and fresh and pretty. The trees are all busy putting on their leaves. It will not be two days till the bare branches will all be clothed in the most delicate robes. You know how I love to watch this curious robing process. Don't you, darling? I went down to Hickox's last evening, after the rain. I stayed till dark, because I couldn't get off from there. The children loaded me down with wild flowers, and I have two beautiful flower-pots this morning, which they gathered for me. They are very thankful for the trouble you took to get Ed's money. I don't think they much expected it could be got. George is nearly crazy to enlist now. He thinks he would be as well in camp as at home.

I am going to the office after dinner, my darling, to mail my letter. I must stop at Mr. Prother's, you know, and, may be, I will come around by Mellinist's. I don't know yet. I have no chance to send my letter, so I'll just go and take it myself. I will write to you again tomorrow. Keep in good heart, my beloved. Don't get sick. Dollie will do the best she can, and you know she will love you every minute till we meet again - I needn't tell you what she'll do then. God bless you, sweet love, and now goodbye. Your own faithful  
Dollie

Duralls Bluff Ark.

May 9<sup>th</sup> / 1864

My Darling,

I am well this morning, though I have the blues. I have learned all I can here of the condition of our regiment, and find that the thing stands thus. Our Brigade - composed of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ind. 77<sup>th</sup> Ohio, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> were escorting a large supply train back to Little Rock, when they were over powered by a heavy force of Cavalry. The 77<sup>th</sup> Ohio broke the line and ran on the first fire. Our regiment and the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ind. fought and fought several times, but finally had to surrender. Col. Drake was killed. Col. Kittredge and Major Hamilton got away. Who of the boys were killed or wounded I can't learn. Neither do I know <sup>how</sup> many were hurt. I will get over to the Rock this evening and learn all I can, and I write to you again tomorrow. I can't learn any thing about Mill <sup>or</sup> Jim. I love you Dollie. Don't have the blue  
Write to the regiment at Little Rock I will get  
the letter  
Vernilion

( No. 10 )

Wednesday Morning, May 11, 1864

My Dearest Love:

I didn't write again last evening, as I said I would, for there was some one here all the time till dark, and then our mail came, and I was so excited over the news that I couldn't write. I sat up reading and thinking nearly all night. I felt like I couldn't go to bed, or sleep. You will know the news, my pet, long before you get this. We hear that Grant has been fighting three days, and the result is hardly yet known. The last dispatch says Lee was falling back, and had left 13,000 dead and wounded rebels in our hands. How can we wait two days for news now! Then Butler's grand movement has almost taken my breath away! Why did nobody ever go up there to Petersburg before? But you know all about it that - I do, darling, and by the time you read this we shall both know more. And Sherman is fighting in Georgia - and winning I trust - but we have nothing positive yet. Surely, sweet love, the end is coming! What a fearful crisis is now upon us! And then there is other news more interesting to me than even this. Some dispatches say that Steele's army has fallen back to Little Rock, followed and harassed by Price, and that he and Marmaduke will join and attack the Rock. Other dispatches say Steele had quite out-generaled the rebels, had captured Camden, after considerable fighting, and was preparing to move on to Shreveport. I don't know what to believe, dearest. But I rather think the 36<sup>th</sup> will come back to Little Rock. I do want to hear so badly, love.

They have been in battle without doubt. One special dispatch from Cairo says: "Col. Drake of the 36<sup>th</sup> Iowa has reached Little Rock. His wound is doing well, and he will start home in a few days." This is all, dear, but what can it mean, if they have not been in battle, and Col. Drake been wounded? We have rumors in plenty, but we have not heard one word directly from the boys since they started on the expedition. We hear frightful reports constantly. The last one is that Lieut Wright is killed, and his brother Sam severely wounded. Another is that the whole Regiment were killed and taken prisoners. It won't do to begin to believe anything we hear of this sort, but you know, love, we are very anxious about them. I didn't get any letter from you last night, sweet pet, I feel so uneasy about you. If I could only hear that you were safe at Little Rock, I could get on better. But I can't hear that for two weeks yet. I think you will get there to day, perhaps, but I don't know, love. We will hear from the Regiment now I think. Col. Drake can give an account of it, if no other way. I hope you will meet him; and I hope, for his poor wife's sake, that he isn't badly wounded. She said she always felt that he would be wounded. That was strange, wasn't it, darling? We hear through some of the boys' letters that the 6<sup>th</sup> were at Louisville on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst - were to start for Nashville the next morning. They had a gay, old time in Chicago. The ladies gave them a splendid breakfast, and they were lionized to their hearts content. That was all right, wasn't it? I believe they stopped all night in Indianapolis, but I guess there was no reception awaiting them there. We <sup>had</sup> had only one letter from Mat

There is nothing of interest going on up here. The weather is clear and cool. It froze considerably last night. I never saw colder weather for the season. I think it won't last long. You have heard of the widow Callett, haven't you? - John's mother? Her house and barn were struck by lightning during the storm Saturday night. No one was hurt in the house, but her two horses - worth three hundred dollars - were killed in the barn. They are trying to raise a subscription to buy her another team, they say. I am going to Iconium this afternoon. I don't think it will rain to hinder me this time. I want to come around by Mullinners. I guess he starts for Dorchester tomorrow - I heard so, at least. I will tell you all about them when I come back. I will see Mr. Crocker too. I think he has been to Albion before this time, for our money. And he may have heard some more war news. I am afraid you don't get my letters, my darling. They may be sent to the Regiment, and never go to Little Rock at all. So I am going to write you another letter to day, dearest, and send it to you at Little Rock, without naming the Regt. If you don't get one you may get the other, I want you to hear, for I judge you by myself, love. I know how bad I want letters from my "Peaches." I am quite well, and getting on very well. I can do, pet, if I hear from you often, and you are well, and the war news is good! Good news makes me feel like you will soon be home, - soon be home, sweet darling! I have told you all I can, dear, so I will close this letter, and write you another. You won't care for the blank page, will you? Keep in good heart beloved; Write to me often. Goodbye. God bless you, darling. Dollie

Later

I hate to send you a blank page, love, but I don't know what I  
can write. I am in a hurry. It is time I was started to the office.  
If I can send my letters from Mr. Morrison's I won't go any  
further. I shall have a right pleasant ride. I will think of  
you, my pet, every minute - but I needn't tell you that secret!  
Martha Hickox and I are going to make willow baskets to-  
morrow. Wouldn't you like to help us, dear? We make them  
just for fun, and to pass off the time. It goes so slowly now.  
Please write often to me, love, and write long letters. I love the  
long ones best. Be of good cheer. Don't get sick, my precious one.  
I must quit, my dear, or I shall be late. I am coming home  
to night. I will write you again to-morrow - perhaps to night.

Again, goodbye. Your Dottie



In Camp at Little Rock Ark  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dollie,

I am in camp again all right, but it is a blue place. There are but twenty-one of my Company here, and four up the river I believe. The rest are all taken prisoners; that is what are not killed. We know Lieut. May is dead. He was wounded in the leg and died in three days. Lieut. Pearson - of Centerill saw him die, and helped bury him. James H. Ryckman is dead, The ~~Cays~~ think. There are fifteen who are reported wounded. Others might have been killed on the field. If there were any, we have not got their names. If Will was hurt there is no account of it. I hope <sup>he</sup> was not. Col. Droke was not killed as was reported. He was wounded, Proctor, and started home yesterday morning. He will get well. Serg't Brasher was wounded at Sabine River, and Corp'l Duckworth, at the Little Missouri. They are both here in camp doing well. James Kemper is here, and tolerably well. When Gen. Thayer's Division started to Ft. Smith from here he was left. He will go the first opportunity. I will send you a large letter to night -  
Goodly my friend Dollie  
Nemilion

Little Rock Ark May 12<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dolly,

I promised to write last evening, but it was too cool to sit in here (my tent) without fire. This evening it is quite pleasant so I will write a while. Our regiment left their Camps here on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, and it is claimed by our men, and conceded by all who I have heard speak of it, to have been the best regiment that left here on that expedition. It was near seven hundred strong, in good discipline, and well drilled. The men and officers went out in fine spirits thinking they were going to have a fine Campaign, but what a sad thing it has been to us. The first fight they were in was at the Little Missouri on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April. The regiment had seventeen wounded. Corp<sup>l</sup> Duerkworth received his wound then. It is slight and he will soon be around. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> Col Drake was put in command of our Brigade which was composed of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ind. 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio, and our regiment, with a train of between two and <sup>three</sup> hundred wagons, and ordered to Pine Bluff for supplies. On the 26<sup>th</sup> he was attacked by some five Brigades of Price's Army. Before our forces

had time to do much the rebels moved up and made the <sup>attack on the</sup> front right and left. But two regiments were up at the time the 30<sup>th</sup> and the 43<sup>d</sup> Ind. The 77<sup>th</sup> Ohio was in the rear some four miles. The two regiments fought the whole rebel force until the 77<sup>th</sup> came up, and some of them even later. Colonel Proke was wounded early in the engagement and of the fall there was not much commanding done. Maj Hamilton did all he could, but the boys fought principally on their own hook, until they were forced by superior numbers to surrender by detail. The rebels could not get them to surrender by regiment or company they were forced to hunt them down by one, two and three and so on, until they finally got nearly all of the boys. Lt May was wounded in the leg - below the knee - early in the engagement. After the battle he was picked up and cared for until he died, which was on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The others given in the list, were all wounded, killed or taken prisoner. I suppose several are dead - were killed on the field, but we have no knowledge who they are. The boys who escaped think Will Kemper went through all right but made a Prisoner. Lt Wright was not hurt. As soon as Gen Steele learned that his train was captured he commenced falling back with all of his forces, and was attacked at Jenkins's Ferry on Saline River, by a heavy

face, but furnished them handsomely. A few of our  
regiment were in the engagement. Sergeant Brasher  
I believe was the only one of my Company, and he was  
wounded in <sup>the</sup> thigh. He came through with <sup>the</sup> Army, and here is  
in Camp now, doing quite well. Nimrod Marchbanks  
was in the fight at Mark's Mills, when the trains  
were captured. After the fight was about over he slipped out and  
made his escape and went into Pine Bluff. He travelled through  
the woods all night. Will Spisson was taken Prisoner by two  
or three Officers. One of the 1<sup>st</sup> Iowa Cavalry was taken at  
the same time. Will asked the rebel Officers if he might  
~~ride~~ ride behind the Cavalry man. The rebs said yes. So he got up  
They had not gone far before they came to a fork in the road  
As the rebs turned one way, the Cavalry man turned the  
other, and put the spurs to his horse. The rebs drew their  
revolvers and ordered him to halt, but there was no stop  
to him. They got out of the line, and travelled all night  
and got to Pine Bluff the next day. Luther Sanders  
made his escape too by riding the Adjutant's horse out  
These three <sup>are</sup> all of my Company who got away  
It is getting quite late Dolly and I must go to bed  
and will take call. Jerry is here yet. She was quite sick  
last night, and this fore noon I gave him some pills this  
morning and he is better this evening. She has been going around  
all this after noon

May 13<sup>th</sup> / 1864

Col Probe was reported dead for several days, but he was only wounded and taken Prisoner. Afterwards he was Paroled and came in. Lt. May was taken to the same house, and Paroled on the 28<sup>th</sup> but died on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Probe has gone home on a leave of absence. Colonel Pittsidge thinks General Steed will not regard the Paroles. He says they are not in accordance with the Carta.

James Kemper is here yet he is all right this morning, and will go to his regiment the first opportunity. He is gone to the river to look for a boat man. I am well.

We are reorganizing our bat men we have here into three Companies. We will have about two hundred and eighty men. I will have to command one Detachment. It is composed of Cos H, D and E. Don't get the blues my Darling. I will do very well, and I hope Will, Kemper will.

I love you my precious Darling

I will get all the letters you send to me here

Direct them to the Regiment

Vermilion

Little Rock Ark. May 16<sup>th</sup> / 1864

My Darling,

It has been two days now since I wrote you a letter. On Friday night Colonel Pittsedy was detached, and put on a Gen. Court Martial for the Trial of Colonel some body, "and such other cases as might be brought before the Court," that left me in Command of The Regiment, or on what is left of it. And, on Saturday I was the only well Commanding Officer in The Regiment. Shortly after The order came detaching the Colonel, There came an order ordering The Regiment to report to The Post Commander in the City for Garrison duty at 8 o'clock A.M. Saturday morning, and of course I had to take it and report accordingly. Then I had to select a camp and move The Regiment to it. It took me till noon to find good camping ground, and, then I worked as hard from that untill night in getting The Regiment moved, and The tents put up properly pitched as I ever did in my life.

At night I was tired enough to lie down on The ground and get as good a nights sleep as I have had since I left home. I had no time to get my own cot over and put up. So I took on The ground

The sleeping on the ground did not hurt me I feel  
fine today. This morning we finished our camp  
and now we are all right, though the duty is going  
to be hard, that is each man will have to go on  
Post Guard every other day. But then if the weather  
is bad, they will not have to be out in it. We have  
a nice camp - the nicest we have ever had, and a right  
smart regiment to occupy it. We have about as many  
men for duty as we had when we came here last  
September. We have between two hundred and seventy  
five and three hundred men here in camp, and a good  
many detached, in this department, and still quite  
a number absent sick. When we get our men all  
together we will have quite a command, or would have  
if we had any officers. We have no news from the  
boys who were captured. Not even a rumor since I wrote  
you last. Poor fellows they will suffer immensely.  
Game went to his regiment well and all right Tuesday  
morning. I will not write any more until morning.  
May 16<sup>th</sup>

I have just received No 6. What a good letter it is.  
You don't know how much good it has done me.  
You shall have some Albums Photographs for you  
Albums & all. I will get mine just as soon as I get

time to get them taken I cant tell how soon  
that will be, we have so much to do; but you  
shall have them. I have one of Simeon J McMay  
I found seven in his trunk, I took them, gave  
one to The Colonel, kept one myself, and gave the  
rest to Samuel Wright, and told him to send  
them home to The Lieut Friends. Humphrey and  
Mrs Wright will each get one.

If I get wounded I know Dolie will not hate me  
You cant do that my Darling, and I know it, and  
have always known it, that never gave me moments  
uneasiness. Dont let it trouble you any more my Dollie  
I remember all everything that occurred on the day we  
parted, and I expect to remember that day as long as I  
live. Dolie looked so good, and was so good, and then  
she was so brave. I hope Merrill will get his Company  
up, but that call cant do much good, the men will be  
fath coming but, one hundred days is too short a time  
for soldiers to do much good in this war. The government  
cant get them into the field and out again in much  
less time than that. And then <sup>the</sup> Armies are all fight-  
ing men, so they cant possibly be of any service during this  
Campaign. The news from Grant is good, as yet, but I tremble  
for fear some disaster will be fall him yet. It has always seemed  
so hard for that army to do any thing



We have <sup>no</sup> news here in camp this morning. I am anxious  
to see a paper, I want to learn what came in last evening

Every body are holding their breaths, and waiting

Remember my Dollie that I only collected Sixty Dollars  
for Col. Hildreath, Daniel Lane was rejected you know  
and had to go down to the Provost Marshal

Have you sent for the Tribune for me yet. We will be  
apt to remain here for some time perhaps all Summer  
and I can get it without any trouble. Please send  
for it for me my Dollie

Keep a look over Woodside, I will advise you all  
we learn about the boys who are in the hands of the  
rebels. I think Mrs Heller might have eaten  
her dinner, or given it to the dogs

There is one thing Darling I want you to remember,  
I don't want you to forget it, under any circumstances,  
at this I love you

Vernilion

Little Rock Ark. May 17<sup>th</sup> / 86

Dollie,

I am all right tonight. I ate too much last evening, and as a natural consequence have not been very well today. But tonight I feel very well. I just returned from Lt Wardens tent where we have been having a game of Euchre. We could not play much for talking. The Colonel was telling several incidents of the late Campaign. They are too tedious for me to relate here. He seems like a different man since I came back. He treats me as well as I could wish. In fact is quite accommodating. Perhaps he will continue so. Tomorrow we are to have Battalion inspection. That is it would be if we had a Battalion, but as it is we will have squad inspection. The boys will nearly all be on duty. James Kemper is back here again. The boat he started up the river on got some fifty or sixty miles up, and got on a Sand Bar and stuck for two days. When it did get off it come back here, in consequence of low water. He does not know when he will get up to his regiment man. Goodby Dollie I must go to bed. I will write once to morrow,

Evening - May 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Our square inspection came off this afternoon sure enough. We formed our men into three Detachments, and marched them out on the Parade ground. Each Detachment was composed of about thirty men all told, but we had just as much formality as we would have had, if we would had had a Battalion of one thousand men. Our Brigade Commander Col Inglesman of an Illinois Regiment, was the inspector. After he had inspected the men he looked through our Camp, and was satisfied of course, for no man has ever yet complained of the way we keep our Camps. We have only been here four or five days, but we have as nice a Camp as need be. There is plenty of shade, and the grounds cleaned as nicely as there is any necessity for. I think we will be healthy here; we surely can be otherwise though we have several sick men. When the Regiment started out on the expedition, all the and infirm were left here, and a large number of recruits came down and a good many are just now having their introductory sickness. But the old soldiers who escaped being captured are hearty.

We have no tidings of any of the boys yet.

There has been no flag of Truce sent out, that I know of, and I am of the impression there will not be soon. Reports say the rebels are crossing the river, at Dardanelle some sixty miles above here, There were some twelve hundred crossed yesterday. There was one Battalion of The 4<sup>th</sup> Ark Cavalry stationed there. They were all taken Prisoner. The object if the report is true - is to cut the Rail Road between here and Dardalls Bluff, and compel us to fall back from this place. We do not apprehend any danger of an attack here. The rebels remember Helena too well to try it again. But there is going to be trouble North of here this Summer. We have not got Cavalry enough to prevent their raids. If they should cut the Rail Road between here and Dardalls Bluff, some portion of this Army will have to whip them out, for we cant subsist an Army here without the use of that Road. Some are reporting this evening, The rebels have a battery planted on the Arkansas River, near Arkansas Post but I put no confidence in the report. Because that is near the Mississippi, that the Gun Boats could soon shell them out. I am not uneasy here. So now you get the blues I will write you all - every thing, as it occurs.

We are doing Post, a Garrison duty now, and will be most likely to continue during the Summer. I heard Col McClain say the other day, that we would not Campaign it any more this summer. He is Commanding the Post now but had been Commander of our Brigade for nearly one year previous to the return of the Army to this place. He knows the ropes, as well as any, but Gen. Steele

I must go to see my Darling It is after ten o'clock I will finish this in the morning. That is I will write some if I have any thing to write. If not I will put this up and start it

Goodly for to night  
Dolbe  
Morning 17<sup>th</sup> 64

The weather is quite warm this morning, but the boys are all lively. There is no news whatever. Gen. Steele does not regard any Parole given by the rebels at Warth, Mills. We have several Officers who were Paroled. They are trying to resign. We did not get any mail this morning. Perhaps we will this evening.

Goodly my Darling

W. F. Vermilion

Little Rock Ark

May 20.<sup>th</sup> / 1864

My Darling,

We received a large <sup>mail</sup> this morning and what do you think I got for my share! Three good letters from Doll. You dont know what a good time I had reading. I didnt get tired either. You need not be afraid to send me all the letters you can write, for they are all good. When you get tired reading the letters I send to you, then you may begin to think of my getting tired.

Poor James Herkner. What a sad thing Dollie. He was a good soldier, and has always done his duty, and what a horrible thing it is. Think of his being killed in that way. Go Matt. Sure he is right in thinking he was not killed by the enemy. Go is the strangest thing in the world to me, how a good well drilled soldier could make such a blunder. There is always something wrong over here such blunders occur. There must be a wrong

I seem to me Merrick is not making his Company very  
far or very good - that is of not very good material  
Mr Stewart - it seems to me had just about as well  
go to his grave, as to go into The Army. Three months  
is a short Campaign, but it will be long enough fear  
to destroy what little vitality there is about him. I hope  
The Surgeon will reject him. John Dykes is no account  
either Mullinore and Eads will make good Soldiers  
So will David Marken, and Jones. Do you think  
Merrick will get enough men to secure him a Commission  
He won't like it if he doesn't

I am truly glad Jane has met with one streak of good  
luck. But who would have thought of Thom and Josiah  
doing her such a favor. Surely their hearts have ex-  
panded very rapidly of late. Two terms are not enough  
for her though Dollie. She ought to go for at least  
one year. By that time she could teach for her living  
If she doesn't get to go long enough to get sufficiently  
advanced to enable her to teach she will have to go  
back to fathers and work for the rest of them just as  
she has been doing for the last ten years - that is if she  
don't go to Iowa and live with us. If they will send

her to school for six months, and then let her come to  
me in Iowa, we will make her comfortable, and support  
her as long as she will stay with us. She must never  
go back to father to live any more. If she does her  
condition will be worse than it ever has been. She will  
be more sensible of her degradation, and as a natural  
consequence will suffer more. But let them do her all  
the good they will and then we will try and do our part  
I wish you had those Photographs Dollie, It seems  
as though I can't get them taken. I have to remain here  
in Camp nearly all the time, and then I have been  
waiting to get some Shoulder Straps put on my coat  
I will have to get some for the boys, and of course they  
want the Straps on, and it is right they should be. They  
want them because I am their Captain. Dollie wants them be-  
cause I am here, and she must have them too. But there is  
no use in talking about them always. Sweet Dollie  
James Kemper is here in camp yet. He is well and don't  
seem to care much whether he gets up to his regiment  
soon or not. He takes things coolly. We have no Tidings  
from any of our boys yet. Some of the boys say they heard  
in town this evening, that there were six or eight hundred



of our men at Pine Bluff, who are Paroled. It is  
only rumour though I suppose. If I learn any thing  
I will write you immediately

There seems to be no excitement here today. Dardanelle —  
between here and Ft. Smith is not Captured — as was  
reported. All is quiet in that direction. There may be  
some Cavalry North of the River but they do not cross  
at Dardanelle.

I am tired Dollie. I have written all of this without  
stopping I will rest until morning Sincerely

Morning 21<sup>st</sup>

The Sun is shining hotly this morning. It seems as  
though we can hardly get around, it is so hot  
We are all well. No news in Camp. Perhaps  
we will get mail from the East this evening or to-  
morrow morning. I am anxious to hear from  
the Army the Potomac, and from the Army of  
Kentucky. The strength of the rebellion is being  
tried there just now. I am uneasy yet I feel that  
all will be right. Sherman will do his part,  
Don't be uneasy Dollie Sincerely my love  
Vermilion

Little Rock Ark May 21<sup>st</sup> / 84

My Darling,

I finished you a long letter this morning but I want to tell what I have been doing this last day. But it will be hard to make much of a letter on that subject for I have not done any thing. Since we have got our Camp finished up I have not had any thing to do, but look after my Command here in Camp, but I will not be likely escape so well very long, for the line Officers of the other regiments that are on duty in the City are being put on duty about every other day. So are the enlisted men of our regiment. The duty seems pretty hard, but James Kemper says the 18<sup>th</sup> Iowa did Provo duty once for eight months and that the men went on every other day. Our boys can stand it if they did.

Gen Steele - I understand has closed the lines here for the first time - I believe - since we occupied the place last September. Perhaps Mr Rebo will learn yet that there is life and vigor in this Department, and I hope how soon. Give nothing is my motto

The Pickets are instructed to let all - every one coming to  
The lines - in but no one out. The Country Citizens are be-  
ing picked up right fast. They come to the lines, not  
knowing any thing in regard to the orders, The Pickets  
arrest them and send them into Head Quarters for exa-  
mination, when if they are found all right, they are turned  
loose to do the best they can until further orders

The City is getting full of them. Last evening there was  
an order issued giving all who were provided with  
The proper Passes the privilege to leave to day. The time  
only extends to this evening though, and all who did not get  
out to day will have <sup>to</sup> remain within the lines until further  
orders. I hope these further Orders will not be issued  
until the end of the rebellion. I have written enough  
for this time. I will finish this tomorrow. Sincerely  
Dollie

May 28<sup>th</sup> / 1862

Dollie I have been on duty since the 21<sup>st</sup> until this mor-  
ning. So you must forgive me for not finishing this letter  
sooner. You will - won't you Dollie

On the day before yesterday thirteen of Company F  
came in, all ordered. Of that thirteen, The orderly  
and David Howell are well, and fit for duty

The others are wounded and in the condition given below  
George Le Carpenter. Wounded in lower jaw. badly but doing well  
John Davis Wounded in thigh and is going round on his crutch  
Ephraim Nicholson Shoulder. Walking round, and doing well  
Albert Hillman - Groin. Can't walk much, but is doing well  
John Stanley - Thigh - is walking about, and doing well  
Wesley Perigo Wounded in shoulder. since dead  
James H. Ryckman . . . Stomach since dead  
David Stuart . . . . . Left arm above elbow, and right leg below knee, Is doing well  
going around  
Greenhamy Owen . . . Left wrist severe. Can walk around a little  
Thomas Holbraith . . . Left Thigh slightly. Can walk around some  
Manooh Graham . . . Left Shoulder severe, will get well, but will not  
be fit for the service any more. I think  
Barney Sullivan Left Thigh. Is walking around, doing well  
John Elgin . . . Right Shoulder severe, but is doing well. Soe about  
Joel Curtis a recruit - Shot through the head, and died on the field  
John M'Way Wounded in Left leg below the knee and died in three days  
St John M'Wright. . . Slightly in left arm. Is a Prisoner  
I give you above the present condition of all the wounded of which we have any  
account. I don't think any are badly wounded who are Prisoners. Neither  
do I think any were killed on the field but Joel Curtis  
Let the boys friends know of their condition as far as possible  
All who are oblige done will be fur loughed I think

We have not been able to learn any thing from our boys who were carried South by the Rebels. So of course I can give you no information of Will James Kemper is here yet with no prospect of getting to his Regiment soon. Gen. Steel does not regard the paroles of the boys as being in accordance with law, and of course is not going to regard them. All the officers are going to resign if they can that is all who I have heard speak of the matter.

Those Photographs will be forth coming one of these days I sit for the Negative this morning. About the day after tomorrow I am going down and if they are good I am going to have one dozen printed. Then I will send you some, and no more grumbling Dollie. I don't feel very well this evening. My stomach is still sour. I will be all right in a day or two. Don't be uneasy. If you were here to get me I would soon be well, and I will in 2 day or two any how. I will put this up and let it go out in the morning. Thom. Tucker is going to start home on furlough tomorrow or next day. If you will go and see him he can tell you just how we are getting on here. He is a good hearted fellow, and will give you all the information he can. Be cheerful my Darling. If you will look in the Missouri Democrat of last week you can see what the boys say is a good description of the fight at Elkhartsville. The boys say Col. Drake was brave but that he deserted and handed his troops back. The boys will talk you know. I will go to bed. Good by my precious Dollie.  
Vermilion

Millageville May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

To Cap Vermilion Dear Sir after  
My best respects to you I can  
say that the News reach  
us last night by letter of  
J Galbreth the 6<sup>th</sup> & Noah Gra  
ham was wounded Stitley  
and All Gillman Howell  
and Jan Peppers was wounded  
and did not say how bad  
but leaves the impression  
that they are badly wounded  
We have various reports and  
I goodly number of the Nat  
need from to any surtenty  
the Peepal are uneasy and are  
way ancus to hear from their  
Friends I write a letter to  
Danill Peppers and send in  
your care to him and

if He is Alive get you  
Will Pleas Forward it to  
Them if Not Read & Destroy  
it if you can I Wish  
you Would Answer this  
at the Earliest possible  
Chance yours Respectfully  
Wills Peppers

To Captin Wimmell

(No. 17)

Monday Night, May 23<sup>d</sup> 1864

My Dearest Love:

I sent you a long letter this evening. I can't write much to night. Mrs Stewart and Mr Stewart have been here all day. They came early, and stayed till after supper. They are in pretty good spirits, except about John Davis, and they still think he may be safe. They are very anxious to have some account of the boys from you. They hear so much, and so many contradictions, that they don't know what to believe, but if they could hear from you they would know the truth. They had no news, only at one of their war meetings the other night they tried to get volunteers. There were several young men present, but they wouldn't go. At last nine girls went up in a body, and offered themselves. Mericle said he didn't know what to do, he didn't like to take them. The girls insisted on going in, but finally said if four or five young men of whose names they had a list, would go in their places, they would stay at home and plow! They handed in the list and Mullinix called off the names. Jake McIninch and young Finkhouser were two of them, I don't know the others. The young men got indignant, very! and Finkhouser has since written a scandalous, anonymous letter about the girls. It is thought he did it, at least. Mrs Stewart says if the girls ever get him in their power it won't take them 20 minutes to hang him. It is Dave Finkhouser's son. I don't know who all the girls were. Jane Sheets and the Boy girls, and Delois are all I know. Mr Stewart says your life was seriously threaten-  
ed, darling, after that oyster supper they were afraid, and that alone saved you.



Dunover was the most open of your enemies. Stewart heard him threaten your life. He is gone to Idaho, to get out of reach of a draft. I am afraid Mr Stewart will never get back, my love. He looks very thin and weakly. He says he is useless here, and if he can go and fill the place of some strong, brave soldier, and let him go to the front it will be a service worth risking his life to accomplish. He dont see how any man, with a heart in him, can stay at home now. He wants very much to go to Little Rock. He has a notion that you will be promoted now to a command in some of these new Regts.

Tuesday Morning, the 24<sup>th</sup>

It is quite cold this morning. So cold that a good fire is comfortable. I have been out "sticking the peas," my pet, and setting out some wild flowers. I got tired, and sat down to rest, but I <sup>thought I</sup> could rest better if I were talking to you the while. I am going to have "lots" of "garden stuff" for you to eat next fall. You will be glad of that, wont you? Father is gone, with his team, to help plant some corn for Noah Grohman's wife. Mr. Sheeks gives her five acres of ground rent free, and he and Mr. Christie and a few other old men met to day to break up the ground and plant it. It is pretty hard on them, but they cant let the woman suffer, while her husband and brother are in the army. We know nothing of Will's fate yet, my darling. I try to be cheerful, but it is hard work, pet. If we could only know what has become of him, poor fellow. I think I will hear to night, maybe. I will get three or four letters from you, I hope, love. In a week and a half I have only received one short note. I cant help having the blues a little, but I do the very best I can, dear one. It has been over two weeks since that note was written. But, I know, my darling was so troubled he couldnt write, I cant write this morning, either, my love.

Evening

Am so lonely this afternoon, my pet, that I don't hardly know how to get on. The day is so very long. I look for a long letter from you when night comes, that is why every minute is as long as twenty. It is only five o'clock yet, and the mail won't come before eight. Mrs. Gibbons was up here and mother went home with her, this afternoon, so I am all alone. I wish I could see you, sweet darling. (Don't you?) There is a new trouble among the people up here. I will tell you, because your care for your Pattie last winter may have saved her life. A great many are so alarmed that they may greatly exaggerate the danger. I don't <sup>know</sup> how that is. You remember when you kept me from being vaccinated last winter? and how sore the girls' arms were? Well, everybody nearly was vaccinated with the same kind of virus. Their arms never got well, but all the time worse; till, since the very warm weather, a good many are down sick. Their throats particularly are affected. And the people about here say that the doctors say it is sypilis - isn't that the name of a terrible disease, my darling? This is what the people here say, pet; you know I don't know anything about it myself. Old Mrs. McConally and her girls are bad. They have consulted Gibbons. All the Pepperses have it. Mr. Bill Peppers went to Centerville a day or two ago to get advice. He says several persons over there have died of it, and one girl has had her arm taken off. I hardly think this can be true. He is almost scared to death. They are trying to burn out the sores now with caustic. Two of Eliza's little girls have it, and their mother is greatly distressed. What do you think about it, dear one? Can it be what they think it is? Can it be cured, if it is? I wish I could hear how Molly Keel's arm is. Hers was very bad when we left there. She was very uneasy then. But I never dreamed of its being so bad, so they now say. I will get supper

Wednesday Morning, May 25<sup>th</sup>

My Darling:- It is a month to day since our poor boys were "gobbled up". I fear a good many are dead, that we heard nothing of. We have given up hearing from Will. He may learn his fate some day, and we may never know what become of him. I received just a few lines from you last night, written the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. I looked for a long letter, sweet pet, but I was glad to get a short one. I wanted to hear that you had got through safely, so bad. I think now you will tell me everything about it. But I want to know all about yourself, worse than anything else now. What will they do with you now? Have men enough escaped to keep up the regimental organization? or is the 9<sup>th</sup> disorganized, and lost as a body? Tell me all about this darling. Some persons here lay all the blame on (Ed Drake. I know nothing of the facts; but I don't suppose he had any alternative but to fight or run. It is unjust to censure him till we know he deserves it. Perhaps he did as well as any man could under the circumstances. I see by the "gate" that he has got home, helpless and suffering a good deal, but not dangerous. There is still no report of any of Steele's movements in the papers. There ought to be. I am glad you saw Jimmy. I expect he "played off" and was left on purpose, so that he might wait to hear something of Will. He was much troubled about him, I know by his letters. But he is gone on without learning anything before now, no doubt. We have just sent him a long letter to Ft. Smith.

Father is quite unwell to day. He don't sit up. I think it is severe cold. I believe it is partly grief about Will. He don't complain a word, but says we are no better than others, and we ought to bear our share of the common trouble. Will was a good boy, but thousands as good have died that the Country might live. Far! all he talks like this I can see it almost crushes him. I will write some more after dinner, if I can. Are you well, my pet? Be careful, and don't get sick, my precious one. Goodbye. Your Dottie

Tell me if you get my letters. I have got all yours or for I think

Later. — I must write a little more this evening, dear one, before I send my letter to the office, though I don't indeed know what it will be about. I feel quite well today, but I have erysipelas on my face again. It was broken out when I got up this morning. I don't think it will hurt me. I had it several times last summer. Don't be uneasy. Father saw Mr. Mapes at Scoville Saturday evening. Woodsides like to have been washed away during those heavy rains, but all was right now. He had planted sixty acres of corn, and would finish this week. That is better than most of the farmers have done this season. I want to go there just as soon as I can cross the river alone. It has been more than six months since I was there. I think I can go next week. Mrs. Richards was still dangerously sick Monday — I haven't heard since. Her husband got home Saturday night. Before he came Mrs. Meyer had taken possession of the house, excluded all the neighbors, and sent for Dr. Shontz. Between the doctor and the nurse, I wonder the woman lived at all. She has pneumonia. I hope <sup>she</sup> will get well. They talk of moving to Keokuk, they say. If they leave, won't Scoville be a harder town than you ever heard of before, darling, in all your life? Only think of it! You hear the war news, love, almost as soon as I do I suppose, so I need not try to tell you that. I am so afraid that Grant will meet with some disaster that I dread to open every paper. If he can only win in this contest, sweet darling, it will all soon be over! I feel like our very lives depend on his crushing Lee, and getting into Richmond, and on Sherman's movement upon Atlanta. If they succeed it is all well, with us. I believe they will succeed, but still I fear and tremble. This letter is so long, pet, that I will quit. I will write again tomorrow. Keep up your courage, my own love. Don't have the "blues," will you? Don't <sup>forget</sup> to write often to, and to always love and think of your Pallas

Little Rock Ark. May 26<sup>th</sup> / 86

My Own Dollie,

It is not often I attempt to write Dollie a letter in the day time, but I am idle now - which is an unusual thing - and I would rather talk to Dollie, than to go some place else and talk to some one I don't love. And then I know she always wants to hear me talk and other people may not. You know I never do so much to make acquaintance at home. I am not any better here, and perhaps never will be any better. It won't make any difference. Let the strangers go, and I will love Dollie. We are getting along very well. The wounded boys are doing as well as could be expected. Several will get their furlough tomorrow or next day. John Davis gets to go home. I am glad of it on his account, and on the account of his wife. She will want to see him so badly. She will not be fit for duty <sup>for</sup> six or eight weeks, and ought to be allowed to go home. Manook Graham would get to go if he was able to travel, but I fear it would not do for him to make the attempt. He is not doing very well. He can't use his arm any yet. John Elgin will start home as soon as his papers can be made out, and so will John Standley. Carpenter is not able to go yet. His lower jaw is in a bad condition. It will ruin the looks of him as long as he lives, and he can never draw a Pension either.

We have no men very sick, except Jacob Duckworth a recruit who came down with me. He has never been well, and I think never will be as long as he remains in the Service, for he is undoubtedly the bluest man I ever saw. Home-sickness in no name at all for his condition. He is regimental Hospital since last evening. The old soldiers laugh at him a good deal. Perhaps he may get well, but I am inclined to the belief, that he will die. The boys tell some queer tales of our wounded while they were in the hands of the rebels. The rebel wounded and ours all taken to the same building or Hospital and all taken care of together. The rebel wounded complained very much, and as the rebel Surgeons said of wounds that were comparatively slight, while our men were cheerful and even mirthful who were, apparently badly wounded. Some of our boys would sing their Camp song, and at the same time pour cold water on their own shattered limbs. An other great peculiarity in our men, each one thought he was going to get well. The rebel wounded generally thought they would die. The boys say they were treated very well, after they were taken to the Hospital. The rebel Hospital Nurses attended the wounded indiscriminately, paying no attention who they were. A great many women went into see them. Some were very kind, others asked "What are you men all down here fighting us for, when you get well you will go home and let me alone, what you?" There had never been any fighting in that part of the Country before, and many of the poor devil

Thought the whole United State was whipped. They even sentenced  
such as ~~the~~.

I have not been down in the City to day consequently have not seen any thing  
about these Photographs. Perhaps I will go down early in the morning

We have no news yet from the boys except indirect information that  
Lo Wright was up in Camden sick with the fever and ague. I hope it is not  
true that he is sick. If gets sick while in the hands of the rebels, he will  
not be likely to get well. I fear the same thing for Will Kemper. Per-  
haps he will not get sick. James is still here, and he don't seem  
to care much if he stays all summer. There is but one other of his  
regiment here. I told him this morning to go and see him (he is a  
Sergeant) and ascertain when he expected to go forward. He did so but  
was not able to learn any thing about it. He may get off next  
week, and he may not get off for two months

Go to Woodside Vally as soon as you can and then tell me all you  
can learn as to how things are going

The report is current in this Army since yesterday evening that  
General Rice is dead. He was wounded twice while on the late  
Expedition, the last time in the ankle. From some cause his leg  
was not amputated. Some few days after I got here he started  
for his home in Osholoosa Iowa, and reports say died on the  
between Memphis and Cairo. I hope the report is not true

Orderly Miller says Sergeant Grubb (Charles  
Bashore brother) was killed in the fight at Bear the Mill.  
He says one Company C says, while the fight was progressing  
that he saw some men carrying a wounded man past him, and heard  
some one remark "There goes Sergeant Grubb wounded" and  
one of the men who was carrying him remarked, "Yes and  
he is dying" The same man says he learned afterwards  
that he was dead." The Company here has no other account  
of him.

It is getting too dark to write Volie. So I will quit and  
finish this either this evening or tomorrow morning. At all  
event I will finish it in time for tomorrow mail.

May 27<sup>th</sup> / 1864

I send you a present this morning Volie. Do you like it?  
The side view does not make a good picture. It is owing to  
the beard hiding one side of the face and not the other. Tell  
me whether you think they are good pictures. I will  
send more in a day or two. I am going to Secret

Give one

Write to me often. James is all right this  
morning. Yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> came in this morning.

Goodly Day Darling  
W. Vermler



In Camp at Little Rock Ark

May 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Aunt Dollie

Every body - nearly - about Camp have gone to bed, but me, so I will write to Dollie. I have just written a short letter to Jane Vermilion, and put in a Photograph for her I would have sent one to Mother but I think she has one, and then I have not got enough to spare them but one, I will <sup>send</sup> my old Mother one before long. She wants it no doubt, and then she is in no wise responsible for the condition of things there.

Others besides her will have those irregularities to account for Poor old woman, I am sorry for her. If her surroundings had been better she would have been better, But they are not - and they were not, and she is not responsible, But why should I get to talking and thinking about these old affairs to night I have enough here to smoke any man's ass, if he can be made so as at all, so lets talk of other things

I forget whether I told you in my letter of what disposition I have made of Jimmy. He was staying here in our Camp, not doing any thing, and no person taking any cognizance of him in any way. The river is down so the Coats Cant go up, and we have no train here to send up even if General Steel wished to send one. So there seems to be no chance for the Stragglers to get to their Commands in that direction. So I took Jimmy to the Soldiers home this morning and told him to remain there until the authorities ordered him forward. He was out of money, so I gave him five dollars and told him to remain there until he could get to his <sup>regiment</sup>.

He may not get to his Army for several months, but it does not bother him any. He does not seem to think there is anything wrong about it.

The boys say Will appeared all right after he was captured. I hope he will not suffer himself to have the blues. If he does it will go very hard with him. I wish I could hear from him, and from all the other boys. Reports say Lieut Wright was left at Cameron sick with Chills & Fever. The same report says he was slightly wounded in the left arm. The rebels may parole him and let him come into our lines. I hope they will give all the boys a parole that the Military Authority here will recognize, then the boys could all be sent North to some Parole Camp, and of course would not be so likely to be sick during the Summer.

It is nearly eleven o'clock Dollie. Don't you think I had better go to bed, and finish this letter tomorrow. I know you are willing. So goodly until tomorrow.

Morning 7<sup>th</sup> / 864

I am well this morning. The sky is cloudy or clouded over and the air quite cool, though more tedious to be comfortable. There is no news in camp this morning whatever. Not even what the boys call a good Camp Rumor. The orderly has gone down to the General Hospital to see the Marshall boys. He seems determined to respect his parole, and if General Steele does not change his opinion in regard to the matter we will have trouble. Davenport wants to go home on furlough I think, but he will not get to go. All of the boys who are not fit for duty, and are able to travel will get to go, but no others. John Davis will be at home by the time you get this. So and see him. He can tell you a great deal you will want to know.

Evening 28<sup>th</sup> 74

Since writing the above I have received a letter from General Lt Wright at Comson. He is there a Prisoner. He was wounded in the left arm near the Elbow, but is doing well now. He thinks he is going to have a stiff arm. He says the rebels have treated him very well. His health is good. Doct. Jemison (I don't think I spelt that name correctly) is there nursing. Mill Kemper was not hurt, but was made prisoner. He went South with the rebels. Lt Wright says he was doing very well. If I learn any thing more I will write you immediately. I am started to go and burn a line here. What an idea. This Country is safe when Generals select such men as I am to burn here. Are they not full of wisdom. How proud I am that they think I know something. I will write again tomorrow. I love you Dolly. Truly  
Doct. Jemison

May <sup>the</sup> 22 AD

Dear Brother

it is with pleasure that I take  
my pen in hand to write  
you a few lines informing  
you that I am a gain  
in the army I am in  
the 100<sup>th</sup> Regt I new  
that home was no place  
for me now for I could  
hear nothing but the words bilish  
iness talked of and I new  
that my duty was to go  
I have been in a bout one  
month though we have not  
been here very long at this  
place but I think we will  
stay here the most of the  
summer our Regt is the best  
drilled to have been in  
the service no longer than  
we have the two thirds

have been in the service  
before William when I  
left home all was well  
though Mother has been sick  
a right smart while this  
spring but she has got a  
bout well when I left  
home and I think you  
ought to write to her  
for I now she is on easy  
a bout you I did not tell  
her any thing a bout me  
a going a gain tho I write  
back a easily I dont think  
iff I keep my health I  
will ever stay at home any  
more untill this wicked  
Rebellion is crushed fo you  
now that it is time  
for a man to show his  
hance but I think by the  
time our 100 days is out  
it will be over we see

any a mount of rebels  
prisoners a going north  
tha a gree them selves that  
it is no use of fighting  
any longer. So I will have  
to come to a close write  
to me soon and the next  
time I write I will take  
more time and write a better  
letter yores untill death

H N Permilion  
Direct yore letters to

Henry N Permilion  
133 Regt of 2nd Col  
Company H in care  
of Capt M Farlin  
Bridgeport  
Alabama

Little Rock Ark

May 30<sup>th</sup> / 864

My Dearest

Yesterday morning I sent you  
a letter and it was a very poor thing. I  
couldn't write, and even this morning there  
is nothing to tell you of. We all thought  
we would get a mail this morning, but we  
didn't. So we are disappointed. We may get  
it tomorrow, and we may not get it for three  
or four days, but we must wait. Yesterday  
was Sunday and I worked all day at the lime  
kiln. It was the first time I ever had to go  
on fatigue duty, and you may let me didn't  
get much done. Today Lt. M. V. of Co.  
Bris out trying his hand. I hope he will  
get the men to do more for the Government  
than they did yesterday. There are thirty  
men from our Regiment detailed to burn lime  
for Sanitary purposes. It is my opinion  
any time they get burnt, between this and

August will be a sure remedy for Yellow  
Fever or Cholera, and I hope the Author-  
ities will appreciate our efforts, & procure  
such a valuable remedy. Our Soldiers  
do not work, and the recruits soon get in the  
same motion. They think they are sharp  
We have no further news from the Cap-  
tured Camp. I have not been able to learn  
whether General Steele is going to send out  
a flag of Truce or not. If he does I  
want to send Mr Wright a letter. It  
will be impossible to get me to Will  
He is gone South - some on here into  
Texas, and we have not been informed  
to what point. As soon as we learn I will  
send Will a letter that, if any opportunity  
offers, our fellow he will have the blue  
Coats, and there is no telling how long  
he and the other Camp who are with him  
will have to stay. The Government  
is not exchanging any at this time. If  
the Camp can save their health they had  
better be Prisoners, than to be here, and



have their Parols disregarded. The boys  
who are here are in a perfect fix. Some say  
they won't go on duty. James will  
get to his Regiment in a few days I  
think. The fatigued boys say they  
are loading a Fleet of Went.

Perhaps you would like to know  
just how we live at our house. Let me  
tell you. I have a good small tent with  
a good fly on it, and a nice plank floor  
in it. There I have a very good table  
with a drawer in it, sitting in one corner  
and the Circular Pass on it, with proper  
in's and every thing else in necessary  
for the running of the institution. Then  
I have a couple of stools my coats  
and Valise. Then over there in that  
corner - or on that other side - is my Cot  
It is not so good, as the one I had  
last Season was, yet it does very well  
I can sleep on it very soundly  
That is all I have, except my blankets  
and clothing, which very often get scattered

Some six or seven of us are messing  
together, Four Officers and two or  
three Suttlers, We have two  
negroes working for us. One man  
and one woman, They are both very  
good negroes and good cooks. We  
are living very well, full as well as  
we did at Pratt's. We have good  
bakers bread, meat, coffee, potatoes  
butters, molasses, dried fruit, pies and  
so on. The cooking is full as good as  
Mrs Pratt's. The coffee is one hundred  
per cent better. So don't be uneasy  
about my diet

I will send you an other Photograph  
with this. That will make three  
Is that enough? if not say so  
and I will send more

Thomas Tucker is on his way home  
He left Du Vol's Bluff yesterday  
This letter is full enough so it must  
I am going to quit my box, Becher-  
ful Dallas  
Vermilion

27

Greencastle, Wednesday May the 31<sup>st</sup>, 1864

My Dear Sister Mary:-

Your most kind and welcome letter came to hand last night, of which its contents were perused with great interest. I will assure you, you can't imagine how anxious I was getting to hear from you. I had heard all about the battles but could not hear the entire story of it. I was almost sure my brother was in it until I got your first letter in which you said he was not expecting to get back to his Regt. until sometime in June. Truly, Mary, it was the goodness of God that saved and protects him for us.

But I know, Dear Mary, you have enough of trouble to bear just now, without any thing happening him, for you love your Patriotic Brothers as I do mine.

yes dear by do you love them, & Mary, and I know  
how deeply you mourn the loss of your  
noble soldier brother. But you must bear  
it patiently. But then I know you do.

You are so noble hearted you always look  
at things ~~as~~ rightly. It may be your  
is saved and he brought back to you <sup>brother</sup>  
But if it was his fate to fall, you know  
he fell honorably and bravely for the  
sake of his country. And you may live  
to honor his name. The last I heard  
from Henry he was still at Nashville  
Tenn. He was in fine spirits and <sup>had</sup> very  
good health. He is in 133<sup>rd</sup> Regt Ind. Inf.  
in care of Captain McFarlane. He writes  
to me quite often, and I will assure  
you, Mary, that he hears from me as  
often. For I guess my letters are all he  
gets from his relations hear.  
He and I, over more to each other, after  
you left them over before.

you want me to tell you who of your acquaintances enlisted. I don't know who you are acquainted with. But nearly all the boys in the neighborhood went.

<sup>mean</sup>  
I ~~x~~ those that are not against the war.

The people here in town all seem to be loyal, and deeply interested about the war; especially here in our neighbor Mayor Northling's widow lives next door to us. She lives by her self with three little children, alone some life. I dare say. But she bears her troubles, like many other brave mens widows has to do. She is a good woman, I like her very much, I have a talk with her very often. How many I will tell you how I am getting along at school Professor Peus made a jicknick to day and took all the girls out in the woods to get a fresh breath. But I have been sick all week.

unable to attend school, and did not  
feel able to go this morning, and Melissa  
would not go and leave me. But Tom better  
this evening I think, I can go to school  
in the morning I hated Mary much for  
us to miss our studies in the <sup>proceeding</sup> ~~proceeding~~ for  
me was expecting to have <sup>one</sup> ~~one~~ time of it.  
I get along with my lessons very well  
when I have my health. But I believe  
as you do that Tom learning more  
by observation than by study.  
I'm getting to be more up to the work  
and its wisdom, I want to come another  
term if I can but I think it is a little  
doubtful about my getting the chance.  
But Dear Mary, I am more than thank-  
ful of getting to come this term although  
I hope to be able to pay the boys some  
time for kindnezs.

Mary, I fear I have done wrong in telling  
you so much about my way of getting  
on. But then, Dear Mary, I would not  
have said near so much to you if I had  
doubted your affections in the least.  
Mary you think you know all about  
our home but you really do not, ~~you know~~  
you know how it was when you was  
hear but it is quite different now,  
you know they thought I would be  
married then, in a very short time  
to one they thought you was a good  
Democrat, but alas!

First scrap

Thank God! I was led in  
to the light of things before it was  
too late, Mary I never told you very  
much about this because I was all  
ways ashamed to, I was ashamed for  
you to know that I made such prom<sup>is</sup>  
incredible of what I was doing, I only  
respected the man and thought he  
would do to marry. But I'll not tell  
you any more about it now until  
I see you which I hope I will before  
another year. Mary, I don't wish to  
say a word of harm against <sup>my</sup> parents  
for that would be wrong they have  
done for me all that's been done for me  
yet. They have said me what I am  
But Mary I am no more theirs, they  
are done doing for me. And I don't  
live and do for them and be used  
as I have been for the last year  
I can not now I will not I will scrub  
floors and wash sauce pans all my

life first. The girl must have some  
privileges and you will be some what  
surprised when I tell you that I was  
loved but fear, since you left, for  
they all thought you was the cause of  
me not marrying. They did not say so but  
I know what they think. It was deter-  
mined that I should not keep company with  
an abolitionist. The first was late  
summer, that I was denied that privilege  
the Capt of the horn goods one I got  
to corresponding against together with, he  
called on me once or twice unsmothered  
but I saw that father was determined  
in his resolutions that I should not keep  
his company, so to keep friends I re-  
fused him immediately. But I have been ex-  
posed of which I am going to use my own  
pleasure about corresponding with.  
I am caring nothing at all about him  
more than to respect him. But I will  
be like other girls, many as I must be  
until I had not been at home for six weeks  
you about, when this young man called  
in the evening. Pardon me my life if thou  
hurt me. Mary God bless me how badly have  
we my parent I have all my life been to them  
what you know, no to be.  
Dear Mary you are my friend you want me  
to come to you, and I will come with all  
my heart. But not now I had rather  
wait a while  
See and the  
seraph



Second scrap

When my good brother <sup>comes home</sup>  
I will come to you Mary, I don't want  
to cause you trouble for you have enough  
up that and if I was to come before  
my brother comes, you would not feel  
so free as you do now. Then I will  
come, Dear Mary, with all my heart  
and if Henry gets back he will go  
with me. I would feel very badly  
to start so far by my self now  
although I believe I could go with-  
out any difficulty. I did not think  
I would write a whole choir of paper  
this evening or I would have commenced  
on foolscap. But I will close for  
this time you will not read news all  
of a I don't myself. Learn all my  
letters Mary don't lets any person <sup>other</sup> see

I have not been up since I commenced writ-  
ing. I am tired I can scarcely hold my pen but  
I am going in Melinda's room and make her take  
a walk with me. So Good by yours a year  
Sarah Vermission

write to me as often as you can Mary  
and tell Will. to write, I will write  
you another letter in a few days and  
talk to you more about coming to see  
you for I love to talk to you about it  
and I will not botch it up like this.  
Goodbye again

I cant tell, love, why they all wanted  
Jenny married. She often told me  
that they almost hated her, and treated  
her badly because she wou'nt marry  
they couldnt understand her. They  
wanted her off their hands like the  
other girls. I told her she imagined  
this, but I could see it myself. I  
cant know why it was so though.

If my going there made them treat  
her worse, I am sorry I ever went, love,  
—no I wont say that. It will work good  
for Jane in the end. I am glad I went  
and found her. Goodbye, my dearest.