

Memphis. July 24. 1862

Dear Sister:

After a Silence of so long
that I am ashamed of my
self for not writing to you
and answering your kind
letters, I will try this morning
to write you a few lines
This is the third time that
I have commenced a letter
to you and whether it
will prove successful or not
is more than I can tell
The call for drill has just
sounded and I expect we
will have to drill.

We moved our camp yesterday
we are camped about
a mile from the business
part of the City in Fort
Pickering a very nice place

for a camp ground.

I received a letter from father
adjoining two ago, stating that
Tom had enlisted and was
going to start in a few days
and some of our boys
have rec'd letters of a later
date stating that they was
gone. Well come for him
he will have a hard road
to travel, but he never
will regret it or at least
I never have and I suppose
I have seen as hard if not
harder times than he will
have, no doubt the ~~long~~
bill of fare will not
suit him very well at
first but he will soon
learn to eat any thing
he can get. We have had
a pretty hard road to travel
for the last six weeks, so

much hard marching
to do, and the weather
so hot and living on half
rations and part of the
time not that much
we expect to have a few
days rest now except
the heavy guard duty that
we will do. The Army
have commenced what they
ought to have done long
ago. That is, put all the
negroes to work that they
can get. There is about
two thousand at work here
on the fortifications, and
doing the hard work of
the camp. we are here
arranging them and why
not make all you can out
of them Our Regt. is pretty
well supplied with them
Cruz Co has its darkie aid

And some of the Co. Two
or Three. We drew a new
uniform yesterday; consequently
we look and feel pretty
starchy to day. we will
draw our pay in a short
time but not before we
need it. The boys are all
strapped or nearly all so, my
self among the bellies

We have no late news from
Va. but expect we will
have to go there before
Richmond is taken.
Our faith in McClellan is
not as strong as it was six
weeks ago. we think he might
have taken Richmond if he
had managed things rightly

My paper is so blocked that
I wouldn't send it, if I had
any other. Please excuse all
that you find amiss
Yours affectionately, Ned

UNION FOR EVER



Camp Lincoln
Hedden

Sept 10 7802

My Dear Mary,

I have been this morning & all right, but yesterday Mary & I were unwell. Has walked himself sick, but not bad.

Will's eyes are a little sore they will soon be well.

We had a very good time coming. Got to Edgerville before sun down & got plenty of good places. I saw at Mrs. Curly's took the things in hand & made every thing all right for my company, although there was another company in there the same night.

UNION FOR EVER

All of the Apianooe boys
met us at the Depot & escorted
us up to the camp in fine
style, where they soon cooked
us a very good meal. I am
dining & sleeping with the
boys.

Come Mary, next Monday
if you can. I will meet you
at the Depot. Come on the
morning train.

Give my respects to all
I hope I remember you my
dear in all probability your
companion here I will make
it a point to much to do for me
I write this morning only
Yours for ever
Will

Memphis, Oct 14. 1862

My Dear Sister

Yours of Oct. 7.

was received late last night
and I will try and write
you a few lines this morning
if it is only enough to let you
know that we are well. As
was not in either the Iuka
or Corinth battles. There was
several Iowa Regts engaged
in both battles, and as usual
was in the hottest of the fight
and suffered accordingly.

There was some of our neighbor
hood boys in the Iuka battle
Andrew Boney of Aspy was
wounded at Iuka and
how many others I cant say
There has been some hard
fighting in Ky. with what

Result has not been read,
known here. The battle at Corinth
was a hard contested one
and a glorious victory to
our arms. The carnage is said
to be awful. It is said that
there was 300 dead rebels
laying on 400 feet of ground
but enough of war and
war subjects no doubt you
will have enough of it before
it is done.

The boys are going
to vote today, and every thing
is bustle and hurry. Some
electioneering going but I
think the old settler will
give a good account of her-
self. We have 13 men in our
tent and many democrats in
the lot. There is several democrats
in the Co. and a few proslav-
ery ones. There is a prospect

running in ~~and~~ out that
I cant write, and I will
Close for this time

Some of the boys are getting
and making a good deal
of fuss, and it is almost
impossible to Compose a ^{comusable} v
sentence of three words in
length

We will write again in
a few days

Give our love to all
as ever your Brother
Tell Will and the Capt
to write to us.

P.S. please excuse this
sheet, for its dirty appearance
it is hard for a soldier
to keep any thing nice

Camp Lincoln

Oct. 29, 1862

My Dear Mary,

Tired & weary I sit myself down to write you a few lines, that you may know I am at Keokuk & all right. Well but I have done a hard days work to day.

I got on the cars at Greencastle at half past 9 o'clock P. M. Went to Perie House against sundown. Ate Osters for supper, gave half dollar for a bed to sleep in till half past ten o'clock, when I took the cars for St. Louis. Gave half dollar for a bunk in the sleeping car for the rest of the night.

Got to St. Louis at eight o'clock in the morning, went aboard of the Ore Vermon & took passage for Keokuk. Will do best indifferent to travel over the city any. Suppose we would be there in a few weeks any. Had a very pleasant trip up to Keokuk, at which place we landed last night at eight o'clock. Came up to camp & shook the hands of the boys for ten or fifteen minutes & went to bed.

I found 16 or 18 of the boys sick. Seven or ten in the Hospital. None had sick but James Bartlett.

Going a way put me behind the boys in the Drill but I think I will soon catch up again.

Be in good hearts Mary. We will soon meet again. If we go to St. Louis you can meet me there,
Yours most truly,
Will Merriman

Mrs Bower Oct. 24th / 1862

My Dear Mary.

Last evening I wrote you a few ~~days~~ lines
This morning I have been all round to see the boys who are sick,
& by the way there are some 16 or 18 this morning yet, 10 or 11
of the no. in the Hospital. James Bartlett is no better this morning
I cant tell whether he will get well or not. Jenkins is better
Cunningham Evans is no better. Luther Roland is up. You know
I was uneasy about him.

The orderly is gone home. Will Kemper is acting ~~but~~ in his
place. He is well & fills the office first rate. He is in fine
spirits. Jacob Grimes is well again. Mr. Maiken & Henry's
wife are gone home. Ed. Davis, Julia Davis & John Davis wife were here
when I got back. All gone home this morning but Louisa

I send you letters from Mad & Mullinix, & a heap of love
from me. All for Dolly.

Good by. (Give Mother my love)

Will Permittin

Mrs. Rowes Hooker Town

Oct. 30th / 1863

My Dear Mary

Last week I sent you two letters. They were both short, but as long as I had time to write. There was not much in them, but if you knew how much the boys had to ask of me, & then how much I had to do you would not blame me for not writing more. It is utterly impossible for me to be Capt. of the Chautauk Rangers & do much of anything else, while the boys are awake. I think I will detail some prompt man to answer questions for me.

I am well Mary, quite well. I have been so ever since I parted from you (except the blues I had them for sometime)

The boys are having a sad time of it just now. James Bartlett died on the 27th inst. of Typhoid fever. John McCullough died yesterday with I think of Inflammation of the bowels. Joseph Bartlett will undoubtedly die tomorrow or next day Thomas Duckworth is very sick with measles & fever but we think he will get well. James C. Evans is better. He starts home in the morning. Poland was better when I got home Jenkins was better. He is about now. We have a good many others sick but none bad. None of our near neighbors

We are sending all who die home to their friends. We make the money up by voluntary subscriptions. You never saw boys more liberal. They raise in a few minutes \$12.00 to send James Bartlett home

Don't imagine, because these boys have died, that we are all going to die, for there are but few men sick who take care of themselves

The two Bartletts & John McCallough drank to excess after we come here. I never knew it till a few days ago. I have been using every exertion for the last few days to put a stop to it. I have issued an order punishing severely any man who brings Liquor inside of the guard lines. Also punishing any man who knows of any person else bringing it in, & does not inform me of the fact. If any man brings whiskey in the quarters & I find it out I will put him in the guard house for twenty four hours

We drew last Sunday, Coats pants & socks for the boys. Yesterday we drew Arms-Infantry rifles They are good, some of them shoot twelve hundred yards. We can't tell when we will get away. The 30th went several days ago

John Davis' wife is here. She is going to stay till the Regiment leaves. She is boarding at a very hard place up near camp

Henry Maishens wife was gone when I came back

I got a letter from Mr. Millinix a few days ago. He has got your melasses all right. Thom Brandon wants to buy the barrel for the cost of making. I sent word that I would rather give it to the family of some man who is in my company. Especially if they should kneed it. Roker was still lame John Black turned him in the corn field, so he could get Blue grass to eat

It quite late now Mary & I am beginning sneez, you know I am taking cold. That you don't want me to do. I am writing in our bed room & the stand table up by the cupboard

I miss quit my Colley good by Will. Vermilion

This May good dear, I write to tell you that while here at night
when Humphrey is a sleep I think of Dolly. By Day work is never
done till I think a good while after ^{Humphrey is} a sleep. This will be
all of the time we are a part. I could not be contented ~~to~~ if it
were not for that privilege. It is too late May for me to
write more to night. My candle is just going out.

Adieu for your good night my dearest Dolly

Wm. Hamilton

I can't read & write to night,

Mrs Bowes Beckwith

Saturday night 9. O'clock

Nov 1st / 508

My Dear Darling.

You see it is already late enough for me to go to bed, but I thought I would talk a while to my good dolly; especially since I received the letter your Brother James has sent you. I have opened it & read it. That was right was it not? He must be camped on a lonesome spot. But I would not be so proud of the Spirits of those brave fellows, who fell on that eventful day.

I was sad when those pictures were taken, but I didnt intend you should know it by looking at the pictures. Dont cry Dolly I will have better ones taken after a while.

I am sorry I mist seeing Woodford & Henry, but I cant help it now, tell them both I will try & see them next time.

You want to know how we get a long out in quarters. In some respects first rate in other in others rather badly. Since I wrote you Joseph Bartlett has died & we have sent the corps home. His wife came a few hours of his death. She looked pitiful. We paid the expenses of the corps & gave her all of the money had which was \$13⁵⁰

Henry Dykes was sent to the Hospital, where he convalesced finely till a few days ago. when he got too much, which threw him into fever & he is now very bad. It is doubtful whether he gets well

All of those boys who died, including John McLaughlin drunk hand

Thomas Duckworth is still quite sick, but is better. His disease is Measles & Flux. Luther Roland - the boy you saw in the Hospital - got better & is gone home. His time is out & he has failed to report himself. I expect he has got the Measles.

Whisky drinking in my quarters is played out; the boys are afraid to bring it there. I will put the first man in the guard house who brings any inside of the lines. There is none drank now. All I have to regret is that I did not issue the order sooner.

Will is quite well & is making a good Officer. So is J. Grimes. Will says he will write to you soon.

We have good guns for all of the effective men. The Austrian rifles. Maza Woodward has gone to see the Governor about the rest of our clothing. It will be here in a few days. Then we will go to St. Louis immediately. Probably next week. That is the opinion next officer Colonel. While I think of it, the colonel asked me assist him in making his brother in law suffer. I did not do it.

Humfrey has been writing to Julia this evening. He is quite well, but thinks he should get a letter every other day.

It is quite late my good Dolly, & you will pardon me won't you for stopping here & going to bed. I am Officer of the day tomorrow & will not get to sleep much tomorrow night.

I have not got time to read this

Be of good cheer love. I don't forget to love you.

Give my love to my old mother.

Good by Dolly

Will. Bernier

Pearidge. Ark. sept. 15/60

Dear sister

I received your letter of the 9th this morning. I was very glad to hear from you and the rest of the folks. I am glad to hear that the boys are so well satisfied with a soldier's life, but then they are just playing soldier and wait until they have marched two or three hundred miles in Iowa then they will know what a soldier's life is. The 13th has marched from Sedalia to Pearidge, and a good part of the time we had to make a forced march at that, and I expect we will go to Little

Rock before we quit.

That is if we dont get
killed before we get there
the report is now that
the rebels will make
a stand at Cross Hollow
about 15 miles from here
but I have an idea that
they will scare us the
same way they did at
New York; I suppose you
have heard all about
that affair so I will not
say any thing about it
besley to say that we
had ~~two~~ three men
wounded in our Regt
one has since died of
his wound one of the
6 was shot on the
morning it did not hurt
him much.

With Many regards

camped on the Pea-
-ridge battle ground
at least close to it
we passed over a part
of it yesterday. Some say
we have passed over
where the hardest fight-
-ing was done; and some
say we haven't come
to it. I tell you it
looked like if there had
been fighting down there
nearly every tree had
balls in them. Some
trees ~~had~~ had holes in them
as big as your fist.
I saw several big trees
that had been cut ~~in~~
down by balls. I went
out into the woods
and saw some of the
graves where the poor
fellows were buried

it was a sad sight
to see two or three
hundred graves arrayed out
in the woods by
themselves some of
the others being seen
about two hundred
yards in a rather
place but enough
of this; I haven't got
a letter from home
for two or three
weeks. I want you
and Bill to write to
me often; don't wait
for me for I have
a poor chance to write
if you go to Gard.
write to me as soon
as you get there and
tell me all the news
and where to write to
I'll answer

There are many more than
I can count on my fingers.

March 11th

Ward G. C.

Mrs. Rowes Redbank

Nov. 6th / 1862

My Dear Dollie,

I received your good letter, evening before last & how glad I was to get it. You know how glad you are sometimes to get letters from your peaches. It does me just as much good as it does you. I can sit & read your letter once when I first get it, then in an hour or two when I am idle I love to take them out of my pocket & read them good again. They are my comfort here Dollie, & they can come from no person but you. (Everything from you is nothing but that pure love, that gives such comfort to the Soldier in camp. Every person has (or ought to have) one or more such persons to write to them. You are the only one for me. Then remember me Dollie

I fear my dear - from the tone of your letter, you are not satisfied - not comfortable. I used the wrong word. I don't expect you to be satisfied; but what I mean is I fear you are not as well satisfied at fathers, as we both thought you would be. They surely could take you around more. If ^{they} can't or don't you will surely have a lonesome time of it. Get them to take you to Stillwell

Dr Moody & Lady wanted me to have you go see them & stay a month. Can't you do it. I wish you would. They are anxious to have you go. You will be more comfortable there. I know how it is at fathers. They live in a different way to what I want you to live if I can help. I am sorry & almost cry every time I think of it. If it were only different

If father would let you have the buggy, I would freely pay him for it if you damaged it you could get it repaired. But he will not be likely to do it

If you can be any better satisfied by coming to Iowa - by going to your father & taking money enough with you to make things more comfortable there, go, you shall have the money. I will draw money in a few days. Then we will have plenty My Dollie. I will do any thing - everything in my power to render you as comfortable as you can be while we are so far apart. This war will be over after a while. Then we will go home & stay there, It seems to now like that would be the most desirable thing on earth. Wouldn't it my darling.

Will is quite well & cheerful. The boys are all doing quite well but Henry Dykes & he is improving some. He will get well

9 O'clock P.M. I have just come in from camp. The boys are all right out there. Humphrey & John are sleeping up there to night. We all board here now. Old Mr Mag is here. He came down two or three days ago to see the boys he is quite well. Humphrey is getting in a bad fix about Julia. I told him the other day that I should write to you to go to your father if you thought it would be any better for you. Well Mag says he'll tell you what I want you to do before you write "Tell me a few days before you write, because I want to write to Julia to come this far with her I don't care if it costs fifteen hundred dollars I want her here" I told him you would not come before we would leave here "Well now if you write be sure & tell me & I'll write Julia to come" Well I not told him yet. neither do I expect to for we may leave

here in one week or less & we may stay here two weeks. My own opinion is that we will not leave till the measles & mumps go through the Regiment. There are a good many men got the measles & still more with the mumps. Of the latter disease we have twenty four or five in quarters & two or three in the hospital.

It does not hurt them much unless they take the fever with it.

Mr Seney was down last Sunday to look after us. He went home well satisfied that we were caring for our selves as well as we can. Which is a fact May. I am taking good care of myself always sleep here in our bed unless it is when I have to act as officer of the day. For the last four or five days I have had a bad cold, with that exception I am quite well. I am taking no medicine except what Mrs Rome prepares for me morning noon & night which is as palatable as it was when you were here. Occasionally the boys fix it for me out at camp & even that my stomach takes quite well. I think the treatment will cure me. I know it would if I knew you were comfortable my dear.

I hear every few days from your father, Mother & Packer. They are all right. John Mullinix is taking good care of all of our things. Our hogs are doing well. They will bring us some money after all.

I will stop this letter here my good Dollie become I am tired. Make your self as comfortable as possible my dear. I fell sure we will meet again. Tell them all if they want letters they must write to me. Tell Henry I love him & respect him. He loves his Country. God bless you Dollie & good night
Will Vermilion

I want to be true and honest. Go Free Hoodys folks

Milo

Mrs Rowe Nov. 7th 1862

My good Dollie,

This morning I have left camp & come here to write you another letter. The boys up at camp are nearly all sick with mumps now of them back, but they are not fit for duty, consequently we have but little drilling to do. It takes nearly all of the well boys to stand guard. They have not got their overcoats yet. It is cold on them of nights. But that doesn't matter, the Col. is going to enforce his will. That is the law. Will is quite well, except had cold. It is not hurting him much. He eats full rations. My cold is a little better this morning. I feel a good deal better, but cough some ~~more~~ yet, not much. If Dollie were here to pet me I would be all right. I will have interest for all of the petting I loose, when I see you. Be sure of that. You will pay it worst your Dollie.

Wumphey got a letter from Julia last night, but it didn't say one word about my love. Don't let him get more letters than I do Dollie. Julia didn't write anything about you, ~~or~~ anything to me. In fact there is no person to write me letters but you. Then don't neglect it ~~any~~. I have sent you some four letters & have got but one - two it is. They were both good ones. Anything from you is good. You don't neglect me. I am not grumbling. But I want a letter every time the comes to camp. That is the way it is.

Old Mr Rowe lying on his lounge sick. The old woman does not pay much attention to him. He may get well & he may die

The news yesterday evening gave us all the blues. Intervention threatened, from a broad, & men elected to Congress here who will vote to cut off our supplies, & do all they can to depreciate the currency of the Country. Do you suppose Semore of N. Y. will even send any more men from that state to support the Government if he does he will deceive us here. May Hell reap its full reward, of all such men. We live in Iowa thank God. A State that has more than its quota of men in the field, and not one there a nine months or drafted man among them. No traitor in Congress to disgrace our fair fame, by voting to cut off our supplies. Whether the Government stands or falls, we will love Iowa. But I keep in good cheer, the first of Jan. will be here after a while, when I hope there will not be another Bondman on American soil. Let men throw up their hands in awe; let them go to the Bible to prove that Slavery is Divine, if they wish to, I am in favor of President Lincoln's Proclamation, If he will add, give every negro who is willing to fight, a good gun & let him slay his thousands if he can. Let him assist in making every brook in the South run red with treasonable blood. It is not as precious as loyal blood, is to loyal men. The Day of redemption will. Reformatations will never go backwards.

No more news from your father & mother. None more from Mot. or James.

What is Greeley saying these days. You must tell me I don't read any. If he says anything good cut it out & send it in your letters.

I sent you the Gate City last week. Hope it got to you before this. If you stay at father's this winter send for the Post. You can get the address while you are at Hillsville. Be sure to go to see Moody's folks. I know they want you to do it.

Write me every thing. Tell me all the small particulars I have drawn two hundred dollars. Have paid for my uniform. All of it. I don't want to be in debt. If you need any more you can have it. I will be apt to draw again in a few months.

Dinner is just ready. I had better quit
Goodby Dollie. Don't forget me. I think of you all
of the time.

Will. Perrin

I have got no time to read & correct Dollie. you do
that.

At the house just below Mrs Rowes

Nov. 10th 1862

My Dear Dollie,

You will think strange no doubt, of my writing from this house. But Old Mr Rowe died last night at three o'clock, & the house is full of people there to night. They ask me, a few minutes ago if Lieut May & I would not come down here & sleep. Of course we could not do any better. We had been in the habit of sleeping in the same room & same bed you & I occupied, while you were here. But to night they wanted it for some one else to sleep in. We still heard them. My trunk & every thing else of mine is there but my dress suit which is out at camp in Lieut Wright's trunk. I live just as I did when you were here. Sleep in our bed every night except when I am on duty at Camp as Officer of the day, which comes about every seven or eight days some of the Capt's being sick or gone home all of the time. Christie & his wife are gone. Three Medical students are occupying the front room. Had I had the least distant idea the Regiment would have staid here this long we would have had that room & you, my dear Dollie would have been here yet. I wish we had known it. But we did not. The Regiment has been here much longer than any one supposed, & we can't tell yet when it will move. Not I think now till the boys get well of the measles & mumps. We - the Regiment have about

hundred sick now. But few dangerously sick however. Dont get
scared My love, for your friends - special friends I mean
are all well. It is only those who have not had those diseases
that are sick. There are about forty of our Company unfit for
duty, who are here, besides several who have taken sick at home
& are remaining there. Dont ^{be} uneasy about me. I am better of my
cold than I was when I wrote you a few days ago. I feel pretty
well to night. My cough is better. I eat quite hearty. That is
a good symptom for me you know. Then more I am taking just
as good care of myself as it is possible for me to do. A few
days ago I gave six dollars for two fine Casamier shirts. They are
comfortable. I wear them without any over shirt - in fact they are
over shirts. This evening - since dark - I have been down town and
ordered me a pair of double boots water proof. I am repairing
my old over coat yet but will get a good one in a few days. I got
me gloves but some person stole them from me - at least any
of my boys, they - that one of them would serve me that way
I will get more in a few days. Then I will have everything I
need. You be sure & get all you need Dollie I will send you more
money when you want it. Dont be afraid of spending money
that is what it is for. You are welcome to it my dear.

We are getting a long slowly with our drill. So many of the
boys are sick, we cant do much. Governos Kirkwood is in town
to night. He was at to see us on dress parade this afternoon
I had an introduction to him. He is common, but I am not
a shamed of him. He is worth a thousand Semores.

You are discouraged about the War, Dollie, that wont do, we must never get discouraged. A few days ago we had had news, to day we have good. The Telegraph this evening says Seward has gone out of the Cabinet, old Smith & Blair. Good. It is better May. They were a load to this Government. It will I think move on better now. McClellan is relieved of his Command also. Thank God for that. I breathe better now. We are going to have fighting Generals to lead us. Bull is laid on the shelf you know. That is good. All is good but the elections, & even they only tell who are gone to defend our country. There has been something done in and about Washington. Old Abe has put his foot down. I hope it will smother every rebel on American soil. Dont you Dollie? I know you say yes.

I have no particular news from up the County. All was well the last account. Wood-side & every thing belonging up there.

Will is well & kept a bad cold he took. Last night she was Sergeant of the Guard yesterday. She wrote you a letter last night.

Humphrey said this evening that he was an abolitionist. What do you think of that. The world progresses you know. I think he will be in Indiana in a few weeks, probably in a few days, he cant stand it much longer.

Half an hour later Lieut. May has come in & I stopped to talk to him. He wants to go to Indiana, badly, and he wants to see old Bryant.

I love you with all of my heart, & think all of the time. At night I lay & think of my poor Ollie, & how my means frame give way to sleep, & how Ollie
are ever met again. *Will*

The old Trator. If the Colonel will let him off he will start next week. Don't say any thing about ^{it} for fear he don't get there. She has just said, he would not go to father, but would send for ~~father~~ you, as quick as he gets there.

Now for a talk Ollie, again about the way you are having to live. I had it my dear, it troubles me. If father's folks were only such people as I wish they were. To let you stay there two or three weeks without taking you any where it is to bad. I did not think they would do such a thing. I don't think it is mother's or James' fault. To think that old buggy is to good for you to drive by your self. I wish as long as they like money so well - they would hire you the buggy & horse as much as you want ^{it}. I ^{freely} pay them for it. Or I would pay - a have you pay any person else for a buggy & horse for you to ride in. Why did you not take the advantage of them when you were at Mrs McPartys and stay there for several days, and trust to fate to get from there to some place else, where you wished to go. Can't you get to Dr Maady's. They were very anxious for you to go up there and stay a month or longer. Ock was very particular about it. You can't stay there - at father's - & live in that dirty house I'll write. I know you can't. It will be to bad, & I love you too much to want you to do it if there is any other place on Gods earth where you would rather stay. Will it be better for you to come back to your father. You can't live at Waadside, by your self. That won't do my love. I am troubled about you Ollie. Would you write me all about it. Tell me every thing. Get Henry to go some place & hire a horse, & buggy for you to travel around in, and if father's folks don't like it, we can't help it. I don't want I don't intend to have you stay there all winter & work for them. If there is any place in that County where you would like to board a while at - hire your board - ~~for~~ money pay for it. Don't think that I am mad Ollie, I am only sorry, for you sorry to the bottom of my heart. Write & tell me every thing, my dear Ollie & I will tell you what to do. I feel there must be something done. Tell me all about it and I will tell you what to do. Good by my dear Ollie *Will*

Friday Evening, Nov. 12, 1862.

My Dear Love:

I wrote to you last evening, but you won't think I write too often will you. I can't write much though this time. It is nearly dark, and I must help mother and Jane a little. Henry is better to day. The doctor came out before breakfast this morning to see him. He said he was better. They sit up all night, now with him. John Bunyon and Cal. Heaveridge sat up last night. I don't know whether any one will come to night. I hope he will get well now. He looks very bad, is nothing but a skeleton hardly. He talks a great deal and his voice is loud and strong, but unnatural, they say. He never talks much when he is well. I think he is much better to day.

I sat up late last night and read my papers. You have read the Message I am sure. How do you like it? Isn't it an extraordinary document, all things considered? The first thing that strikes me is the man's unmistakable honesty, and earnestness of purpose.

He means well, if any man ever did. And how simple his language! As to his plans I am willing to have them tried. It seems to me there is a better way. I am in favor of immediate, not gradual Emancipation. I don't see the justice of paying even loyal men, for their slaves. No one thinks of paying Southern ^{men} for the property they may lose by the war. Nor do I see the need of talking about Colonization just now. This country will need all its laborers for the next few years. Still, if we can't get all we want, let us take all we can get. If nothing better can be devised give us the President's "plan" by all means. Greeley sustains him heartily. I rejoice at one thing his present "plan" is not to interfere at all with the Great Proclamation.

I don't really think my beloved, that this war will last many months longer. Oh may God hasten the end! We must crush them now, if ever. If our Generals only do their duty, as the men will do theirs, I don't see how we can fail now. I have read Halleck's report. Is it not enough to make one's blood boil in their veins? What other government on earth ever suffered so much at the hands of its friends?

Later: It is nearly ten o'clock. I am sitting up
alone with Henry. The rest are all asleep. He
is sleeping too now. He is better I think. It
is raining and storming, and the wind howls
dismally. I hope you are comfortable, my love.
John came from town - Greencastle - since dark.
He says a great battle is being fought at Fredricks-
burgh. The town is burning. He says the people
are greatly excited, and Unionist are rejoicing.
He can't tell much about it. His ideas are con-
fused on the subject always. But it may be there
is good news for us. I don't know how to wait.
If Burnside can win a great victory now, and
follow it up - as he will I think - the war will
soon be over. We shall whip them in the West
and South West. I have little fear of the final
result there, but, darling, my own good darling, it
makes me heartsick to think of a battle there.
I do ^{not} fear for the cause, but for the only thing on
earth dearer to me now than my country. When
I think of your personal safety. I am the veriest
coward in the world. I can't help it love. I
have done all I can, and given up all I have.

I shall not sleep any to night dear. Just a rum-
mor of good news can keep me awake. If I
could only see you for one hour to night what
would I not give? I don't get used to the separa-
tion or reconciled to it at all. It hurts me
worse every day. I think of you every minute
when I am awake, and dream of you when I
sleep. I long to see you more than I can tell.
But you know all this without my telling you
don't you dear love? Still I can no more help
telling you than the brook can help babbling
in summer. Tomorrow is Saturday. I will get a
letter from you. Let me thank you again dar-
ling, for being so good to write to me often. I don't
know what I should have done without your
letters. I sent you a long letter to day, and
I had as well stop here as any where. I want to
read my tribune some. And I can hardly put
away my paper at all. Even this poor compan-
ionship with you is so much better than none that
I feel the parting most keenly whenever I say goodby
to you. But I must say it dear one. Goodby.
Don't forget to write to your Dollie, and don't forget to love
her. Be cheerful, darling and contented as you can. Dollie

I have written enough I guess, my darling, but then a long letter from you does me so much good, that I never know when to quit writing. Do you like long letters dear? I see in my Gate City that William Burns has died since you left Keokuk. How sad such news is! I wonder what will become of the helpless families that are left without guides or protectors. It is very dreadful. You never told me he was sick. Write me more about yourself dear love. I want to hear all about you. You know darling, where all my interest in this world centers. Tell me everything about yourself, and all that you want me to do. I will try my best my own dear, to do everything I can to please you. Talk to me just as you would if I were sitting beside you. It makes me feel so much nearer to you when you write me loving words, and I know that you think of me. Tell me if you think it will be possible for you to come to see me this winter. I almost dread to hear you speak of this, for you will say say I'm afraid that you can't come. Oh darling I want to see you so much. Do you think of it much dear?

I am in better spirits about the war. The signs look propitious just now I think. Don't you? I almost hold my breath to hear a shout of victory from Burnside's legions. But anxious as I am about events there, there is not where my heart is. Oh my husband, be careful of yourself for my sake. Don't let the war be ended for me before the rebellion is put down and my country free! I know you are a good soldier and a gallant officer, but while I am proud of you, I tremble lest you will not be careful of yourself.

I didn't get my Tribune Saturday or I would tell you what Greeley says. He is just beginning to recover his exuberance since the election. His faith which was obscured for a time is growing as bright as ever. God bless him; and all earnest workers in the cause of Right and Humanity!

I must quit and help mother. Goodbye, my precious love. Don't get the blues darling. I haven't them. Let us trust in God and be patient. Don't forget me dear love.

As ever your Mary

Mrs Rovers Nov. 19th 1862

1 Page Now Dollie, for an other talk. Probly you would like me to say good evening first. It would have been in better taste, but you know we never were much on formalities. So we will let it pass for the present, & talk a little about what has passed since we last talked together.

You know I toled you Sert. May was going to Basin, but I didnt know he was going to start so soon. After these letters were written he & I had a talk, & he concluded to go on Thursday. We went to see Colonel Kettredge, in regard to the matter. He toled me (for Sert. left without saying anything to him in regard to it) he had better start Wednesday morning. After dress Parade I toled Humphrey the Colonel said he might have leave of absence for eight or ten days. We went & got him a gunn coat, bought his tickets, & then came here - his boarding house & toled Mrs Rowe to besure & have breakfast against @ o'clock for he was going to see his wife. We then set down & counted his money. I did the same, & by the way, I dropped twenty dollars on the floor, & one of the boarders found it next morning & gave it to me. If it had not been for that I should have sent you more money. But to return. We then washed himself for half & hour or longer & then went to bed. Next morning he was up betime & dressing. Got ready before breakfast did. Got ready before I got up. And started before I got up and before he got anything to eat

3rd Page.

I have just discovered that I wrote on the wrong page
It won't make any difference Dollie you will find where to read

If I had known we would have been kept here
till this time, you shouldn't have left me so soon. You could
have stayed here so nicely. Christie left while I was gone & some
Medical students got the room they had & I had to keep the room
you & I had. Had we known it, we could have had it just as well
as not.

There are too many in the room for me to write any more
my Dollie Goodbye - I love you. Yes I love you Dollie

Your

Will.

Jan 4 Page We have not been able to learn here whether he waited for the Boat or not. The boys think he went on without it. Whether he has been able to get to Indiana or not, is a question we are not able to decide.

Since he left we have been getting along about as usual. Nothing worth noting has occurred. The health of the Co. is improving. All of the boys are mending I believe. Some six or eight were set to quarters for duty to day by the Doctors. We are getting along finely. All in better spirits.

My Dear Dollie, I wish I knew how you are getting along, for I love you so much. Did I know you to be troubled about the way you have to live, I guess I would go up. Couldn't stand it at all. Would will have you live some other place. That is so. Tell me how it is. All about it & then we will know more about each other.

Dont let the war news trouble you it will all come right after a while. Burnside will fight you know. McClellan want you know. Rosecrans will fight, Puel would not. Grant was tired on the Central and question, but he is no more. Things are going better.

Nov. 14th eleven o'clock A.M. We have been in a bad chill ever since nine this morning. The Colonel has taken a notion to drill the Regiment. It is a fine thing, the boys will have better health if they are drilled six or eight hours every day than if they lay round in camp & do nothing. Action is what they need. We will be very apt to get plenty of it from this on.

Mrs Powers Nov. 16th 1862

Letter writing is a trade you know, that has to be
learned by constant application. (I spelled one word wrong already)
You know doubt think I am determined to learn the trade
Well I am if the war lasts long enough, which will in probability
judging from the way it is going for the last month or two. McClel-
len has been a great failure. Never in gods (then I ought have used
a capital G.) world has any Government tried so hard, at so —
much expence to its self & the people, to make a great man of any
person as this Government has of Gen. McClellen. But it has failed
in the attempt, & consequently in everything else. You want to
know whether I am discouraged? No. Doltie not at all. Is that a
trait in my character? Don't you know, the harder it comes, the
harder I always work. That is the only way to get a long. If it
was necessary I think I could go back up home & talk to the people
till they would turn out en masse. I might fail but that is the
way it seems to me.

We must have by this time men enough in the field
to make an active Campaign of it this Winter. We will have it
under Hooker & Burnside. Then for gougars we have Rosecrans
& Curtis. Poor good men. Fighters.

Our bedroom 9 o'clock Sunday evening.

There are too many men
in the other room, when the fire is for me to write then this evening.

dam who had not been engaged in the disturbance. The soldiers
then brick bats & stones at him till he got out of the way: one of
which hit him in the back. He gave it ^{up} as a bad job. After
the Citizens & firemen came in the boys dispersed.

After the boys of the 8th got together up in camp & consulted
the matter over, they concluded it was not well done. The Col-
apprehending trouble issued an order, not allowing any soldiers
out side of the line during the night. Just before night, the
boys (except my company, I had let three men out during the
night and they were not in the mob.) got together & concluded
they would go down in town & clean Sent. Ball out. (When they
came to the Guard lines the Major, Adjutant and the most of
the line officers tried to keep them back. The boys did not
hurt any of them, but took them & lifted them to one side
& told them to stand there, & about three hundred of them passed
out, went down to Sent. Ball's office, & called for him, but were
told he was under arrest. They then look a look for firemen
but found none. Then they went to the Theatre. The manager
then opened the doors, the Citizens stood aside & the boys all
went in. All in all there is a bitter feeling on the part
of the soldiers toward the citizens here. What it will termi-
nate in we can't tell. But there is one thing certain, we will
take care of ourselves. Kerkink has to be have from this on.
rest assured of that

I am getting cold now good Ollie so I will quit. I have just looked over
this letter. It is to bad but I have been shivering the most of the time

So I thought I would just come in here & finish this poor letter.

We will not talk any more about the war now. But I will tell you - lest you see it in the papers & think it worse than it is - some thing of the excitement of yesterday.

Our Regiment has to send about twenty five or thirty men down in town every day to act as Prov. Guard for the city. Yesterday morning there was quite a fire broke out in the central part of town. The firemen were there with their engines. The citizens of course were there. The Convalescent soldiers from the Hospital were. In all there was quite a crowd. It mixed me. All - every body worked putting out the fire, till most of them were exhausted, especially the soldiers. One of them over worked himself & died in half an hour after getting sent to the Hospital. While the fire was raging, some one distributed whiskey quite freely among the firemen. They got drunk against the fire was put out. After the fire was all out four or five of them jumped on & whipped badly one of Capt. Gedneys boys who was acting as Guard at the Commissary Close by. About the same time they threw some rocks into the Extra House Hospital. The Convalescent soldiers became enraged & surged out into the street. It being wash day a great many of the boys were in town. They became enraged also & the riot commenced in good earnest. The Soldiers at the upper part of the firemen & citizens & no person could control them. Our Col. made a weak effort & retired. Lieut. Ball came out & made the effort by knocking one of the Centreville boys

while writing. On looking over it I find there is nothing
right in it. But hunt on all of the pages Dollie & you
will find all I have said. Will & I are quite well.

Good by my Dear Dollie for this night. Good by
Don't know when we will leave here.

M. J. Vermilion

Camp Lincoln Nov. 17th 1862

My Dear Collier,

We are off in a few days for Helena. The orders came this afternoon, for us to go on the first Boat, but we are not going for a few days, there are so many men at home. I send Will Kemper home to monon after ours, He will be gone till Monday. In all probability we will be gone before he gets back. If we are he will follow us. Will not be likely to stop in St. Louis more than one night - may not that. Be of good cheer my Collier there is going to be something done. There are twenty five Boats lying at St. Louis, to transport troops on. There is a very large army collecting at Helena - probably to march against Vicksburg. All right it is better for us fight than lay here - we will not lose so many men. Sickness is worse than fighting.

Don't be uneasy about me my dear, I am taking good care of myself. I shall continue to do so, when ever it is possible. I am quite well now - weigh one hundred & sixty two pounds a gain of four pounds since we came here.

The health of Company is improving. The measles & mumps are not so bad. No new cases. All of the old ones improving.

I have just looked over what is written above. Look over the word may. I have not been in the habit of reading the letters I write you my good Collier. I know you can read them - and that is all I care for. That is enough is it not?

Don't be scared when you see this holf sheet, for I am
tired this evening - if you call after ten o'clock at night evening
I love to talk to you Dollie, but I tried to go to bed. You
won't think hard of me for not writing a long letter this
time, my love. I just came in from camp. But it would
not be right to go to bed & not tell you what we were going to do
Send your next letter to St Louis - or one to St. Louis & one to
Helleran. Don't be weary if I don't write so often now.

Goodly Darling, let me sleep if I can; I hope you

will have a good night's sleep, Goodly Darling

Bill Hamilton

Mrs Rowes New York 25th 1862

My Dear Dollie.

I went May has just got home. I have read all of your letters, two yesterday & two this morning. I will answer them this morning, but I must be hasty.

You must not stay at father's, if it can possibly be helped. What I wish you to do is this. Go to Mrs McCarty & tell her that I want her to board you what time you stay in that country & you will pay her any price she may see fit to charge. But she must charge what it is worth. Make yourself as comfortable there as you can for the present. It is impossible for me Dollie to take you along with me now. You have no idea what a hustle we are in. If we get stationed anywhere, when I can have you both taken care of you shall come to me since. But Dollie you could not stand it. Then if you were to get sick, what would we do. They would not let me have time to take care of you. If I were to get sick & you know what would we do then. If I get sick as it is you can come to me & take care of me. I would give all I have in this world to have you a long while with me during this campaign. But the way things stand at present it is just impossible. I love you so much my dear Dollie to have you exposed to camp life. It is too rough for your tender nature my love. It may be better after while, when we get into a brigade.

I can think of no other plan at present. In fact there are but two plans to fall upon Dollie. The one I have mentioned, is to come to Loue. I cannot stand it for you to stay at father's, & know you don't want to go contrary to my wishes. So make your arrangements to live some other place. If you stay at Mrs. McBearty's you can if you wish to go & see them occasionally I am going to write to the Old Lady about it myself. She will get the ^{the} by the time you get this. This is all on that point, & as Col. Feltledge says "I hope you will attend to it immediately!"

We are going to leave here in two or three days for Hesteron. Our boys are getting out of the sick beds fast. They will nearly all go with us.

My health, quite good, & I have too much to do to get the ladies. Move to Mrs. McBearty's. She will be a mother to you. Julia & family will be sisters to you. And I will ever try to be more than every person to you Dollie.

I can't write any more now my love.

I will write again in a few days. Good by my Dollie

W. M. M. M. M.

P.S. I will not have time to write to Mrs. McBearty. You go just as soon as possible & see her

Will

Parenty, Mississippi Nov. 26. 1862

We are on our way to St. Louis. We will get there to night sometime. We left Neshoba yesterday about one o'clock with fifty eight men. Sient Wright will be down tomorrow with the rest of our Company who are able to travel. Several of our boys are still sick in Hospital. The most of them will follow us in a few days.

Will came back yesterday just as we were starting. He is on board to day. He is well. Your father & mother are well, & are getting along finely. No bad news from the neighborhood.

The Regiment is not all a long this time. Six Companies only. The other four will follow in tomorrow.

Humphrey is unwell. His old complaint is bothering very much. He is not able to be up much. He has the mumps.

I am quite well, feel first rate.

There is too much confusing here. Dolie for me to write. I hope you will be at Mrs. McQuitty before you get this letter, for I don't want you to stay at father's. I will write again as soon as I can. I can't write any more now. My dear Dolie. In all of this confusion I walk the floor & think of my dear Dolie. Soothly Dolie
M. Bennett

The Boat shakes too much for me to write

Benton Barracks, Mo. Nov 28th 1862

Here we are at last. We are getting ready to go to Helena as just as possible. There is no telling when we will go. Perhaps tomorrow, perhaps next day perhaps next week. But they say Helena is our destination. All right we are willing to go, if it will do any good.

This thing called Benton Barracks is a fine thing. It covers about one hundred & fifty or sixty acres of ground. I can't describe it. I would take too long. There are three or four Regiments here. Every person else in the field. We make a poor show here, so few of us. That is so few men here in these large fine grounds. Some few soldiers say Fremont was too arrogant, others say God bless him, he thought something of his men. My opinion is, if every commander in the Army had understood the nature & comprehended the magnitude of this rebellion as well as Fremont did, the war would have been over long ago. Don't you wish they had. The most of us do here.

The Quartermaster is getting on complete outfit of trunks & everything here. That is all we are allowed. Government has cut down transportation till we are not allowed to take much. We can't take trunks sure enough. I am going to make mine orderly's box & go a head. When they make me leave it off I will throw it away & get me a hand trunk.

James Kempers Capt. was here last night. He has resigned in consequence of bad health. He had Pneumonia, & came very near dying. He is better now however. He says Gim is well & first rate soldier. No better in his company. Murphy was sick when we got off of the boat had to go to a Hotel, when he met Benson

When Lieut May saw Benson on his way home he took a motion
to resign. They both got on the cars & came up to camp yesterday in the afternoon.
At the same time I went down to town to see him. I got there and he was gone
where I did not know. I knocked down over town till night, & then came back up
here & then the Lieut was, in a great fever to resign & go home. He said his constitution
was gone, & he would never be fit for the service. If he went to Dixie he would die
there. "Won't you get me off as quick as you can Cap" says he. "Now do the
best you can for me, & get me away from here!" If I stay here I will be sure to die,"
& all such talk, as that. I told him I see Col. Nettredg & this morning. (Can't you
see him & night says he (it was then 8 or 9 o'clock). I told him to wait till morning.
No says he, I want to start in the morning. I finally told him there was no use
of his making such a fuss about it, for he could not get off so soon. That in
the first place he would have to have a certificate of disability from the Surgeon
one from me & one from Col. Nettredg & then it would have to go to General
Sentry & he would have to decide on it before he could get his final discharge. I told
him also that in all probability he would not get any more pay for what time he had
served. "I don't care says he I am not going to tell any thing but the truth about
it. I have had this disease ever since was twenty years old. And a great many
others such things. Finally this morning I went to see Col. Nettredg & told him
how it was. He objected, but says he would sign the papers if nothing else would
do. But says he I will go & see him myself about it & try & put him out of the
motion. So he came over & talked to him & put him out of the motion ^{some} ~~some~~ enough.
To night he is quite comfortable & cheerful. I'll better. Able to be up. Good appetite
& I'll tell you he will write as soon as he can. Tell he not to be uneasy about him.
I think he will soon be as well as usual.

But I will tell you my Dolly what I think about it. He can't stay
a way from getting the children. That is the hole of it my Dolly. I don't blame
him for wanting to be with his family but he ought to have known his own
fortitude. Now it is perfectly right my Darling of a man even in these days of
war to think as much of his family as it is possible for man to, but he ought
to have the moral courage to do what is right. I love you Dolly I know as much
as he can love his wife, but it will make it worse for me & you, had to act
as he does. Don't think I don't love you Dolly for I love you as much as
it is possible for one person to love another. I know what I say Dolly
The worst of it all is he is out of money & borrowing from me I have
to quit leaving to him.

I hope you are not still staying at father's. I hope you are comfortable
If my love can make you comfortable, be comfortable for you have it all.
My light is gone, good by Dolly I have not got any letter from you
for several days, What after my Dolly I want to hear from you
so bad. Good night Dolly

Will. Kemler

P.S. I have got no time to read this

Bentley Barracks Dec 19th 1852

Your letter of the 22nd came into my hands this evening being the first from you since we left Peoria. It was a welcome one. It seemed as though a letter from you was never going to get here or to me again. I thought of course I should not have looked for one so soon. We have only been gone from that place one week, & I ought not to have expected letters much sooner than that. But we has not got much practiced with Uncle Sam in times like these, you know. We will not get letters from each other so often from this on. The mails after we leave here will not be so regular as they are up north. The rebels will be to watch you know.

We will leave here in a few days, we can't tell how soon, but probably not longer than the middle or last of this week. Our destination is Helena, we think, but of course we don't know. The boys are somewhat tired of this place already. They had better not be, for we are well off here compared to what we will be after we leave St Louis.

We have had orders read to us this afternoon, notifying us that our baggage will be cut down considerable. Our trunks have played out. Can't take them any further. We have to get hand trunks. Don't get you one, if you have not already. I will express mine to you in a few days in all probability. That is if I can send it to Putnamville as cheap as I can to Edgelyville. If I send it to you I can write to you & have you get it at Putnamville. As I hope you will be at Mrs McCarty's. You must be there or some place else sure

I can't & will not stand it for you to stay among the people who hate the cause I am sacrificing & risking every thing for. No odds who they are, if they think anything of me, they can't like much of my Cause Government. If they think anything of his Confederacy I don't want them then to think anything of me. And I don't want any person that does think anything of me to stay where rebel sympathisers are. And more especially when they can't take their own parts freely. So if you have not moved Dottie which I hope you have done before this you will do it immediately - no difference who's feeling, it hurts. I think more of your feeling than than of every person else on this Earth. I have talked enough about this before though Dottie for you to know what I want you to do & I know that will be all the stimulant you need. But you must recollect I have not received any letters since I first wrote to you in regard to this matter. And of course I will keep writing till I hear from you, for I shall never be contented till I hear you are away from there. That is so Dottie. I owe them nothing, & I never intend to owe them any thing. Enough on that subject.

Sient May is better, but not fit for duty. He is able to be up most of the time. Some days he thinks he will resign, then again he thinks he won't. I guess he will not for a while.

On day before yesterday all three of us were sick but it did not last long with Sient Wright & myself. I had Colic one evening. I took a big dose of opium. I was hot - I guess that made me sick.

I don't think you would get a long any better at your father's go-
thru Dolly. But you could not hear from me there very often
you know. That is the only difficulty Dolly. We could fix for you
to be better off there than any other place. But be your own judge
If you leave Indiana, it will be a very long time before I
see that part of God's Earth again. I would not be likely to
eat Mother Turkey very soon.

The boys are talking too much for me to write any more
to night. So goodly Dolly. Be sure to write often

Good by for this time

W. F. Garrison

He is ignorant & egotistical, two bad traits for a man in his position
If we ever live to get home I will remember him, I can
be his equal there, & he can't help it. If there should be ever
so many vacancies in our Regiment, there never would be any
chance for me. Volley, Wapato County would get it all
Appanawoc County is not known in the arrangement

We have no sutler yet, he says Col. Nuttidge can't
get his brother in law. He never can get him with my consent
I better head I waters as little as any fellow you ever saw.
Never go about them unless I am compelled. I am going
to stay with my boys, & make them as comfortable as possible
That will be enough for me to V. Volley (didn't go to see
that Capital V.). I can do as much good there as I can any
place else.

We got us a Company Mess chest, with everything in
it in the way of dishes. We board ourselves now. John B. May
is sucking for us. We get a long finely. I sleep on a cot
in my room & John Wright & Humphrey, sleep on theirs
in the same room. If you were here Volley, you would have
no place in gods world to stay away from the men. I can
get out side of the Guard line only every ten days, & then
only by getting a written prof from the Col. & then counters
signed by the post Adjutant. If you could be comfortable
I should love to have you here, but it is just impossible Volley

There is no place here for you to stay. If you had come with Humphrey with the intention of going with me I don't know what I should have done, it would have troubled me so. The thing is just impossible my good love. We are only allowed sheltered tents. Little bits of things, not half high enough for any one to stand in. I could not stand it. Dollie for you to be exposed so. Then if you were to get sick who would take care of you my own good Dollie. They would not let me stop for that purpose. Then if I were to get sick now, I would have no Dollie to write to.

Don't think of it any more my love.

Sient May & myself have expressed our thanks to Putnamville for you & Julia to get. Send for them & get them in them, the charges you will have to pay,

It is so late my Dollie I will quit writing for this time. Send your letters here for a while & they will follow me where ever I go.

Tell Henry to keep in good spirits. I hope you are not staying at father's yet. I wish I knew. But I must wait. I don't care what they say or think about it, just so they be come & convinced that I had Grants, both North & South.

Goodbye my Dollie, for this night, it late

Will. Beville

As usual it is a lot for me to read the Dallas
Hills

Benton Barracks, Mo

(Dec-7th 1862)

My Dear Julie,

Yours of the 20th ult. came in this afternoon. The one dated Nov 28. came in Tues or three days ago. The one dated on the 20th came by the way of Keokuk. It doesn't matter when they are dated, I love to get them, Yours letters are always good, Dollie, write often.

My health is good, first rate. Will's health is good. I very seldom talk much to him. His business & mine don't bring us together much. He stays with the boys all the time, & is always ready for duty, but as backwards as ever. The other day, I told Will, to take ^{the} company out & drill it, (the orderly & commissioned officers were all busy) but he didn't do it as I told him. He concluded Hancock ought to do it as he was second sergeant. But I had put Hancock under arrest a few days ago - a few days before that for getting drunk & breaking Guard, & of course I would not let him drill the men after such conduct as that. The consequence was I put Hancock in the ranks & made Will drill the boys for a while, simply to give them exercise. Hancock hated it the worst I ever saw a man hate any thing of the kind in my life. I am determined to punish him every time ^{he} does any thing of the kind. But I will not remove him as long as I can help it, for when he is sober he does the best he can, & his family needs all the money he can get for them.

The rest of the boys are getting v long finely. I have had a long talk with Jake Grimes today. He is as good a fellow as I ever saw. He says the boys are well pleased with every thing Sient Wright. They are getting so they dont like him. He is not much account. There is nothing of him. Sient May tho like. The Orderly they like first rate. He is a good fellow. Better, I never saw.

When you get this write all you think about fathers folks. Tell me how you like what you get to eat, how much dirt you have eat, &c though I hope by the time you get this letter you will be eating much there, for I cant bear the thought of your staying there this winter.

It is not a place fit for you my Ollie. The men was very toiling in there, and then I thought you would get a long letter than I used to. I thought they were being better. But such people as is insane Ollie, by this time I guess you know why I am so better than you. Why I never made much more than a new ordinary person of myself. If you were there it will be a long time before they ever see you in that State.

I have just learned from the Alicia boys that Judge Townsend is arrested for treason. Good says Sient May. Good says all of us. We hope they will hang him. We have no love for traitors here, north or south. Sient May says he is an abolitionist. Says he "I wish the Regs would rise all over the South & do their part of fighting. He wants the hole South to over run with insurrections. Such is the influence of the war on good men who are not out for a probability of money."

I am an abolitionist full blooded. Want every negro set at liberty & if any person tries to enslave them give them a gun & let them flood the South with blood.

If the people of Ind. don't like such talkin, they can make
the most of it. It does not matter what father & mother think
of it. I like a negro better than I like traitor. I would rather live
by a loyal negro than by half of the people who are living in
Putnam Co. It would not be comfortable for me to live there
the consequences might be bad. When fighting for their liberties
I become desperate towards their enemies. If we could we would
wipe them off of the Earth at one blow.

Be of good cheer Dolly, time will roll on & we will ^{be} back to
our Prairie home again. (Up in Iowa) traitors don't rule

If we were at home Dolly now we would be a shame of
of our shes. The quiet of home would not do us

I will write you more now Dolly, Gaeby, If I could
do you it would do me more good than any thing else in the
world, but I can't now Dolly,

We have no Suttler now, none yet. ^{the} ^{best} of the Best have
petition of over five hundred names in, asking for a Suttler

We are going to have fun if you don't get one soon

Gaeby again Dolly, I Love you,

W. H. Smith

I can't read this I have to run to Dr Richards on business
yet

Benton Barracks Mo.

Nov. 24 1862

My Dear Dollie

The boys in the next Barracks are singing sweet home, ^{it} makes me think of our home, our lovely home in Logol Iowa & of my good Dollie, for no place would be home without Dollie. Such things sometimes make me feel a little sad, to think of the separations, the many separations this Hellish war has caused. I feel it for myself, I feel it for my Dollie, I feel it for every member of my Company. I ^{know} just been in the Barracks & talked to them all or nearly all of them. Bad Marchbanks was out of tobacco, & out of money this evening when I was up to the Store I thought of him & got him enough to do him a little while. He was the best pleased fellow you ever saw. He is one of the best men I have. Stop! I should not use the word best in comparing members of my Company. They are all good. I can't pick out one private in the Company I dislike. I don't suffer myself to notice the little eccentricities of men. In fact if it is necessary to punish one of them - which is very seldom, I soon forget it. They always expect punishment however, when they violate a rule. The boys who talk to me about it say they don't hate me for it, but soon forget it.

I have not been writing as I intended to have written. When I commenced I intended to write a long home, but I have not done it. This must be sent though, let Dollie read it any how, for I don't think anything that Dollie ought not to know.

We don't know yet when we will leave here. It surely
won't be many days however. Our guns have been at the
Arsenal for some time. They are being put in order.
The Colonel told us this evening on dress parade that they
would be up to morrow. When we get them we will be about
ready for Dixie. I have just been up & fixed the fire. It is
about out. John & Humphrey always wait for me to do such, in
fact everything. The room I stay in - or we rather would not
be cleaned out once a week if I were not to do it, or see that it
is done. The same of the Kitchen & Barracks. They never look
after the welfare of the men. Never think of them. I suppose
they think all they are required to do is to go on dress parade, &
drill a little. But we get on long. Don't tell any person about it.
Humphrey has been rich and of course he could not do anything
of the kind. It must be done however, by some person. I will
do it all if no person else can do it. Our Company is divided
into four messes, & the four Sergeants are the heads of messes.
I told them the other day that they should have their messes to
take day about cleaning up the Barracks. It has only been four
days since I told them. This evening - since dark I went in to
see how the boys were getting on long, & found the Barracks had not
been swept up this day. Such is the way things go here, when
I don't look after them. When their Blankets are never aired
unless I make them do it. The men never think of it. Neither
do the Lieutenants. They don't air their own. But enough of this
for this time. Well, it just now I went to my room & fixed the
Cool all around the tower.

Goodby Dollie, It makes me mad to think how
they serve me. Goodby my Dear Dollie
M. A. Perin

Tuesday Morning, Dec. 9, 1862

My Darling.

I received your letter of the 1st Saturday night. I was so glad and so relieved to learn that you were not sick. I had been uneasy about you. If you can only remain well my love!

You are troubled too much about me I'm afraid dear. I don't want you to be uneasy on my account. You tell me I must not stay here long, but I am here yet. I got your letter telling me what you wanted me to do more than a week ago, but I have been sick darling, as you know if you have got my letters, and I could do nothing but be still and try to get well. I am about well now but yesterday was the first time I have been out. Father was at Deer Creek Sunday and heard that your trunk had come to Putnamville. When he came home and told me I could hardly wait. I asked if I might have a horse or the buggy to go down and see it - I thought there would be a letter in it. He said I might have the buggy. So yesterday morning cold as it was I wrapped up and

went. When I got there Julia had just got back from Putnamville with the trunks. We both cried over them. There was a long letter in hers, but none in mine. There were only your shirts and blouse. Humphrey said you were all well as late as the 4th. They made Julia pay 3.75 on the trunks before she could get them. This is all right, if you didn't pay the express charges when you started them. I hope you did not. I am very sorry that you couldn't keep yours. I know you will need it all the time. But as you could not take it dear I am glad I have it. I would rather have that one than ten other trunks because it was yours a little while. Everything you ever touched is sacred to your Dollie now. I left the trunk there. I asked aunt Annie about my staying there and said "Come along child; you are welcome." She said I might help to hire the wood chopped, and that was all the pay she wanted. She must have more than that desert, but maybe I can do something for her somehow. I can tell after I go. She says I must not break off and move at once and hurt their feelings here. And she is right my dear one. I don't want to do that. I tell them I am going there to stay with

Julia a few weeks, and they seem willing to that. I
am going just as soon as I can get there. Some of them
would come after me, but they have no buggy. I think
I can go this week. I couldn't stay yesterday because I
went alone and had to bring the buggy home. They asked
me to stop at Tom's as I passed and get Reason a school
book. I drove up to the door and Tom came out
and was very clever. He asked if I had got my letters
from the office since Saturday! And when I heard
from you and what the news was from you. In all he
talked to me more in two minutes there than he
had altogether before since I came. The change in
his manner was so marked that I know mother
has told them that I said I didn't believe they could
do anything for you because you had gone to the war.

It may be love, that it really is their way, and that
they have not been so bad all the time as they seemed.
I am willing to believe so darling, and let it all go.

Our ways, and views of life are so different from
theirs that it is hardly possible that they should
have any sentiments or feelings in common with us.
Don't think hard of them my love, will you? I wish
sometimes that I had not told you a word about them

That would have been the best way, but you know
dear I always told you everything. And when you
asked me I told you and couldn't help it. If I
have erred darling, I am sorry. Will you forgive me?
and love me.

Henry is not so well. He grew worse yesterday while
I was gone. They sent for Brenton, and he says he has
typhoid fever now, and will not get well for a long
time. John says he thought yesterday that Henry
wouldn't live a week. They were all scared. Tom came
out and staid all night. I can't see this morning that
he is worse than he has been for several days, but of
course he is weaker. The doctor is coming back today.
Our cousin Brothers was here last night. He is out
hunting land to buy "just to get rid of this green-
back' money" he said. I hope he can succeed in
getting rid of all he has of it.

John sold his place yesterday to John McCarty for
sixteen hundred dollars, - all down I believe.

The weather is beautiful; cold and clear. The roads are
frozen and very good, almost like summer.

They are going to have a woodchopping here Thursday.

This is all the little gossip I know dearest. Write to me
often please. Write, my dear, loving letters to your poor
I am glad Humphrey is not coming home.

Dollie

This envelop is so thin that it shows the writing
through. Would you get your likeness taken with
your uniform - sash and sword and hat and all
- and send me dear? Please do I want to see
you once more. Try and get that much time done.
Oh how I would prize it.

Benton Barracks, Mo.

Dec. 13th 1862

This evening it is raining with all of its might. The first since we have been here. The weather has been warm & dry ever since some time last month. But now I guess we will get what this climate generally gives the people.

The letter you wrote on the 5th I received three days ago. Yours dated on the 28th & sent to Helena I received day before yesterday. It went as far South as Cairo. Then it came here.

We are all well. That is Sicut May, Wright, the Clergy Will & myself. There is some sickness in the Company, but none dangerously ill. So far as myself is concerned, I am as well as you are. I am ^{not} fleshy, but in good health. Can't be uneasy when I forget to talk about myself all the time it is no indication that I am not well. It always looks bad to me to see a letter filled up with the pronoun I, but when it is necessary to me it, it shall be used.

We are here & can't tell when we will get a way. Probably in thirty six hours & probably not this winter. We can't tell any thing about it.

We have not been paid any by Government yet. Nearly every person has run out of money. Full half of the line Officers are strapped, - have not two dollars to save their lives. Hensyburg is out. John Wright is, & by the way I am nearly out, Got about \$25. But I will get a long, don't be uneasy about that. Perhaps we will get some in a few months, or perhaps a

a few weeks. If we don't, we will all do as they do over the river. If the rest can live without it I can.

I want you to take nothing back Dollie. You said in your last letter that, you would stay at father's a part of the time. Don't you pretend to stay there. That is to make a business of it.

You have no business to stay with traitors Dollie. I don't regard their feelings. They don't regard ours, I'll assure you.

I want them to know (with every person in that Co.) that I act independent of the feelings of all traitors whether they live South or North. If you can be comfortable at Mrs McCarty's make that your home. I have no objections to your going to father's on a visit, but that is all. Let the people talk if they want to. I don't care. Let what I have said this time Dollie be the law. I am used to giving commands here Dollie, you know. You must object to my giving them to you.

No more for to night. I think I will write you again to morrow. We are all jubilant over the news from Frederickburg yesterday & to day.

God bless you Dollie. I love you
Mill Permittin

Boston Barracks, Ms.

Oct 14th 1862

My Dear Dolly,

I have just received three letters from you, one of them is the one you wrote when you were first taken sick, it went as far South as Cairo. The other two were dated on the 9th & 11th I believe they were all good & long letters, I thank you for them.

You scared me Dolly, when you told me how sick you had been, with Dysentery. It is so very sad disease. I then thought there was no possibility to do any thing for you. But how glad I am that you are better again. I do hope Dolly you will be better, or well entirely when you get this. Don't have any more sickness Dolly. It is sad enough to be apart when we are both well,

Don't be uneasy about my taking care of myself. I do that better than I ever did in my life. I keep my clothes clean. The wash woman comes in the Barracks every morning after washing. I wash my person clean once or twice every week. From this on I am going to change clothes twice a week, as long as I am where I can get my washing done. I will attend to these things as regularly as I possibly can my Dolly. Our diet is as good as we need to have I think. Good bread, good Coffee & Tea, fresh beef, ham, potatoes &c all pretty well cooked. Don't be uneasy about me on account of diet Dolly, for I will have plenty. Then if I get sick I am going to send for my Dolly. I have always told you I would, & I will.

You are too afraid of hurting fathers folks feeling, Collier. They have but little regard for our feelings. Then to have them say they are taking care of you. I can't stand it & I won't stand it. You must learn there, no odds what they think no odds what any person else thinks. I am too proud to have you stay thus. You may go to see them occasionally, & only occasionally (ofte Henry gets well) for I want them & I enter if they shall know I ask them no favors. I hope when I hear from you again you will be pleasantly situated. And I sincerely hope Henry will be well. Poor fellow I am sorry for him, young & tender & no person to care for him. When I learn you are away I am going to write them a long letter. Be as good to poor Henry as you can for my sake.

Capt. Sidney, myself & Col. Milledge had a settlement day, we were yesterday. I have always been thinking how mean he treated us at Fort Mifflin, & the other day I proposed to him at Belmont & got to talking about it, & found he got it fully as bad as I did. At the same time I found that ^{we} was no better favored over at head quarters than myself. We proposed that we go over and settled up. We went over & talked to him as plain as one man ever talked to an other. We told him how we had treated us personally, we told how he had favored Wapalo Co. & Ottumwa, & how he had a vital of Wapalo Co. He said at first that he had done what was right. That assertion gave me a good opportunity to relate every grievance I had to relate, & ^{you} know I am generally pretty good at such things, especially when I feel right for it which I did that afternoon. We did not stand ^{on} military street (that is not right is it) but talked to him as plain as I could for my life. In fact I tried how plain I could talk. At last

he said & acknowledged that he had wronged us. He told us
he ought to have given us something more than ^{his} lead. He told us if
it ever happened to our lot to be Col. of a Regiment, we would know
then how he was situated. Says he, Gentlemen it hurts my feelings
for you to talk to me the way you do. (We says I, Col. if it hurts
your feelings for us to tell you of what you have done, how do you suppose
we feel, who have it to learn. (We talked about an hour, when the drum
beat for dress parade & ^{we} got up to leave. I went out. Capt. Sidney
hung behind to change a few words with the Major. He said the
Col. looked as though he was going to cry. But he has done nothing
as yet & I think he will not. We told him however that we were
going to resort to higher authority for justice. You & Humphrey
did say Vol. in crying peace at Hooksett. If I had contended
for my rights then, the Regiment never could have been orga-
nized, unless they had made me the ranking Capt. Then I would
have had the best position in the Regiment. We are going to get
a hearing with the Commander of the post, & learn by him what we
can do. But rest assured they are not going to run over us, because
we are from up the County. By the way I told the Col. during this
conversation, that in all probability he thought he could do as he pleased
with us, because we were from obscure places up the County.

(We are going from this on to contend for what is right, & we
are going to have it. There is more to be gained by contending for
our rights than there is in quietly submitting to wrongs. They
will be so afraid to do us an injury. In fact they dares not do
it. Although I told Genl. Pittredg that I was going to make

as good a soldier as I could. I told him that - I was going
to obey every legal order he issued. But says I am not going
to submit to injustice any longer

Will

[1862]

Tuesday Morning Dec 16

My Own Love:

I have the blues a little this morning. I know I ought not to write gloomy letters to you, but then what other friend have I to talk to? None, my darling, none but you. Jim McCammick was here last night, and I sat in the corner with my knitting, and listened to him and John and John Runyan talk about the war. My blood soon boiled but I said never a word. McCammick said word came yesterday that they were still fighting at Fredericksburgh and that Burnside was falling back. He was not beaten yet, but had lost ground. It made me sick all over to hear this, though I know it is not reliable. And I can't hear the truth. I don't know when I can hear another a word about it. If Burnside is whipped, what will become of us. John Runyan is sure we can't conquer the South they have too many good men. McCammick said they were fighting for their homes, their property, and their lives, while the Northern men are fighting for money.

or fun! They all assented to this. I made up my mind while they talked that I would go to Mrs McCarty as soon as I could. This morning I asked John if he would take me there. He said he would any day this week, after to day. I am going to get ready, though I doubt if he takes me. I have learned that his promises and performances are often greatly at variance. For instance - he promised me to go to the post office Saturday evening, but instead he went to Jim McCannicks and set till bed time. Isaiah came out Sunday for his clean clothes and brought your letters.

I will take things enough with me to do me three or four weeks. Then I will come back and stay here awhile. Will this way do dear one? Aunt Anne is so good to me, and has so many women there now that it won't do for me to stay there without paying her well. And I hate to spend your money darling. I will make just as little do me as I can. I have not bought me anything for winter yet. I couldn't get to town to get them. If I can't go, I will do with what I have. I can manage to get along comfortably enough I think. I won't go out much.

Amanda has seen Elma Moody. She wonders why I don't go to see them. She says Tom promised her to take me up there. She thinks I won't go because she has not been to see me first. She told Amanda that she would come to her home to meet me if they would let her know when I was there. Allee says he will come for me, whenever I will go. I would have gone right off only I wanted to go and stay with Julia. I can hear from you after there I think. Mrs. McLaughery has a gentle old horse running in the pasture at aunt Ann's and she told Julia that we might ride it every day to the office if we wanted to. Elma told Amanda to tell me that if I would come there for a few weeks I could send you a letter every day. I wish I could do that. I don't know whether you want letters as often as I do, darling. I want them every day. I wrote to Ally Mullinnis yesterday. I have never heard anything from them since the letter you sent me. I should like to know how our things are. It is quite cold and cloudy to day. There is a thin crust of ice and about three inches of snow over the mud. You know how bad the roads must be.

Henry is not so well as he was when I wrote last. Sunday he was better - sat up a few minutes and was hungry. But in the night he grew worse and yesterday he was nearly as bad as ever. This morning he is better than he was yesterday. I am afraid yet that he will never get well. He is very weak now.

John has been to town to see the doctor this morning. He has just come back, and he brought me yesterday's Gazette. The News is not very good. Burnside seems to have won no decisive advantage yet. I am so anxious I can hardly eat or sleep. So much depends on the result of this battle. If Burnside is whipped I am afraid I shall never see you again dear love. The war will not be ended soon. But I am not in despair about it yet. I may hear better news tomorrow. May God save the right. Tell me darling whether you think you can come to see me this winter? Won't you come if you can? Mother wants you to come very badly. She says something about it every day. I need not tell you who else wants to see you. I am afraid to think much about it, for fear I can't get on at all. It was eight weeks yesterday since you left me. Goodbye my good love. Be careful of your health. Write often to your Dollie

Benton Barabak, Mo

Dec-18th/80

My Good Collin,

This evening we are under marching orders for Shellman. We received orders this afternoon to prepare four days rations. It will take us about that time to go from here to that place. The boys don't know yet where we are going. Sers't May, Will Kemper & Jake Grimes are all gone to New Madrid. They with an outfit of twenty men have taken fifty prisoners down there. Sers't May was as well as usual when he left - ob for duty. We go before they get back. Will was well. We heard from James a few days ago, he was well. Their regiment is reduced to some three hundred men. That is men who are ob for duty. The rest are sick.

We have just learned that Col. Pittbridge has come in. Sers't Johnson of Capt Sidney's Co. went & saw Gen Curtis (he had no difficulty in getting a hearing) in regard to the way he was treating us. The Old Gen. has given me senior position, not what I ought to have had, but better than I had before. I am not certain what letter we will get. I'll write you as soon as the change is made. We made the change to that for Mr Pittbridge & Grobe. They begin to think we will not be run over.

We have talked to him twice right lately. They seem to bludge they were. The boys think I beat thunder to annoy the regimental officers.

Now Dollie, be of good cheer. You see by the way that
war is going in the East, that no fellow, out west have
the work to do. I would be ashamed to stay at home.

Keep in good spirit Dollie. I will write often as I can
but it may be impossible for me to write as often as I am
or have been writing. I will do the best I can. I will
do the very best any person can do under similar circumstances
I will write twice a week if possible. I write this evening
only because we start to morrow. I we could stay till
tomorrow evening.

Goodly Dollie. My going to the rebel south
proves me know how much I like my Dollie.

Goodly

W. F. Garrison

Thursday Night, Dec. 18, 1862

My dear Love:

To day I got your letter of the 13th. I am thankful to hear again that you are well. I got plenty of war news to day, but it is all bad. Burnside has fallen back across the river. He has failed so far. But worse than this is the report that the President is about to modify or withdraw his Proclamation. Better a Waterloo defeat for Burnside than that he should retract one word of that Proclamation. At least we will not be kept in suspense much longer. We shall soon know. Two more weeks will bring the 1st of January. It will be a day dark with disasters and clouds of coming evil, or a glorious day of jubilee, just as our President shall stand firm or falter. His responsibility is terrible I am beginning to fear for him. Oh if he will only strike for the right now, while he can. But we can only wait, with what patience we may. The next news may be better. I will not
despair

You dont want to talk all the time about yourself
darling, but I want to know all about you. I
want to hear all, everything concerning yourself
above everything else in the world. The more you
talk of yourself the better for Dollie, my love.
I am afraid you will get out of money. Have
you got what father collected for you? You
must not get out dear. I have \$424 and better.
I dont need it. I wish you had 25 dollars of
it. I will send it to you if you will let me.
May I dear? The ballance will be plenty for
me this winter. I can get more before I start
home. I am afraid you have the blues about
it dear one. I have often wished you had not
left me so much. Father has collected 78 dol
lars - I think that is it - from Scott. And where
is the money for you hog? That was nearly a
hundred dollars. I want you to have plenty of
money darling. Get anything in the world
that will add to your comfort and well being.
If I could know that you were comfortable and
in good health all the time, I could get on so
much better. These cold dreary nights I lie and
think of you nearly all night.

John is going to take me to Mrs. McCarty's to-
morrow. They butchered to day - killed ten good
fat hogs. Green Brinton & Jack Prakes helped
You say I must not stay here any more. I want to
do just as you tell me, my darling, but I am in a
delicate position. They have been kind to me in
their way all the time, and now they are very
kind to me. They understand me, and my wants
better than they did at first. Henry is getting well
I think now, and when he gets up there will
be somebody to go to the post office for me all
the time. He is going to take a daily paper, and
that would reconcile me to almost anything.

At Aunt Ann's there are no men, and it will
hardly be possible for us to go to the office
ourselves in all weathers. I am staying in this
county because I can hear from you oftener than
at home, and I would rather stay here on that
account when Henry gets well - part of the
time at least. They are not loyal, but then not
half the people here are. They are like their
neighbors. Mother is getting right as fast as
she can. I can make a conquest of her prejudices
I think. Before long.

The boys in town have sent me four daily
Gazettes since the battle commenced at
Fredericksburgh. They didn't think or know
any better than to treat me as they did at first.
I have forgiven it all. Wont you forgive them
too darling? Let us never think of it any more.
It would all have been different if Henry had
been well. I don't want to hurt their feelings
dear. It would be wrong, and would look very
badly in me. But still I want above everything
else to please you. You can tell me what you
want me ^{to} do, and I will do it. I wish you could
be here a few days and you could know them
all about it. You wont think hard of me
will you dear love? I have tried to do right.
If things had continued as they seemed at first
I should have been gone before now. But they did
better as soon as they knew how, and I ought not
to blame them. I like to stay better—a great deal
than I did at first. How dearest I have told
you the truth as nearly as I can, and I will
come back to stay or not just as you wish.
Remember that they are old and getting childish.
As to the three boys—I ask nothing of them. God
(bless you darling)

I sent you a long letter yesterday. Father is going to Gruncastle to morrow and I am writing this to send by him. I am afraid I shall send you so many long letters that you wont care much about them one of these days. I shall be sorry then.

My darling I want to see you more than I can tell you - more than you can think. If I could see you a few days now I think I could bear it better. I surely could.

If we never meet again my love, I will wait for you and live for you as long as I live in the world.

And you wont forget your Dollie, will you dear?

It is late and I must quite writing. It is very cold and the wind blows like snow. They are all tired.

Jane has just come into the west room and lain down on the carpet with her feet to the fire

I have been in the room alone. The rest are all in the other room and Henry is scolding about something. He gives them all "fits." I hate to say

goodby, but I must, Goodly my own love.

Your letters do me so much good you will send them often wont you dear. Yours Mori.

Friday morning - It is warmer this morning. I
am going. The sun shines bright. Perhaps
you had better send your letters to Putnam
-ville and I can get them as Julia does
here. Goodbye darling. I am well.

Jeanne de la Perse
Dec 21 1802

We will be at Paris in an hour or
two. I cannot proceed without telling you
that I am well in first rate health. Our whole
regiment is a long on two Boats. Humphrey
& Mill are not with us. They did not get
back against our starter. I have heard
nothing from up the Country since I
came to St Louis - that is nothing died
I am assured of the day to day have
more than I can do. Don't be uneasy
about me. We will not get to St Louis
for ten or three days for yet. Dr Phillip
tried to resign and could not. Don't say
anything about it. The Dr told me
I will write again as soon as I get
Dr Mellina Goodby Volle. I will think
of you all of the time. They are calling
for me all over the boat now. It is impossible
to write more now. Goodby Good Volle
Write often. I have not yet got a letter
from you for several days.
M. A. Permin

Mrs. M. Carlye, Dec 21st 1862

My Own Darling

I came down here last Friday. John brought me down like a gentleman - dressed himself up, and took good care of me. We came home back. There are five women of us here now, and the only man among us is Billy Mag. They couldn't manage this boy any longer and sent him away. Lina is at home now - a good, bright, lively girl she is. This morning Sam Johnson went to the post office and brought me two letters from you - written the 14 & 18. It hurts me, my dear one, to hear that you are gone so far - into such imminent danger. I will not make you sad, love, by telling you how I feel about it. It can do no good. I know God can take care of you there, and I can only leave you in his hands. Oh may he shield and protect you darling!

I am sorry that you feel so bitter towards father's folks, dearest. I have often been sorry that I told you any thing about it, for it has caused you trouble.

But I couldn't help it. When my feelings would be hurt
I ran instinctively to tell you - my best, my only friend.
I don't think they treated me at first just as we would
have treated them if they had come to Iowa. But I am
sure now that it was because they didn't think or know
any better. They didn't mean to do wrong or hurt my feelings
I have told you already what a change has come over them
lately. Let us both forgive them dear love. I have fully.
Won't you my darling? We came here of our own accord
you know and it would be wrong for us to come here
and have any difficulty with them. It would nearly kill
them now. You must not write to them on the subject
Please my love do not do this. First, because I would
hate it so much to be the cause of estrangement be-
tween you and them. And second because it would
do harm. Father was crazy you know for nearly
two years. He is not quite right yet, I don't think,
he ever will be, and a little trouble and excitement
might throw him off the balance and make him
as wild as ever. He can't bear excitement. You would
shudder to hear mother tell what they all suffered
during those two years. She never told me till the
other day. I know now this is what Bill Allee

moment when he told me never to talk on the sub-
ject in his presence. Let us be mindful of
his grey hairs, and his shattered mind and do nothing
that we can ever regret. Mother is as kind to
me now as she can be. There is much good about her
much that I can love and reverence. And then she
is your mother and that makes her sacred in
my eyes. I must not hurt her feelings darling.

Then Jane is a good girl sincerely attached to you
and me too. She is intending to come to Iowa and
stay with us awhile when we go home. You never
saw a girl so pleased with any prospect as she is
with that. I believe she and young Wilcox will
marry some day. He tells her he will wait for
five years for her if she will have him then
she says if they ever marry they will not live in
this country. And her notion is if she goes to
stay with us, he will go to Iowa and they will
stay there and live close to us. He would like that.
If she had a chance to make something of herself it
would be great comfort to us. For her sake and
Henry's I don't want you to break with the family
now. They have both done all they could for me.

I hope you will think better of it dear, and not write to them about it. If you ever meet face to face say what you please to them. As to their disloyalty I feel as badly about that as you can, but they are just like a large majority of the people now in this country. Not a whit worse.

Tom and Isaac are very clever to me now. Tom sent me a daily yesterday Gazette this morning. If you will consent I would rather go back there and stay awhile at least, after three or four weeks. Henry will be able to go to the office for me, and he will do it. I don't want them to be mad at me, while I stay in this country. I feel lonely enough and friendless enough now. But I have talked to you long enough on this subject. Tell ^{me} what you think, my own love. I will ever try to please you.

They are all kind to me here. If they were my own mother and sisters they couldn't be better to me. Yesterday afternoon Lina and I went up to Mrs Mc Gough's. Lina wanted to see Bizzie Ballatt who lives with her grandmother, and I wanted to get the old lady's horse to ride to the office when I have to go my self. She said I was welcome to him any day. I am sure I am. He staid till dark. While the girls got supper we sat by the fire and talked about the war. She is all right. She is not at all discouraged by our reverses at Fredericksburgh. She says Lincoln won't modify the Proclamation now. Her conversation cheered me up a little. We had on the whole a pleasant little visit. When we got home Sally Peck was here to stay all night. She is another whole souled Unionist. She brought Julia a letter from Humphrey. He said you were all well. There are a few simple words dear, but you can't imagine how much good they do us. If we could hear every day that you were well we would get along. I am so glad you are careful of yourself. Love I feel better satisfied in that respect since I read your letter today. I was afraid you had nothing good to eat. That troubled me greatly.

I am glad dear love that you are about to get your right
in the regiment. I was afraid you were going to have trouble
I hated all the time to have you submit to injustice, but I
feared you would make the matter much worse. I don't
want Col. Kerbridge to be your enemy. He might cause
you heart sorrows. I still fear for you darling.

If you get your proper place in the Regiment you
can afford to try to please him in future, in what
he justly requires of you. I would do it my love. I hope
he is really not a bad man, and if not he will not dislike
you for contending for your rights.

I fear we shall have a hard time of it in the South
West this winter. There will be a battle at Vicksburgh
I think before long. In all probability you will be
there. Oh my darling do you wonder that I don't
sleep of nights that I don't feel any interest in anything
else in the world now but this war? How can I?

But I bear up darling as well as I can. I feel some
times that you will surely come home.

I have been looking for you here several days. I
hardly owned it to myself, but every morning when

I awake I would think He may come before night
When I heard to day that you were gone, I knew I
had been living on the hope that you would come
before you left St Louis. But you couldn't doing
I know you could not. I hardly dare hope now that
you will come at all this winter. You have gone too far.
I want to see you above all things in the world. I have not
quite given up the hope that you may go into winter
quarters some place where I can visit you. I must see
you again my love.

I have not heard from father or Woodside lately.
Send your letters still to Mt. Meridian. I believe I
can get them from there quicker than from Suban
ville. He - Julia and I want to take a daily paper.
But no one around will go into a club, the men
say it wont pay to go to the office every day, and we
cant go ourselves. It rains a good deal and the roads
are very muddy. If I had Rocker here I would go
every day. On this account I hope you will let
me go back to father's Henry is going to take a
daily. I can hardly wait a week now for news
I have a chance right now to send this to Green

castle. One of Beck's boys is going.

Goodby my own sweet love. I love you, and think
of you every every minute. Take care of yourself
for your poor Pollie's sake. I think you will.
I will write to you again in a day or two.

Write as often as you can dear love. Tell me everything.
I can't tell you how much good your letter do me.

Goodly again, and may God bless you my pet.

Your own Pollie

I will get a new dress for Jane when I have the
chance, and tell her you give to her. It will
please her. Don't be uneasy about me, darling, I
shall get on now as well as I possibly can with-
out you. That is the only cause I have for trouble.
But let us be patient and hopeful love. This
several separation will not last I trust very many
months. Again God bless you, and goodly.
They are waiting for the letter.

Pollie

Memphis Dec - 27th 1862

If it were not that I know you will be un-
easy about me I should not write you this evening. But then I
know you want letters & I must write them. For three days
I have been sick - not bad but unwell. Three days ago we stop-
ped here & were ordered a shore immediately. We went up into the
Center of the City & lay on our arms all night. The authorities
were expecting an attack, but none came. Next morning we went
back to the Boat. About noon we were ordered out here inside of
the fortifications, & here we are yet. Military men here say they are
expecting an attack in a few days. I doubt it very much.

We were put a shore here contrary to orders, but in all probability
are elected for sometime. As I was saying I am not very well & have
not been. The first night we came a shore here I was not well but
I came a shore with the boys. I had a bad night of it. Next day
I had a chill, & run off at the bowels some. The following night I felt like
I wanted my Dollie about as bad as I ever did in my life, but I could
not have you my Dollie. Next day I was some better. Today I have been
walking about all day, & fell pretty well, a slight diarrhea being all that
is the matter with me. I will be well as ever in a few days. Don't
be uneasy.

The more I see of the Army Dollie the more I become convinced
you can't be with me. Here the Women will all be excluded from the
lines in a few days. Then there would be no place for you but the rebel
City of Memphis, & all of our Guns are being set upon the City, so if the

rebels take it we will burn it ⁱⁿ two hours. The attack will in all probability not be made. If it does not, all right. If it does we will fight inside of fortifications, Don't be uneasy Dollie.

I am writing in O Cousins room on a small table. Col. Drake has just come in & wants to write. I will have to write stop writing for the present. I will write again in a few days - tomorrow or next day. Don't be uneasy about me Dollie I will get along. I will be well again in a few days.

Will is here well. Lieut. May has gone to St Louis to make his report. He was well when Will left him at Cairo. They went that far back to St. Louis, when the authorities, sent the men here & Lieut. May on to St. Louis to make his report. He will be here in a few days.

Mat. Kemper left here with his regiment some four weeks ago. One of O Wags boys is here in the Hospital. Mat was quite well when he left. Si, Reed is here.

Goodly for this time Dollie. Direct your letter to Memphis for the present.

Write me all of the news Dollie. I want to hear it.

You must not expect long letters from me though Dollie. I will do the best I can. Goodly my dearest love,

W. F. Hermitin

Helena Dec-30th 1861

My Dear Pollie, Yesterday at Memphis I got four letters from you, I forget the date of them now. This evening - at this place I got the one dated on the 28th. Thank you for them all. I wish I could get one every day. You don't know how much good they do me. You are the only person who writes to me. Yesterday I got a few lines from Mullinix. Only a few, written by Cyrus Phillips. He had sold my hogs, & wanted to trade colts with me. My stock was doing well that was all he rated - everything

We met here, several of our neighbor boys, who belong to the third Iowa Cavalry. They are all well & in fine spirits. Last week the expedition left here for (Richburg), about fifty thousands strong, with four or five Gun Boats. This evening the news come here that they were fighting on both sides of (Richburg). Every person here is uneasy here - Not about the result of the fight, but it is the general impression that our loss will be great. The rebels have a very strong position there. Six or seven regiments from Iowa are there. We will get more news tomorrow - I think. I hope it will be good. If good news ever comes, I want it now

Capt. Hale (of Eddyville) & myself went ashore this evening & looked around a little. Helena is rather a hard looking place. The town is not so large as Ottumwa. It is not so well built either. If I get an opportunity, I will look farther to morrow. It will cost me something to live here. Eggs are only 33 ct per doz, Butter 93 ct per lbs

Potatoes \$1.50, & everything else in proportion. Don't you see I can't save any money?

Stumpney has not overtaken us yet. While I was unwell John Wright did pretty well. While I think of it let me tell you that I am in as good health as usual, - full as good as I was when you were at Rockport with me. In fact I can stand exposure better than I could then. I don't take cold as easy as I used to.

Let me tell you how we live. We eat - sometimes, hard bread & some times soft. Generally we have been able, so far to get very good soft bread. We have Coffee, & tea whenever we want, - generally three times a day. We have sugar cured hams, sometimes beef steak, dried fruit butter, molasses &c, plenty for war times. We can live on it very well.

You don't know how glad I was to hear that you were at Mrs McEnty's. You will be more comfortable there Dollie. They will be more to you than father's folks were.

You don't want me to write to father's folks. Will Dollie do you want me to risk my life in the field, for the cause of our County, & respect traitors any where. I am just now learning to appreciate traitors, North as well as South. They can't talk about our County, without saying things that will hurt the feeling of my best feeling friends on God's Earth. How else can I help feeling bitter when they treat every thing, & every person that is dear to me as they do.

There is as much difference between them & me as there is between me & the traitors here. They want me to fail - they want my cause to fail. What else are they to fail but rebels. Can I love them. Can I respect them. Can I love my enemies?

But Dollie I will talk more in the morning. But Dollie
stay where you are till I order different

I have waited an hour & a half. I will finish writing this this evening. No more news from Beckersburg. I have just been talking to Col. Drake. He says the news from below is unsatisfactory. We have effected a landing, but our loss is heavy. I hope the news will be better tomorrow. If it is not we will all have the blues.

I will take the thing with fathers folks under consideration. In the mean time you remain Dollie where you are till I tell you to go some where else. Be sure do that my Dollie. I intend by some means or other to let them know what I think of them.

We are on the boat to night. We will go a shore in the morning. We dont know how long we will remain here. Probably not long. Probably sometime.

Be of good cheer Dollie. You are a good Dollie & I love you
Sandy.

Write often my Darling
W. A. Bennett

Fort at Memphis Dec 27 1862

My Dear Dolly

This is a very hard place to get
to write letters at. We have no place to write
at. I am now writing on my balcony, a very
poor writing desk, but then I must write to
Dolly. The boys are making out frag packets
We don't know whether we will get any money
or not - probably not. The boys are all without
money the most of the regimental I mean the
line officers - are without money. Lieut
Wright has about \$20. I have about \$10.
This will last us a little while - not long.
If we draw money the first of Jan. we will
be all right. If we don't I don't know what
we will do - without I suppose. Lieut May
has been on the horses for a sometime

My health today is quite good better than
it was yesterday. I am well except weakness
I slept in the tent last night. It did not
hurt me. I have just been to get some corn
meal. I am going to have much for dinner -
much for supper - much for breakfast till I get
stout again. Not but what I can do fine on
what the other boys live on, but you know
I love much, & always made every penny to
get it while at home. I don't know why I
should not do the same thing here. One of
the boys from Albion is cooking for us. He says
he will cook it for me. Where, Messing, with
Cattle from which first rate fellows. We
have the place of Co E now that gives me a
union position. We don't change the little

of the Co. It is still in the fort. That is all right

We had no excitement on our trip down till
we got to Columbus Ky. There every thing was
in a perfect ferment. They were expecting an
attack every day. About ten o'clock at night
we were called out in line of battle on the
river bank. Our Co. all went out finely ex-
cept S. Owen, & John Clouser, who were sleeping
on the lower Deck. In all of the bustle they
failed to wake up. Some one told me about
it. I got them out quick - you had better
believe. They say they never wake up. They were
awoke when I went to see them. I will
watch them from this on, especially Owen.
Don't say anything about it however they may
turn up all right. We distributed forty
rounds of cartridges to the men & then went
back on board the boat. The morning found
us on our way to this place, we lay up
every night. The first day we got here
I believe it was last Wednesday we came
& don't sleep on our arms in the City
Park all night. I stayed out that night
The next morning early the regiment went
a board of the boat & got their breakfast
Then they were ordered to the Navy yard
in the upper part of the City. The regiment
staid there a little while, when they were
ordered down here in the fort - which is
in the Southern part of the City, & put
by our Col. in a house where that is the
men. The Officers were put in tents
I could not get boarding inside of the

participating, consequently I went to the hospital I done very well however
time writing the letter I have been & look very much just as I got done eating the report came into our tent that Grants Army was coming into the city. I went out & found that it was only a report. But after a while I heard the drums I saw for a that it was a detachment & coming in after supplies
What this strength is I do not know there are some eight hundred I think
I have not been able to learn whether on the 10th is a long or not
After supper

I was just ⁱⁿ talked to a ^{man} who belong to the train that has just come in from Grant Army. He is very much discouraged. He says they have had a very hard time for the last two months. Thinks some other man will have to do the fighting beside Grant. This is about all I have learned

Now Dollie let talk about ourselves. And first, of all things I would like to see you. I love you Dollie if I could see you then I would want to talk to you. We would talk about home, about I would about Whardside, about ourselves, about everything, you think I would never get tired. Would you Dollie, I know you would not. If you write you need to let I know you would not

I would like to see you & Dollie would get me I would love you & you would love me. I would hold Dollie hand on my forearm, & she would get me just as we used to do at Whardside. That would be my first world it not Dollie. While I think of it Dollie, let me tell you I want your likeness. If you are at Mrs. McLeartys cant you get it taken for me. Send it to this place & it will follow me. I would give anything in the world for it. To night I of this lay at night Dollie & wonder if I never see you & mother. Do send it to me Darling

This letter is written in an old manner but you can read it. I can write this way the best. I am going to take to sending you every scrap I write. I hope you will get some letters from me.

I have received no letters from you since some three or four days before we left St. Louis. None of us has got any mail since we came here. We are all getting very very anxious for letters. Sent / May has not got into us yet. Will Kempfer is an duty today. He is better.

I hope Henry is well. I hope you are pleasantly situated. I have no feelings for traitors. Fathers folks will have to claim relations with others than mine. God bless my Darling my good Darling my Heaven ever bless you
W. J. Beemiller

Fort at Memphis Dec 27th 1862

This has been our first day in Memphis first day I mean first Sunday if it had not been that some one told me this morning that it was Sunday I should not have known it

This is the first I have been out all day since we came here, consequently I know but little of things than one at home Gen. Asboth is in command of the fortification. Gen. Hurlbert is command of the place. Hurlbert I have not seen. Asboth is a blustering Dutchman, goes out and attends to a good deal of business himself. We came to visit hospital the other day & ordered us to get out of the building she wanted it for Gen. Hurlbert. We did not go however. Cousins told him he would

provide him with an other good house. He did not do it & we did not move that day before yesterday, the 25th Christmas. I don't know what has been going on at the Hospital since yesterday morning. Soon after breakfast I left there till late in the evening when I went back to get to sleep on the floor as they have no beds. The Doctors took me in their room & gave me a bed on a floor for me to use my blankets on the floor. It was kind in them

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They had nice eats themselves, the two assistant surgeons, two Captains, I see Col. Pitttredge &

know of him, if they are better men than Capt. & what part of the regulations gives them their special privileges. But that for Pitttredge is your way of doing business. You say will come often or when you can't oppress men always

This morning early some one looked his head in at the door & followed breakfast. All hands were up in a few minutes. They asked me to go into breakfast. I excused myself, told them I would go to my tent & get what I wished to eat. After cleaning myself I came over here & got my breakfast. The boys were all glad to see me. After breakfast I walked out & looked at the guns on the upper part of the fortification, that are planted to destroy the City in case of an attack. If the rebels do make the attack I hope it will be carried to the ground. The authorities are going to take down some 70 or 80 barrels. They are in the way of the range of the guns. Yesterday they put some Negroes at work tanning them, with all Capt. Co. sent over them to superintend the business. After they got under heading the Officer went to dinner. While he was gone the negroes

it is his to the tanning in the house where

it is his to the tanning in the house where

it is his to the tanning in the house where

it is his to the tanning in the house where

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it is his to the tanning in the house where

it is his to the tanning in the house where

it is his to the tanning in the house where

thinking that the quickest way to do the
work of destruction. That was Reynolds like

The fore noon I have been walking round

This afternoon I have been lying down
in my tent sleeping. After I woke up I
concluded to make a better place to sleep

to night as I had made up my mind

to sleep here the rest of the time

I went out to get some of the boys to do

it for me. I met and asked Will

Kemper, but he was sick, quite unwell.

He had had a chill, & at that time was suffer-
ing very much from fever. Poor fellow

I hope he will get better soon

I got John Shick & Henry Walker to come

& do the work for me. They don't do very
well. After it was done I went to

supper, then returned & have been writing

ever since. But I am going to quit now &

go to see Will Kemper. I don't want him to

be sick. But Col. Pittsidge don't care

for his men. He has got us in the worst

place in the fort. By the way he has

brought us here in place of taking us to

Holloman. He wants out of Gen Curtis'

command, he can't do as he wishes there

But I must go to see Will.

[1862]

Mrs. McCarty, Tuesday Evening, Dec 2. 3rd
My Dearest Love.

It is three o'clock. I have kept them
all sitting around the fire, and come up stairs to
talk to you a while. I would rather write to you
than do anything else in the world now. I don't
know any news to tell you darling. I am staying here
very comfortably. There are five women of us, and
Julia's three children in family. They do the feeding
themselves, and hire the wood chopped. We make our
own fires. And we have very good ones when it is cold
to day it is almost warm enough to do without.
I sleep down stairs in the west room, with Emily.
This morning we waked up long before day, but we
were lazy, and lay and talked till Julia and Lino
had breakfast ready. Generally we are smarter.
I have been helping Lino make a new dress to day.
I have nothing to do for myself, and I can't sit idle.
I wish I were with you my darling, wherever you are
helping you, doing something for the cause that
is so dear to us both. I ought to be dear, I feel that.

You are too careful and tender of me, my dearest. I
feel like I could endure hardships and privations
as well as you. I could do and endure anything now
to be with you. I love to be near you even, so that
I could get to you at once if you get sick or hurt.
But you have promised to send for me if you get
sick. You won't forget that will you my darling?
You speak sometimes about my leaving this country
before you come back. What do you want me to do
about that? You have ~~never~~ told me. I can't think
hardly of going back just now - just as you are going
into danger. If you have fighting to do at all it will
probably be before spring. I think, if it suits you,
that I will stay two or three months longer. We
may by that time see how the war is going. Surely
we can tell more about it then than we can now.
Then if you are well, and I can't go to you, I will
go home. Will this way be right? dear love? I want
you to tell me. Tell me all you think about it.
I don't like this country half so well as I always
thought I would. I would far rather live in Iowa
I am proud of Iowa. I glad that our home is there.
No other state has acquitted herself so nobly as Iowa

Besides I think I ought to go home and look after our things. I don't know that I could do any good. I might see after the stock and things at Woodside. If I can go to you at any time, I want to do it above every thing else. But if this is out of my power, I think I ought to be at home caring for the things there. That would be doing something for you, and I would be better satisfied than to stay here and do nothing. Fathers writes like they want me to come home. I am sorry for them. I didn't know how much they had sacrificed till I come here where no one has done anything. They will will have their reward. But I will do as you tell me about going home. I want you to tell me what you want me to do about everything.

I am troubled and frightened, my beloved, when I think how far you are gone. And into what danger. Oh darling, it is hood. You know how uneasy I used to be about Matt and Jimmy, I hardly ever think of them now or Will either. They are good boys too, and I like them as much as any sister could her brothers, but I know a love so much deeper and stronger and more absorbing, that I scarcely think of them.

If you never come back to me dear love, I shall
have no interest in life - nothing to live for, nothing
to hope for. There are times when the very blackness
of despair gathers over my soul and I feel that I
could lie down willingly by your side and die, but
to live without you I can not. God pity us all!

Should you come home love, home with your life
I think I shall have more to be thankful for than any
woman on earth. And I will be thankful. It seems
to me now that nothing could ever trouble me again.
Life's petty cares and vexations could never touch me.
I will make you a better wife darling, I will do more
for your happiness than I ever did before. I used
so often to do wrong dearest, so often forget what rich
blessings I had! The remembrance makes my heart ache
often. Do you forgive me dear one, for all the wrong I
did? And do you love me all the time? All the time!

Don't be uneasy about me dear. I am very comfortable.
If you could be here now I think you would be wil-
ling for me to stay at your father's house. I want you
to forgive them, to forget it. Don't write to them a-
bout it darling. It would make them mad at me
and I could not bear to stay in this country and have
them hurt at me. If you were here with me I would
not care for any one's good or ill will - but yours.
But I am alone and I may stand sadly in need of friends before I go
back. One never knows how soon they may be sick or in trouble.
He is good to me now, and seems to love me. Don't write to him about it.

Julia hates the separation from Humphrey very hard. She says if he were home again he should never go. Then she gets disgusted at the men here and says she would rather have a good man in the war than a "creature" like them at home. It seems no whole-souled war men here hardly. John McCarty, Mr. [?], and all the rest of them are very poor for being what we call right. Her wife has irritated Julia several times by telling her that if she had gone she should have stayed at home and attended to their property. Julia has never been there to eat but twice since she came. And she says she won't go any more.

The worst friends, almost the only friends to the country I have seen are women - widows too. I wish I could talk to you a long time about the war and our prospects now. It seems to us gloomy enough. But I am not in despair - I never have been about the final result. Our cause is just, and must succeed sooner or later. But I do fear they will make our victory cost us too dear.

Wednesday Morning: - We have just eaten breakfast, and I have come back up stairs to finish my letter. My trunk is up here and I have been sitting beside it on the floor reading over all your letters. I have twenty-one of them. Thank you my own good darling, for thinking of your Dottie and sending her so many good letters. You never can know how much good they have done me.

It is warm and cloudy. The mud is drying up a little. Tomorrow is Christmas, but we hardly know it here. Old Mr. Pentecost is going to kill a turkey and has invited father and mother and me over to eat it. They talked of going, when I come away. I think all the time of last Christmas when I was at home getting a Christmas dinner for you. Don't you remember how you came home from Chicago in the night, and brought me four new books, and how glad and happy we were? Oh, were not those pleasant days, dear love? Don't you think when we get home again we will know better how to appreciate our blessings? We will love each other more, and be happier than we ever have been in our lives. Don't you long for the time to come when we can
(both go home)

I have got Saturday Tribune. There is nothing of special interest in it. Greeley refrains from expressing any opinions on the state of affairs just now. I don't know what he means. I am afraid he can't say anything encouraging, and he won't prophesy evil. But it may not be that. I feel more hopeful this morning, though I have not heard any news. Aunt Anne has been almost in despair about our prospects since Burnside's failure. That didn't trouble me as much as the report that the President was faltering and wavering in his purpose. I think now he will not do withdraw the Proclamation. We will know what he does before you get this.

We read a good deal here. Of nights we take turns reading aloud. Last night we read "Among the Poor". I think by this time we finish it Julia & Emily will be as thorough abolitionists as I am. A few more chapters will complete their conversion. How dear one I must say goodbye again. But I want to beg you to promise me one thing. If you get sick or unwell, and I can't go to you, get a furlough and come here to your Dollie. Don't stay there long, till you get so bad you can't come, it would

he broony, almost wicked darling, to stay and risk your
life if you could come home. I know you will have
to leave your men so much that you will not do it
if you can help it. But remember your Dottie and don't
stay there and die. You will take care of yourself won't you
Goadly my own precious love. I have no words to tell
you how dear you are to me, or how much I love you

As often as you can write to your
Dottie