

Head Quarters 3rd Iowa Regt  
Camp near Little Rock, Jan. 2<sup>d</sup> 1857

My Darling,

Sometimes I want company; but this evening I have had too much of it. I got my paper out at dark, fully intending to write you a long letter, but company came in, and I didn't get to write. Now it is nearly ten o'clock, so you must not expect much this time.

I went to the city this morning, to get some teeth filled. Some days ago I had three filled, and they did so well that I am going to keep on until I get them all fixed up. Then I hope to have the tooth ache no more for sometime at least. I didn't see or learn anything of very special interest. General Reynolds is going in on a fast horse. Some day he patrols the streets, dressed in citizens clothes, in order to see what is going on. A few days ago he went to the Commissary - while so dressed - and tried to purchase some grub. I have, <sup>not heard</sup> whether he made the purchase or not. If he did I wouldn't give much for that Commissary's Commission. A few days after he took command he peremptorily dismissed two or three officers from the service for being drunk on the streets. I think there is going to be a general investigation throughout the Department. I hope so.

I brought a mail out for the Regiment. I got one letter from Dollie. Some days ago I got two, and one of them was later than the one I got today.

I am in hopes you have sold the corn before this. If not I suppose Dyke has disposed of it for me. I am still out of humor about Mr Knoff, letting him in the house, especially as he had no earthly right to unless you gave him the privilege, which of course you didn't do. Even if you agreed to do trade with Ellope, that gave Knoff no farther privilege than to occupy the premises himself. He had more right to put any one else in the house than had any other stranger. Let Mr Collins to have him moved out. Dollie otherwise Knoff & I will have a difficulty over it. I shall visit Mr Knoff tonight or early in the morning. Mr Collins will attend to it for us.

I am well & sweet pet, and I am so glad you and Jerry are well.

I don't learn anything about our prisoners, except St Wright. There is a man in the City, who is just from Carleton. He left them but a short time ago. He was in a good condition when he left. I have called to see him twice, but he was away from home both times. I shall call again the next time I go to the City.

I am going to put this up, and call it a letter to Dollie, because I know you would rather have this than nothing. Sincerely  
Wm Verwillin

Head Quarters 36 Iowa Infy  
Camp near Little Rock, Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Darling,

We have no news from the North later than the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. I hope to get some soon, I want some late papers, and some late letters from Dollie. I wrote all about the business some days ago. I have not written to Mr Knapp yet. I am afraid to trust myself. I might say something wrong. Let Marlins go, and have Knapp to move Dykes. He will go, I know. This is all about business this time. Get Col Kittredges trial commenced tomorrow at 10 o'clock A.M. Eight or ten of us are summoned for tomorrow. I don't think I can go, before the day after tomorrow. It will be quite a trial. Some six or eight days ago, I drew up a request to Col Drake, asking him to use his influence with Gen Solomon to have the Col. brought before a General Court Martial and tried for drunkenness and a general neglect of duty. I obtained the signature of nine or ten of the line officers to it, and Col Drake took it to Gen. Solomon, and he is putting it through. It then seems to be a case of judgement not for distant. The charges are serious, and must dismiss him from the service if proven, and I think there will be no question as to the proof. The Judge Advocate sent out and requires me to serve the notice on the Col late this evening. I never saw him look worse than he did

when I handed him the notice. I couldn't help  
feeling sorry for him. Still I remember all  
very things that I have had to suffer at his hands  
Gen Solomon sent ~~me~~ a Staff Officer out  
Sunday morning and had him arrested, and turned  
the Command over to me. Col Droke is not able  
to be here and do the duty that is required, and  
Maj Hamilton swears by the Eternal, that he  
will not command and let Col Droke remain  
in the City. I am a Capt. & they can impose  
on me and I can't help myself. I will remember  
this is a fair letter for but I can't write any  
more this time. Don't get I speak by direct for  
I love you ~~and~~ wish I could send you a good  
letter this time but I can't

Deodly Sent for  
Bennett

Head Quarters 25<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infy  
Camp near Little Rock Ark. Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1855

My Darling,

It has been several days since I wrote you last, but I have been busy yet, and I have not felt much like writing. I am going to promise to do better in the future that will make all things satisfactory, no doubt. I say so, if it doesn't.

Capt Lambert of Company <sup>K</sup> died night before last. You will remember him as the Capt that came through from Tyler, with Major Hamilton and Capt Miller. He had quite a spell of fever about the time Capt Miller died, from which he never recovered. After he returned to the regiment he had quite a spell of jaundice, but seemed to improve very much as the weather got cool, but has never been able for field duty. He has been serving on a military commission with Col. Drake, until about a week ago, when he was taken with pneumonia. His case was not looked upon as being serious until the evening before he died. Of the three who came through together, Major Hamilton is the only one left to tell of their sufferings.

3 The prosecution has some thirty five witnesses to examine. Perhaps the Col will have some. I wish the trial was over; but we must not flinch now that it is commenced. I will tell you if any new features present themselves. My health is good. We are getting on finely. Some of the boys are making from three to five dollars a day chopping wood for Government Contractors but it cant last long.

Gen Reynolds has issued an order requiring the Non Commissioned Officers to be reduced to certain proportions in minimum Companies. I had to reduce one of my Sergeants, who has received his promotion since the organization of the Company. It had to be orderly Parson or Sergeant Walker. I reduced Parson, and I am preparing myself to receive <sup>all</sup> their curses. Do you think they will hurt me much?

This shed is nearly full and I am getting tired. May I go to Capt. Pollock if I will write you another letter tomorrow night, I know you will be willing.

Give love to Jenny; and receive a basket, two baskets - forty baskets - a thousand baskets - yes all the baskets for yourself my sweet pet, for I do love you with all my heart my sweet pet.

Truly

W. H. Hamilton  
33 1/2 Ave. St. P.

Gen Reynolds is still playing well. He seems  
 to hold nothing but right corners, for every time  
 he plays he wins. He has taken the Shoulder  
 Straps from some three or four officers within  
 the last week, for being drunk on the  
 Streets. That seems to the State as good indication  
 the wicked will be brought to justice, and  
 of course will have to pay for their fun. But  
 owing to the high price placed upon "Pullover"  
 I would rather settle my accounts with greenbacks.  
 The General dont seem to like the legal tender though  
 Some of our men say he was prying around  
 our Camp late yesterday evening. Perhaps he  
 wants to see what we are doing.  
 There is a good deal of activity among the military  
 in the city. The indications are that the 1st Army  
 Corps is going to have something to do. Dont be  
 uneasy yet, for fear I will have to go, for we  
 seem to be left out entirely. Our whole  
 Division is put on garrison. We have not been  
 required to make any preparations whatever, and  
 I think we will remain here during the Spring.  
 Col. Kittredges trial got under head way yes-  
 terday. My Hamilton was partially examined. It  
 will take all day tomorrow for the Court to  
 get throug with him. My name is on the  
 list, but I think I shall not go in for some days  
 yet Capt Porter will go in in the morning

Camp 26<sup>th</sup> Iowa Inf<sup>ty</sup>  
Near Little Rock, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 55

My Darling,

I wrote you a letter last night, and I believe I promised to write another one to night, otherwise I should go to bed. Would you blame me much? The letter I wrote last night was dated on the 7<sup>th</sup> - I believe, so you must not think I have told a story. We received a small mail this afternoon, I got one letter from Dollie, and it said she was well. I was so glad of that.

It is raining, and has been ever since last night. Our Camp is on low ground, and we are almost submerged. It is a very bad place for a Camp to be situated. But, <sup>it</sup> is in keeping with every thing else Col. Fittredge has done during the Season. I must tell you a joke on myself.

I went to bed last night thinking I had as good, and as dry a house as any Soldier in in the fort. I woke up about midnight, with quite a stream of water pouring down on my forehead. I took a change of course and by so doing passed the night quite comfortable. So much so that I slept until past the breakfast hour this morning.



There are several in our mess, and if a fellow don't get there at the proper time, he doesn't get a seat. So, I jumped up at the first sound of the horn, and gathered a sack (one of my men uses) a struck my foot into it, and behold it was full of water; for it like my bed, had been under the leak during the night. At first I was tempted to go back to bed; but after mature deliberation, I thought it best to go to breakfast otherwise I would lose a portion of the commissaries I had paid for. To night I am going to be more cautious.

Col. Kittredges trial has been in progress to day. Maj. Hamilton finished giving his testimony. After him Col. Mason of the 8th Ohio Infantry was called. I have not learned whether the Court got through with him or not. He has just been mustered out, and had got as far as Duralls Bluff on his way home, when he received a telegram to return. So the Court seems determined to get all the evidence there is in the case. Four of our regiment are to be called tomorrow. Maj. Hamilton will be out to take command of the regiment in a few days. I shall be very glad of it.

I am glad Jerry is satisfied; and is getting  
along so well; and I am glad you like her  
She will improve while with you my pet.

When I get home she must go to school

I suppose Richards will pay his note. Merriell  
wrote to me a few days ago, asking me to give  
him more time; but I have not answered his letter  
I don't think I shall; because I think it better  
to take it while I can get it. Those who are at  
home should help him, and not ask me for  
assistance. It is nothing to me if the Doctor leaves  
Ivornum. I have no interest what ever in the place,  
or the people. If there was an individual there  
in whom I felt any interest I should want him  
to move to another point

I am anxious to <sup>know</sup> what disposition is made of  
Dykes. I want him out of the house pet, and  
I want him to stay out. I have not written  
to Mrs Knoff. I thought it best to have you  
get Merriell see Knoff about it. But first  
have your father look at the law

This sheet is full enough my sweet pet, and I  
am sleepy. I will go to bed, and write again in  
a day or two Goodly pet

W. F. Combs

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>

I have just been having a game of cribbage  
As usual I came out best. It is half past  
9 o'clock. If Brashan & Elgerton have just gone  
to bed. They usually take to their "boards" earlier,  
but to night they had to sit up till we got  
through our game. They don't play any  
Col. Fitzhedges trial has been going on today  
again. I have just learned something about the  
way it is being conducted. He is charged with  
being drunk five different times, and then  
with being drunk "Sundry and divers" of times,  
from a certain date to a certain date. The strong-  
est evidence would have been given in proving  
the last charges; but the Court has ruled that  
those charges are too general, and <sup>that</sup> he (the Col.)  
cannot be tried on them. That through out  
some of the strongest evidence there is against him  
But for all I think there is going to be some very  
strong evidence against him. As the case stands  
now I will not be used to prove but one Specification  
and I understand that Col. Mason, of the 74<sup>th</sup> Regt.  
has testified that the Col. was not drunk on that  
occasion. I can't see it. I have seen him drunk after  
the times you may specify in the charges. It is getting cold & tonight  
only sweet rolls  
No to Vermilion

Comps<sup>rs</sup> Iowa Inf<sup>ly</sup>  
Near Little Rock Jan 18<sup>th</sup> '65

My Darling,

I have just received two good letters from you. The latest one was mailed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month. I was glad to get them just, and I was glad to learn that you were well.

I am uneasy about your pet. I want you to tell me just what is the matter with her. Why doesn't she get well? Tell me just how long it has been since she was unwell - if that is what is the matter with her. You never have told me the particulars you know. Perhaps I can tell you what to do for her; if you will tell me the particulars, but I can't understand why she is <sup>not</sup> well, if she is getting so fleshy as you say she is. I am afraid she will get bad sick.

Col. Withredges trial has been progress-  
ing again to day, Lewis Davis (the  
Preacher) was sworn and testified this  
morning. He created quite sensation  
in the Court; but the defense were un-  
able to do anything with him. He  
testified that he had seen the Col.  
drunk and he stuck to it. Several of  
the Regiment have to go down tomorrow  
morning. I think the prosecution will close  
tomorrow; and perhaps the trial. We  
dont know whether the Col. is going to  
make any defence or not. In fact I dont  
know whether he will be able to find  
any witnesses, who can possibly do him  
any good.

We have no other news whatever.  
Maj Hamilton came out this afternoon  
and assumed command. I am very glad  
of it.

I cant understand Dr Richards. How  
can I help him get \$250,000 for his lab?  
I am sure of one thing; he shall never

or can never give any one a clear title  
until I get my money. I am sure of  
that. If I knew how to help him  
make an honest trade, and a good one I  
would do it willingly; but I can't see  
just how my telling a falsehood can  
help him in the least. Merile has  
has never written to me - for Richards -  
but once, and I thought it was best  
not to reply to that as he asked me  
to give him time on his note, which I  
am not disposed to do. I will think  
about the matter and perhaps write di-  
rect to Richards myself; but I want  
him to pay his note.

Give Mr. Allison a good day as he  
wants, if he concludes to go to Wood-  
side. I am not particular.

I don't feel like writing to night  
my pet, but I love you with all  
my heart. Tell me all about Jenny my  
sweet pet. Soady

W. F. Vermilion

Camp 30 "Sons of Liberty"

near Little Rock Ark Jan. 19/65

My Darling,

For some days we have been having some little excitement. The rebels made an attack on Lewisburg, a post half way between here and Ft Smith, but they were nicely repulsed. I have not learned what rebel troops were there. The 40th Iowa Infy was sent up but got there too late to participate in the fight. At present there are no rumors of host. I suppose everything has settled back to its original quietude.

We are putting up some light breastworks near the Sawmill we are guarding. Capt Cotton has been superintending the work, and the boys have named the "Fort" for him. He is welcome to the honors. Don't be uneasy yet. I think we are in no danger here. Our situation is such as to prevent a surprise; besides we keep up a heavy guard all the time. Each morning we send one Company to the front to support the Cavalry Pickets in case there is an attack. We will keep a close lookout.

I have no very late war news. The latest paper is the 14th - Memphis Bulletin. It is full of

extending rumors about the two Blairs going to  
Richmond, and about the rebels passing peace  
resolutions, while in secret session; and, about  
Alexander Stevens and other noted rebels be-  
ing on their way to Washington to see Mr. Obe.  
But as the Indian said to the missionaries dis-  
ertation on Samson - "I don't believe one word of it."  
They - the reb. - are in great trouble, but they have  
not suffered quite long enough to adopt such  
a course as that yet. They have not been quar-  
relling among themselves, quite long enough yet.  
When the largest portion of their influential men  
strike for making Lee Dictator or for placing  
themselves under France, or England - after freeing  
their negroes - I shall think the struggle about  
over. This Spring & Summer will close it up - that  
is organized resistance. That is my prophecy.  
Col Pitts' trial is about through, but we have  
not learned the result, and will <sup>not</sup> be likely to  
do, perhaps two weeks or more. It will take a  
week or more to get up the papers, and then they  
must go to Gen. Reynolds, and be reviewed; and  
approved or disapproved. Then we will get it through.  
Official Order. My Hamilton is still Commanding  
the Regiment. My health is good - never better. I  
didn't get any letter from my Dollie the last mail.  
I want want one so badly. They will be here one of  
these days. Excuse this long sheet. Truly love  
Veronica



Camp 38 "Iowa Post"  
near Little Rock. Jan 20/85

My Darling,

I got two good letters from you this evening, and a good pair of socks. Thank you Dollie. I have socks enough now. Of course it was right for you to have all the corn hauled you needed. That is a queer question - my pet, - for you to ask. I am glad Mr. Shelton got his money, and it was right for you to take a receipt.

What does Mr. Christie pay you for clearing for him? You should charge him as much as you did me, if not more. Come, tell me all about it my pet. I thought no one here - but myself, - had any right to examine letters coming here directed in a "certain well known hand writing" but it seems I was not well informed on that subject. I must keep a sharp lookout on smart days hereafter.

For four long weeks I have been looking and waiting for my pet's "opinion" on a certain subject, but she has refused me at last. I hardly expected that my sweet Darling, I thought you loved me too well to keep me waiting for such valuable information - or deprive me of it justly - when you could comply with my request so easily, but it seems I have

not been so well informed on that question as I  
should have been. Why my pet, that question  
(The one I asked you) had nothing to do with Beecher  
and Bonners. Beecher wrote about Cattle and farming  
and the Cattle he wrote about were red. He asked  
Bonners opinion, but at the same time told him  
what his answer must be. Beecher's mind was  
made up and he didn't intend Bonners answer  
to his query should change it. I was differently  
situated, and of course, like a wise man - acted dif-  
ferently. It was necessary for me to write the word;  
and of course I had to act on my own judgement  
I couldn't wait - without acting foolishly - until  
I could obtain your opinion; otherwise I should have  
done so. After I had asked the question (politely)  
I told you in as modest a manner as possible  
just what my opinion was but I never told you  
that your opinion must be so and so; or that  
your answer would not have any weight with me.

Had I done so, your course would have been commendable  
As it is you leave me in doubt - either as to your in-  
clination, or <sup>ability</sup> ~~disposition~~ to answer the question. In the  
mean time I am compelled to go on writing the word just  
as I did in that letter to you. There is no one here to  
whom I am willing to risk an inquiry on so delicate a  
subject. They might blow on me you know. But  
perhaps I had better talk of something else. Don't you  
think so, sweet Dollie? I don't want you to linger on this  
letter. If you do I won't say anything more about the matter

Capt Lambert's wife came to the Bluff yesterday evening, and telegraphed to him to meet her at the Depot today when the train arrived. She had not heard of the Captain's death. When she arrived at the Depot, she saw one of our Regiment and asked him about her husband. The soldier told her that he was dead. Col Droke got the telegram in time to go over with a buggy for her. She did not intend to let her know that the Captain was dead until he got her to his boarding house, but the soldier had already told her. I have not learned what she intends to do.

Lieut Pearson - formerly of Centerville - is very low, with Pneumonia, I think he can hardly get well. I saw him today. He is quite rational, and says he can't get well, and that he is not afraid to go. He told me today that he wanted to be sent home in a casket or Coffin. He wishes one if there were any in the City. He also told me that he was without money here, but that if any one would furnish the means to send his remains home, that they would get their money. He has plenty of property.

There is still some excitement about a forward movement, but every body seems to think it is going to be composed entirely of Cavalry and Artillery. That is my opinion.

Col. Kett's case is to be determined tomorrow. The Col. is in good spirits, and thinks he will be acquitted. Major Hamulter says, Col. Droke told him today that he thought the Col. would be honorably acquitted. If that be true

The Col will be cleared, and if so there is no use  
of the 45<sup>th</sup> article of War, for the more a man gets  
doubts, the better he stands. I am going to the City  
tomorrow, and perhaps I will see Col. Drake myself.  
The affair with Daniel Guard is only in keeping with  
Col's general character. Lt. Vermilge, of Co. "C" was present  
and heard all that was said. He tells it worse than  
Dan does. In fact Dan tries to keep it a secret,  
the Regiment know it before he told it.

This letter is long enough - is it not sweet per?  
I think it is.

In your letter to day you say Jenny is well, I do hope  
she is fit, and I do hope you my best love are well,  
and in good spirits. I dont want you to get sick,  
or get the blues. You want me at home I know, but  
I dont suppose I could get there if I were to stay.  
If Col. Kitts, is returned I would resign and go  
home if I could. I would have orderly Brasher  
made Captain. He would take good care of the  
Company. Nothing else could make me leave my  
Company, nor that my time is so near out. But I  
do consider it lowery to be commended by such  
a man, I wont talk about him though sweet per.  
I love you with all my heart

Sincerely

D. F. Vermilion

Camp 28<sup>th</sup> Iowa Regt  
near Little Rock Ark. Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 1886

My Darling,  
Some two or three weeks ago, I received a letter from Mr. Merrill, asking me to give Doctor Richards more time on his note. I didn't send him any reply, because I didn't think I could afford to extend the time. The Doctor has <sup>had</sup> a long time - you know - to make the money in, and it has been a time too, when almost any one could make money. But I believe I told you all about it at the time. Today I got to thinking about the matter, and about what the Doctor wanted me to do for him in the way of helping him sell the note; and I concluded to write Mr. Merrill a very cautious letter on the subject, and I have done it. I thought it better to write to him, than to the Doctor. He will be sure to let every body see just what is in the letter, and if the man who wants the note, can be influenced at all in the matter, what I have written will do it. If it helps Doctor Richards in driving a good bargain I shall be very glad of it. Still I have written very little.

I was down to the city this forenoon, I saw Col. Drake, and had a long talk with him about the Fitzgerald trial. He doesn't know just what the Court

will do, but is of the impression, that the majority  
are determined to acquit the Colonel. If they do  
Col Drake thinks he will have case remanded, and  
have the charges the Court ruled not investigated  
But I think, if he can't be cashed on what ev-  
idence has been taken, that there is no use in trying  
man for intemperance. So says half of the regiment  
I think we will be able to learn something definite  
about the affair by tomorrow evening. Colo Fitts & Drake  
are not on speaking terms

The military are on the move in this city. The 1st Iowa  
Cavalry and several other Cavalry, <sup>Regiment</sup> have marching  
orders. So has the 1st Brigade of our Division. I  
was unable to learn anything definite as the objection  
point. I think though - that the Cavalry are going  
to Memphis. I am of the impression quite an  
expedition will start from that point as soon as  
the roads will permit - to cooperate with Gen. Thomas  
The Infantry may go there too, though I am in-  
clined to think they are going up towards Lewisburg  
on a secret of eight or ten days

Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>

It has been two days since I commenced this letter you  
see since then we have had some excitement. An  
expedition - composed of six or eight regiments, and four  
batteries - under the command of Gen. Carr, started out  
on the Pine Bluff road early yesterday morning. I am  
unable to tell where the expedition is bound for

Just after moon yesterday I laid down to take  
my accustomed nap. I had hardly got to sleep  
when the Sergt Major poked his head in at the  
door, and hollered, "Have all your men ready to fall  
in at a minutes notice. The rebels have captured half  
of the Cavalry Picket." At first I thought it was  
a bell; but after getting up and making a few  
inquiries for myself, I ascertained the report to be true.  
In a very few minutes I received orders to take my  
Company to the front and occupy the breastworks.  
It was just beginning to snow quite lively, and I  
thought it a hard job, but I went and staid until  
sundown or later; when I came in and remained  
until four o'clock this morning, and then went  
back again, and remained until seven o'clock.

The excitement was occasioned by thirty or forty guer-  
illas abducting a Scout of sixteen of the <sup>3rd</sup> Regt Regulars  
who were returning to their Picket Post from a scout  
Scout. They made a complete surprise of it, killing, scat-  
tering and wounding the Regulars generally. They all got  
in towards night - however but few. Several were  
wounded pretty badly. A party of forty of the 3rd  
Mississippi Cavalry went out some fifteen miles towards  
Benton <sup>this morning</sup> but saw nothing of the rebels. It ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> about  
three or four miles out, where the skirmish occurred  
yesterday. All quiet to day.

We have just heard of the capture of Williams to  
that is on a ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> rather. Bully for that

My health is first rate, and I don't have the blues  
any. You must not be uneasy about our position  
out here. We are all right

We have heard nothing from Col Kitt's trial yet  
I hope to soon

St Pearson is getting a little better the Dr thinks  
Mrs Lambert is in the City yet. The weather  
has been too bad for her to come out to the Regiment  
yet. She talks of taking the remains of her hus-  
band home, but I fear she has not got money enough  
Tell me all about yourself and Jerry. I am  
waiting to hear what you say about Jerry. I hope  
she is well.

I love you Dollie. I have made bad grammar  
and punctuation in this letter. Truly  
Yours  
Vernice



I will not write you any more as I have no more of my own paper to do so for you. Do not be angry.

Camp of Iowa Infantry  
near Little Rock Ark. Jan. 25 '53

My Darling,

This paper is greasy. I don't know whether I can write on it or not. If I can't I will quit and go to bed. Won't that be right? The guerrillas have all been scattered. The pickets have not been interrupted since Sunday. We feel quite safe here. Still we are cautious. We have learned nothing from the expedition that started out Sunday. Some rumors say it is going to form a junction with a force of thirty thousand, that are marching across from Friars Point on the Mississippi, to some point on the Washita, under the command of Gen. Steele. The same rumors have it that Gen. Canby is marching up Red River with a heavy force, and <sup>that</sup> there is quite a fleet on the way up. Both the Washita & Red River Gen. Reynolds managed the affair very well. But few persons know anything about the strength or destination of the expedition, or about the <sup>starting of</sup> force it. Perhaps we will learn something in a few days.

The Kitzredge affair is still the exciting topic. The Court made up their findings last Saturday, but they are not published yet. We know the result though about as well as if the orders were promulgated.

The Court has found - after mature deliberation - that Col. Kirtledge has never been drunk, although ten or twelve line officers, and a score of enlisted men testified to the contrary. Gen. Buay was President of the court, and by the way has lowered himself very much in the estimation of many Iowa officers. He has been having some trouble in regard to it, but I have not learned just what it is. I have not seen Col. Droke for several days. Srgt. Prasher learned in the City - today that the Col. is to have a new trial, and I am half inclined to believe the story. Lt. Vermilyea saw Col. Droke yesterday, and he learned for him that the evidence and the proceedings of the court were being reviewed, with the view of having the case remanded for a new trial. If it is done the case will be tried on charges more general, and if we can't bring him then, there will be no use in trying any officer hereafter - in this Department - for drunkenness.

Some of us are thinking - very seriously - of trying to get out of the Service, in case the Col. is restored to duty. I don't know whether we will try it or not, and I am by no means sure <sup>we</sup> will be able to effect the object in case we do try. I have served sufficiently <sup>long</sup> under a worthless drunken Col. I detest him dollar for dollar, but I can't help it. It is as impossible for Col. Kirtledge and <sup>to</sup> work together as it is for oil and water to mix. But I talk to you too much about the detestable thing. This holy sheet must go, or this table feet. The boys - some of them are going to tear it this morning. They will take this in. So I want have them to pull the sheet & love you feet.

Dr. J. C. ...

Camp 36 Iowa Territory  
Near Little Rock Jan. 12/55

My Darling,  
Last night I wrote you a short letter  
It was a poor thing, but I sent it not know-  
ing just when I would write another. Don't grum-  
ble at it yet

Poor Jimmy! how sorry I am for her. I thought of her  
nearly all last night. How terrible it must be for  
her to have such dreams of home! but she shan't be  
troubled anymore more in that respect while awake if  
she remains with us. Tell her so sweet yet

I have been thinking about her disease Lollie, and  
I can't make it out. I am afraid she has some  
constitutional disease from which she will never recover  
and still it doesn't seem reasonable. She couldn't  
improve - as you think she is - if she was suffering  
from any serious and permanent disease. When you  
first wrote to me about her, I had no idea, but  
she would be well in a few months; but you say  
"Dr. Bellows' medicine has not had the desired effect"  
that makes me think the improvement is not as  
permanent as you seem to think. I want you to  
write to me and tell me all you know in regard to  
her condition. If she is sick every month, and suffers  
a great deal, tell me; or if she is sick irregularly tell me

If she has missed for any considerable <sup>time</sup> tell just  
how long, and everything else connected with it; You  
can tell me sweet pet, and not let her know anything  
about <sup>it</sup> or that I <sup>am</sup> in the least uneasy about her.  
If she is sick irregularly, and improving as you  
think she is, she will get well after a while, but  
if she misses entirely, there is something serious about  
the case, I will wait until you tell me all about  
it. Tell her I am going to issue an order against  
her dreaming in the future. She must keep cheerful.  
Col Kitt's trial is still progressing. The prosecution  
got through today, the case seems a strong one, but the  
Col is going to make a strong defence. He has some  
six or eight witnesses subpoenaed for Monday, but some  
of them will be good witnesses against him. There are  
but few men in the Regiment who can testify  
in his behalf - to amount to anything, I feel sorry  
for him. He looks so badly while in the Court room.  
The roll has been called and all hands are going to bed.  
Sergeant Prasher is promoted to orderly, He is the  
best one I have ever had, I appointed him before  
the Major came out from the city. I thought - I  
would be sure while I had all the power in my own  
hands. I have not heard from Davenport since I sent  
him his order.

This letter is enough for to night sweet pet  
I love you with all my heart

Heavily W. F. Williams

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infy  
near Little Rock Ark. Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Darling,

We have no news to day. There has been no arrivals of mail at The Rock since last Thursday—just a week ago today. I am getting a little blue for a letter. I want to hear from my pet, and from Jenny. Do you blame me? You get the blues when you don't get your accustomed amount of letters, and you must not blame me for it. But, I know it is not Dollie's fault. The letters—good ones—have been written and mailed, and are now on their way—no doubt. They will come after a while; and then what a good time I will have reading them! Provided always Dollie and Jenny are well.— There—some one has fired on the picket line, but I imagine the shot is at some imaginary object. If it is not, we will soon know it. The boys often shoot at storks that are running around through the woods, and sometimes—no doubt—shots are sent at innocent stumps, that have not moved for the last half a dozen centuries. We have got so used to such firing, that it doesn't alarm us in the least. But let a citizen from the North, who is not used to our camp life, hear the boys firing, and he soon takes what hunters call the "Buck Ague"—But what ~~was~~ I talking about? As Beecher said "Let's see! Give the

Letters from Dollie. That is it. Suppose though -  
Dollie should be sick, or Jenny should be sick;  
then the reading of them would not be very pleasant  
You must tell me just how you both are. I shall  
be uneasy about Jenny until I learn all about her case  
I don't see why I didn't have you tell me all about  
her condition sooner. Poor Sister. She must have suffered  
a great deal before she left father. But mother didn't do  
the wrong purposely my Darling. She doesn't know  
much you know. Jenny must get well and forgive  
her, and all the rest. If she can't forgive them she  
must forget them as I have done. She shall  
live with us as long as she wishes to - or as long as she  
needs a home. We will have a home somewhere -  
there I am not sure but that word is wrong. I am not  
going to look at the dictionary, but ask your advice, and  
you must tell me what your "opinion" is. Don't play  
out of it like you did that other question yet. If  
you do I will just well I am not sure what I will  
do. - Good I am too. I am going to heat some water, and  
wash, and put on some clean clothes, and then go to bed,  
and then think of Dollie. I would like to dream  
of her till morning, but I am a very poor hand to  
dream.

I have not read this letter, but I think it is a power-  
ful good one. Soakly sweet yet.

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 1845

My Darling;

We have received no mail yet. neither has any left The Rock for several <sup>days</sup>, and I have learned there will none leave until one arrives. I hope that will be soon.

We have learned nothing from the "Expedition" yet. Perhaps we will get something through the Northern papers in a few weeks. Nothing more has been heard from the guerrillas. They will not bother us any more - I think. We feel entirely safe out here.

I have learned nothing more from Col. Fitts' case. He is remaining here in camp, but does nothing but sit around his cabin. The thing will surely transpire in a few days.

Jan 29<sup>th</sup>

I am well this evening yet. We have no mail yet. Some one circulated the report in camp this afternoon, that there would be a mail over to the Rock from Duval's Bluff, sometime tonight. I do hope there will, for we have not had one word from our friends for ten days. That is a long time to do without any mail my pet - especially just at this time, when we want the news so badly. It has been three or four days since I started you the letter, but it has not been my fault, yet. Uncle Sam has not been <sup>on</sup> doing his part. I love you - sweet Dollie Vermilion

Camp Crotona N.Y.

near Little Rock Ark. Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 1885

My Darling,

The mail came all right to-day. I got two-  
yes three good letters from my precious grand Dollie; and  
how glad I was to get them; but I was sorry-very  
sorry to hear of her "wound" getting sore again. It has  
been a long time since your war was taken out my  
foot, and it seems to me the cavity ought to have  
healed up long ago. You must be very careful of it my  
pet, for if it gathers again it will-most likely-be  
worse than ever. Don't work so much.

If Dykes is not injuring Bloodside, I shall not be  
"spunking" any more about it. I was vexed at first, but  
since you have told <sup>me</sup> that everything is going all right, I have  
thought, perhaps it is as well for him to be there as it  
would be for the house to remain entirely empty. The  
"beats" in the neighbor-hood-I suppose-will tear everything  
up before next fall, if we don't succeed in getting a tenant,  
which you seem to think will be the case. Don't you think  
we had better have a poor tenant than none? If we can't  
get any one who can cultivate all the ground, don't you  
think it will be better to let some person in the house, who  
can cultivate a part of the land, and who will take good  
care of the place. If any one wants the farm, I will let  
them take the pasture fence, to make the field fence good.



Do what rails are left can be used for feet hats and so on  
If Mullinix don't go into the service I should like to pay  
much for him to move over, but him to help you find  
a tenant - or any one else who will assist you willingly  
By all means collect "Compound interest" off of Uncle  
Sam, and take the money too, and buy you a new 'damask  
dress - provided you get enough of it. Make what you  
can for, you are welcome to the profits

This is an other dark night, and since I have been  
sitting here writing, I have heard three shots on the picket  
line, some poor old mule, or a something else has been  
shot, but I suppose he has not been hurt. Bill  
McCully - while on Reebell's post - the other night heard  
something walking slowly along through the brush to-  
wards him, at first he couldn't see anything, but finally  
it came nearer - sufficiently near for him to see it - and  
as is usual in such cases he thought it was a "Butternut"  
He commanded "halt," and it stopped, he commanded - "who  
come there," but the "Butternut" made no reply, so Bill  
thought he would take the advantage and get the first  
shot, but at the crack of his gun, a large work one turned  
and made for the brush. Such things occur frequently  
Other people are all in camp my sweet feet, and I guess I  
had as well go, as long as I am not doing any good here  
The weather has been quite cold for a week, but today it  
seems to be moderating a little. The rain commenced falling a  
little a while ago, but it didn't continue long, I hope it won't  
rain much, it will be very muddy, if it does. Good night