Sgt. Chas. B. Hayden
Co. I. 21st U.S. Inf.
Dec, 30th, 1861. They are practicing at 37; begin today with 32. Although it is 2 miles off I can hear the balls, whistle to strike the ground very distinctly. Our sent. Noble went to Alexa to day; got drunk and has not yet returned. We have been obliged to pick up as we could.

31st. We were out at daylight and Mr. for muster. The whole affair was over before 9 am. We were back to our quarters. Noble has not yet returned. I think we shall have to send him back to the co. again. He has got to be a man of more consequence than we can afford. I sent him by one for the Atlanta, I care more about getting that.
than anything else. One poor wretched slave is shut up in the Slave Pen by the Provost guard. He may lie there. We have kept him there as an oddity than anything else. I might go home on recruiting service for 6 months if I desired. I don't care to go. All other things being equal I would rather be marching on the outposts than any place I have yet found.

Benson is officer of the day. I wish I was one with him.
He has done what ought to have been done long ago. He got 4 of the prisoners tied to trees. The men stand behind them and tie the rope fast to a small tree. In this way you are pretty sure to find them.
if you have to go away a few minutes, when you come back, I proposed to have a chain fastened around their necks, to a tree, but I think this is as well. There is no sufficient place to keep them, they are getting exceedingly bad. This is a most beautiful scene, the country around here still. There seems something decayed, neglected, mournful about everything. Perhaps if I could have seen it at another time, it would have looked different. Everything is so unlike Athens. Everybody lives away off the road. Seems to I seems to have done all that they ever expected to except going through the mere formula of living. The idea
Of any thing new or business like seems strikes one as exceedingly out of place, an act innovation or custom unannually established. I have not seen a new house since I came into Va. They have all those monstrous chimney at one or both ends which I have so often wondered at in picture books. The house may burn up or not down but the chimney remains firm as a tower. Those chimney standing alone are often all that is left to mark the spot where was perhaps a happy home. Monuments alike to the departed goys which one clustered around them & the general decline of the country.
Where they are found. At each plantation you will also see a strong old building of brick or stone arranged with loopholes for musketry as a precaution against the possible workings of her pecuniary institution.

One on taking a walk here has much the same feelings as far as regards the country as if he were in a graveyard, subdued, solemn thoughts of the many things which have been, not what is or will be. This may be called the classic ground of America perhaps & the memory of the statesmen & orators, warriors & patriots which are her bond & a sacrcedness to the place which nothing can destroy.
This about its only claim to respect. Its high Rocky hills, its pure chanting fountains, its clean healthful air, its distant enchanting scenes would all point it out as a country where health & courage of body should be united with mental vigor & large share of taste, poetry, eloquence, refinement.

From our own army we have a most enchanting view of the Potomac for more than fifteen miles. Benson Goebel (1st Ind.) had a glorious time last night. They are both good men & they had business enough from this all 2 this am. Goebel got so mad at his own Co. that he did not know which end he
stood on. He was trying to arrest some of them when one tried to bat him on the head with a stick of wood. He knocked him down with the hilt of his sword & kicked him abt. to roll down the hill into a brook & then took him to the guard house. By this time Benson came around & called out the whole of Co. I & marched them down to A's quarters with loaded guns. He & Goebel then went for them. "By Jesus I gag & pack (gag & pack) every man in the Co." They begged & pleaded in all sorts of Dutch, German & French to let off, but Goebel swore that if Jesus himself was there making a muss he would "gag & pack him" by God. They finally took it to the guard
house, tied & gagged them & let the rest go. They then seized 4 or 5
Capt. & Sergts. of Co. B. & arrested 2
drunks. Turner & Shaefer and
made an effort to arrest some
men of Co. B. who threw stones
at the guard while they arrested
A. men ? At 2 A.M. they had suc-
ceeded in quieting all the noise
& Co. returned to quarters. Corp.
Mack was the only man of our
Co. who was hit on the. He will
get straightened.

Jan. 1st. 1862

A gloomy New year never gladd-
dened the face of the earth. The
sun is warm & bright. The
wind is just strong enough
to be pleasant. A light-blue
mist hangs over the Potomac.
around the tops of the distant hills. It is one of those dreamy, lonely, trance-like days when life and animation seem half suspended. There is an absence of pain and trouble but after all no real, vivid, lively pleasure such as accompanies action. One feels very lazy and is willing that the world and mankind generally should journey after their own lot. I would like to spend a few hours of this day with the dear good folks at home.

I find out some interesting particulars about Benson's and Gogel's adventure which they did not relate. When they went to the 4th tent of Co. A. the men blew out the lights. Gogel, a Sergt. of A. went into the tent and Benson was just getting...
When his hat was blown down over his eyes he landed all toff in front of the tent. Goebel & the sent-fellows followed close after & both got their posteriors well kicked as they came out. Goebel used some choice language all that time & I believe Benson was not slow. Capt. Benson & Handy drank grog, Seward & myself together. We had a good roast turkey & as far as dinner was concerned it was good enough for any body. With our dinner we each drank a quiet bottle of champagne. I was not exactly drunk but I was nearer to it than I dare to be again. I could walk straight enough for all common purposes &
knew what I was doing so far as not to allow myself to get noisy or nonsensical. Poor Beward had to be put to bed & longs put himself to bed soon after. I have felt most melancholy mean ever since. Benson & I gave the too 6 dry bottles of all to drink with their divines.

Just at dark I saw the body of a man from the 3rd who had a bullet put through his forehead this morn while on picket. Also a drizel of the 3rd whose cheek wasburned at the same time. Five other men of the 5th & 2 of our Regt are reported wounded. Several of the enemy were killed. The Adjutant has just been
around to inform us that there are apprehensions of an attack on this brigade before morning. The wind has commenced blowing very hard. The moose & darkness make the time very suitable. It would be impossible for us to hear firing at the out posts & they might approach very near us before it would be known if they moved with rapidity.

D. The order transferring the 2nd to the artillery needs only Gen. R. signature & that he has refused. Good bye, Mich. D. If that be true, Richardson Major Gen. Terry Brigadier Gen. Col. Poe resigns & the 2nd Mich. is deficient for all practical purposes. I have to go to court.
martial at headquarters to mor-
now in Boren's case. Billy Mark
is heart broken, his lady love
has "burned" on him as Sid Pembire
says. The boy is in a desperate
condition for one who has been
a soldier as long as he has.
The boys nearly ran over Seward
to day on drill.

4th. For the last 2 days I
have been attending the gen-
eral Court Martial at head-
quarters to give evidence in
the Boren case. He however
made guilty, & I was not called
upon to testify. It was a very
good move in him to do so & I
am afraid that by it he will
get off with but a slight pun-
ishment. The officers compos-
ing the court all are all from
The volunteers I have but little idea of the real requisites of a Court Martial.

Gen. B serves this Regt. most scandalously. He is a mean commodore. His signature is all that is needed to put us into the artillery, and good quarters, a more honorable position &c &c. The idea that he keeps us here with the promise, cant of any in the brigade, with double guard duty, camps, picketing, and all this after bringing us from good grounds because he quarreled with his superior. He left Arlington because he quarreled with Mr. Dowell. The 2d day after we reached here he quarreled with Kistlbekman.
I have no doubt that he likes this Regt. but it looks as though it were going to be a very unprofitable liking for us. It looks now as though his love would be the death of the Regt. Terry will be Brigadier Gen. when Poe will of course resign. He likes the Regt. & would gladly stay with it if he can have it where he wants it. It is no matter of necessity with him. He can have other places which will be more pleasant for him & full as profitable by asking for them. If he leaves we have a miserable stick for a Col. — a good man at home — and half the officers resign. I am determined not to leave the service but God
know that in such a case I should feel as though nearly everything was lost for us, I should be entirely disheartened. I did not think when we used to build fort's, days & stand picket might to quailify the gun, that this would be his return. An honor & advantage has at last been offered us from headquarters & he takes it away. He undoubtedly thinks there will be a chance to work on fort's again in the spring. We only got 6 week's extra fatigue duty by coming here from Arlington.

Slop 6th Snow fell last night att. one inch deep & remained all day. I had a most unrelaxed toothache last night but at cease'd about 12 I has not yet relumed. I was rejoiced to
hear from home to day. This is
the first news from there for
a long time. The subject of what
very still agitates the Regt.
Gen R. has submitted an argu-
ment, 8 pages of footnotes long.
Opposing it. Col Poe is going to
write an answer which will
probably end the affair. There
is considerable chance you
were detailed on picket yesterday
but the pickets were recalled by
I did not go. Benson has gone to
Washington to day.

Snow 12 in deep.
Weather moderately cold. There
is some prospect that we may be
transferred to the Artillery.
Over 600 Pros signed a petition
ask to that effect. Fred Eames of
Co K. who is in the Brigade gun
lemmster's department tried to circulate a counter petition thing & came near two, being missed. The men drove him off the ground. There is one draw back all all this. I am afraid that should there... be an advance we shall be left behind in our foot. I should not like that. If I am to be in the artillery I want to be where there will be something done. The idea of being shut up while the rest of the army was on the road to Richmond is very unpleasant. I think there is little danger of that however.

Seward is on guard to day. When the prisoners saw him coming the commissed punched one another's ribs & working there comes that Seward well have
"free to go". They are all gone but three.

I would rather let the artillery go than miss the great battle which I believe will be fought at Centreville & Manassas. I want to visit those places once more. If the war is of long continuance we shall gain by the change but if it closes we shall lose. If we could come out in the spring as light artillery it would be a most glorious thing but if the army advances soon we have only to look on & curse our ill luck.

The reported reason of Adjutant Gen. Thomas makes a great stir. It is said that but for that we should have been on our road this one for the "land of cotton". There was it is said to have been an advance.
on the whole line. The probability of my remaining in the army seems to increase daily. There are all in a wheel & no one can tell where we shall rest. At least I shall do what I can to prepare myself. I think there is little doubt that my practice of law is among things past. Good by, law! I am sorry we had to part so soon. The necessities of the times however demanded it.

We are not the only friends who part in these times that is meet again. I came to the war just at the right time for my own interest. It is much better to serve 6 months as a Sergt. than not if one knows nothing of military infinitely better. Main to be obliged to brave...
companions like the Breits who enter the service now. Two of my acquaintances in Meck. have spent $1100 trying to get men enough to secure them companions but have not as yet succeeded. North went home on recruiting service this M. & thereby saved his legs for a time. He had always had a presentiment that he is to come out of the war on wooden legs.

8th Brigade drill P.M. stairs to night. The report of Thomas treason is contradicted. I hope it is not true. There is a bad leak somewhere. We have been obliged several times of late to change our countersigns because the enemy had learned it by some means.
Benson came home last night.
A little child of love at Washington took all the strength out of him. He is nearly muced up.
I made a good thing exchanging guard turns with Seaward.
It was my turn to go on to morrow but I was detailed for Regt. Court Martial to night & com. 
sequently by means of the exchange go clear entirely. We
picket by Regt. now I have only to go 3 days out of 36 leaving an interval of 33 days between each land. We shall not have to go on more than twice before good weather.
Col. Poe was to day asked the question whether soldiers did not by long service acquire a love of obedience becomes more respectful?
early governed. He replied that such, like most others, were good, very good, very respectful & steady so long as the iron hand was upon them but not one moment longer. The moment it was relaxed they were the worst of any. I believe it. There is not a more intelligent, more moral or better educated Co. in the Regt. than ours nor is there any which is held as strict when Benson or I are with it. The moment our backs are turned they begin to step over the line little by little cautiously at first but soon with bold strides. They changed officers in the Co. for drill to day & they came under the change of Lt. Mori of Co. G. They very soon found
how matters stood there
was not a co. in the Regt. act
worse than they.

Stop

10th. I have had two miserable
days on Court Martial. We have
tried 8 men & 6 Pets & 2 looters.
The men have already been 40
days in the guard house & we
concluded to let them all of
with a fine of $8.00 each.

Richardson & Heinzeelman
are both down on this Regt.
most woefully. Never mind
the D can take care of itself
in any place where drilling,
fighting or stealing is to be
done without any help from
either of them. It was always
the worst used Regt. in the
in all respects except praise.
There never were any Regts.
in the brigade with which we agreed except the Mafs. 14th & 49th N.Y. 39th. Our men & the 37th have some spots but on the whole agree remark ably well. Yesterday one of their sentinels got after some of our men who were trying to steal a straw stack. "Out wit ye," said Pat. "To hell with Division there. "Ye're stealing the whole world up & it's all said to ye." "Ye're burned up all the rails in two miles of here I know you want to carry off the ground too, dont ye?" I am glad he did his duty as well. The men had to pay a dollar for this rascality. The weather is foggy & rainy. The ground is plastered with mud & knee deep. We cant have no drills or parades & can hardly
out of our tents. There is no
knowing whether we shall get
out of this. I do not care a great
deal. If Col. Poe will remain.

Benson is lecturing on Pnette
about drinking. Sid has been
taking a sly nip. Sid comes
back on him as the cause. The
argument is in sober earnest
and there is reason enough for it.

Benson lectures him severely
on his evil courses. Pnette
retaliates by reminding him of
the time he coaxed away his
woman and seduced her. Benson
comes back with the inquiry
as to who first piloted him into
a house of prostitution?
The score seems pretty near
even but Benson is a cool,
calculating money making chap.
who can tend to all such matters when he leaves, likes and leaves them when he likes. But Prettie is one of these constant confusing fellows who goes it blind & once on the downhill road can not easily be turned. Corpul, Coleman's next dignity met with a serious reverse last night. There was a room in the cabin & the corpul got up in his shirt to command silence & restore order. He had no sooner struck a flat light than two of the greaseless rascals, made for him, one with a red hot poker & the other with a red hot shovel. They brought these in close proximity to his bare legs & commanded him to dance—he did so. They then commanded him to hold up his right & swear eternal
to his fidelity to his squad. This
not after some delay was done.
He was then commanded to
stand on his head. This for a
while he slowly refused but
the hot pokers & bayonets had
by this time so multiplied
around him that there was no
escape. This last feat being
performed he was allowed to
return to his bunk. It is a
big thing to be a corporal when
none of the officers or sergeants
are present to keep the men in check.

No man that we have ever had,
Johnson excepted, could govern
a squad without a great deal of
assistance. The men think
"The dignity which cloth that a
corpl. wear" is no great thing.
Regt. was killed on picket yesterday. A Miné ball plunked him in the forehead which shattered his head all to pieces nearly taking the life of it off. Those Miné, Sharp, Enfield balls tear a terrible hole. Their weight & velocity is so great that bones stand a poor chance. Out of any given num-
ber of men who are shot in battle it said that three as many die who are struck by the balls as among those who are hit by the ordinary Miné balls. It is reported that the 5th killed two of the enemy.

We finished up & Counted Meeting cases to day & sent them in to the col. The offence were all absence without leave.
Two were led before whom we
reduced to the ranks. The pri-
vates had been in the guard
house 40 days & we let them off
with a fine of $8. each think-
ing that sufficient to pay for
a drunken spree of one night.
Boyd, Ball, & Coleman will be
reduced to the ranks to morrow
for long continued neglect &
ignorance of duty. They have
done no one very serious thing
but have been deficient in a
number of small ones. They
could not desert from talk-
ing & laughing in the ranks—
had to be spoken to everyday
or two about standing at
attention at roll call. These
things are not to be allowed in
a 6th private & an autom-

commissioned officer who is expected to be perfection itself in all the minutiae of military affairs, it cannot be endured again. They had no control over their squads. They were rolled about at the will of the men. Disobedience to Corp is the germ of a fountain head of insubordination in the whole army. Sergts. quartering apart from the men & being left familiar with them have left trouble in sustaining their authority although they have really very little more power.

If I had command of some of these COs. I would have all the Non-Com. in them standing on their heads before one day was past.
12th. Very warm with high wind. The Col. complimented the Co. highly at inspection. The Pensacola went down the river last night - there was very sharp firing between her & the batteries. A man of Co. D. has sent a written complaint to the Col. apt. Benson for punishing him while on guard. I think Benson will now Court martialed him for the same offence.

A large number of the officers of this Regt. are drunk full half their time & some of them all the time. Col. Poe is lying in wait for them & a few of them will find some day that U.S. has no further need of their services.

Capt. Benson's house 8 P.M.
Pentire took an inventory of his personal property a short time since & found it to consist of one old drawer, one hickory shirt one Testament on odds of which were pasted receipts for the cure of private diseases & 2 for making cooling drinks. These with some old letters constituted the entire stock. The men are very careful at all inspections to have their Testaments placed in some very conspicuous part of the knapsack. But let us return to Capt. B.'s house. It is a board house 10 x 12 ft. with 2 windows one of 4 panes, the other of 6. A stately door which I am told God forgive the sacrilege was once a part of a church & probably would have been now
if the P or the Garabaldi guards had never seen it. As it is however it constitutes the greater part of Capt. Benson's house. On that door is a lock the key of which the Capt. very cleverly
extracted from the door of a deserted house where we went after a drink. The furniture consists of one table, two shelves, 4 stools, one bed, one trunk, one slide mounted on a cheese box filled with dirt. Three swords with very bright manners, two of these pretty sharp & one (reward) very blunt, so as not to cut his leg off. When hanging it down or his leg ears off when he brings it up) hang against the wall. Beside them are 2 of Colt's best with boxes for ammunition, such
Ornaments are to heavy for doors.

On the walls also hang some coats with a great many bright buttons & shoulder straps said to be gold. All clothes even to shirts, caps & of true Union blue. Two heavy crimson sashes & some of military fringes. Make the sum total of this department. On the table are Army Regulations, Military Dictionary, Field Fortifications, Out-post duties & & the Atlantic slave news papers writing material a fine tooth comb, papers of pins, diamond polish & for brushes. Prentice who is our constant attendant & who is fast becoming indispensable reclines at full length on the bed the Captain does writing talking to himself all.
the propinquity of "drowning sorrow in the flower bowl." The Capt. will not let him go out of camp unless he or I are along to see that he does not get overcome by the "flowering bowl." There are no bottles in the Capt. tent and no liquor is drank there except sometimes by visitors who think they are ill used if not well treated. Contrary to military custom in this case the Capt. does not sit to wait myself always room together. This is in reality incorrect. The Capt. should be alone but we prefer to have it otherwise and one objects. The rigid distinctions of rank are carefully preserved between us when on duty or in presence of our superiors, but inside the house there is a
very large share of the free & easy. 
14th. Benson has the blues to-night. I have them sometimes. He has been a little that way for 3 or 4 days. He told me to-night that he did not see how he could have acted as he has. His father had a very pretty ward, who had $40,000 in cash at her disposal. She lived at his father's & was engaged to be married to our Capt., when he went from home. She waited for him over 6 years. Benson got me in & company - forgot for the time his lady & forgot like horse to write to her for the space of 10 months. At the end of that time he made up his mind to go home if all was right. He wrote to the girl first to find
On due time the answer came with information that she supposing that he had abandoned her had been knowing nothing of his whereabout, had in short been married a week when his letter came. She was exceedingly sorry that it did not come sooner—liked him a great deal better than the man she married. A great many of such consoling things. Benson's good resolves were knocked in the head. He had lay drunk for 2 days got sober felt ashamed of his drunkenness cursed himself as the biggest fool on earth. He has felt very sorry about it ever since but never could quite make up his mind what is the next best...
thing to do. I think he will go home after the war if he does not go to his other home before that time. Swinburne is a
Pringles says he knows all about such things. "There ye have
knavest me faith" as Prin
tice's theatricals say. He repeats
this often to Benson. "The P?
Red. has Enfield Lifes. Gen. R.
way, they are intended for us
but seeing we are gain into
the Artillery we won't need
them. We can fill him what he
very well knows that we
could take them if we were
amidst. He had better be a
little careful. It would not
have taken much to have
regained their good will before
but now it will be a hard mak
They are a harder set than I want to have close on me. Col. Bee is not a man either to be fooled with. He can beat Gen. R. badly in the end. P. Col. says that we shall have our guns before long. I don't want any quarrel with our old Gen. I think that he will find his "Pet Semels" rather unpleasant enemies.

Gen. Mr. Clellan says that he prefers to have this Regt remain as Infantry for the present because he has some work for us.

Stop 15th. An almost tiresome unpleasant day. The snow is all a little deep and it has been raining and snowing all day. There is a hard crust and everything is covered with ice. This will be a real icy country when the
The war is over. The Niggers all say they are going to leave before the army goes. They generally behave pretty well but they know a great deal too much. This war is the certain destruction of slavery. If they are not liberated, they will behave so bad that they will have to kill them all.

16th Pay day I put $212½ in my pocket for the last 2 month service. I was all in Treasury notes. They bright, fresh, have very good pictures of Abe. Lincoln on them & pass pretty well. One cannot help thinking some times of the paper currency of our Revolution & the Assignats of the French Revolution. I sent $80 home. I am going to try have a little money on hand.
if possible when I come out of the war. There is no knowing when, where or whether that will be, but so long as one has a little spare change he can get away almost anywhere. Well, luck will get sent to the ranks I think. If I had commanded the Co. he would have gone long ago. His faults have been far more serious than those of Ball or Coleman. I was truly sorry for those two. They had not the slightest idea of such a thing till the order was read on dress parade. They went back to their tents & commenced ripping off their stripes & chevrons while the big tears were rolling down their cheeks. They did not say a word but it
I know it cut them severely. They came out next morning in the list of privates wearing uniform. If they behave well I shall do all I can to have them restored after a while. We start in the morning for a 3 days tour on picket. The snow, water and mud are full ankle deep. The whole Regt. goes. I am not very well. I have not been free from a headache since the champagne I drank on New years. It will a long time ere you get so much of the cursed stuff down me again. There is a good deal of noise & drink enmity in camp this night, God be said he don't see why my corn is good, I believe don't come. I don't either, I should have
got $40 dollars more today than I have had it. I do not like this always acting as something which you are not. I always acted L. Sergt. while I was 5th I have acted 1st Lt. ever since I was promoted 2nd.

18th Yesterday we were off for picketing at 6 am. The ground was frozen hard and the walking was very good. The Regt. reached head quarters at 10 am. by 11 am one of us was posted rear on the left of the Telegraph Road. The soldiers are comfortable & I have a comfortable up and for myself a reserve. By the time we were posted the roads began to be very soft & before night the mud was ankle deep. I made the round at 9, but the wind was too deep. I went no more during
The night was as quiet as anything could be. The weather was warm and foggy, with some rain. At night, the men were called up every hour before daylight. We have however our own men, non-commissioned officers, and seamen. They need very little watching.

At noon, raining hard, came an order to advance the pickets 2 miles. We set out and marched a mile toward Accotink. When we were ordered to halt, we remained there in the wood all afternoon, which we marched back and picketed along the Accotink road back to general quarters at Potter's. The pickets now run from the river to Accotink village, then diagonally along to Accotink road to the Telegraph road near Potter's.
a little below Potomac in a circular line around to the Orange & Alex R R. which is I believe the extent of our Div. line. Thence the line runs around to the Potomac at a point abt. 10 mts. above the Charn Pot. Bridge. It requires abt. 4 Regts to fill the line. From above link to the river the line is now 2 miles advanced from from the point where we found them. The headache troubled me a little yesterday but it is all gone now. It was the result of too little exercise and too much eating as the cases usually are. I think it a great piece of good fortune to Barson that he enlisted as he did. A more fair and opportune could not have been.
found for lifting himself alone.
The associations & companions
must unite the whom he was
surrounded. He has improved
& has so well succeeded that I
think he will never return to
them.

19th. Petrels being fished well
arranged by 7 o'clock quarters at our
old house again. It was quite late
in the afternoon when the men
were posted but the fell to work
with a will to build shanties
There was a fence opposite
a part of them & they very soon had
comfortable places. Sothern
found a deserted house & by taking
the doors and all the boards they
could rear lofts soon made
themelves good shelters. There was
an attack apprehended among to
our advance & the men were on the alert - I started on the rounds at 10 P.M. When I was near the further end of our 100, I heard a gun farther down the road. I gave the men their instructions in case of attack to deploy a little to each side of their posts, lie down on the ground behind trees if possible & wait till they came near enough so that they could be sure of them & not back from their posts till they were forced to it. I then went along Co. H's line toward where the gun was fired. As I came near they fired \[\text{illegible}\] went an other gun at 10 rods ahead of me. I scalped my piston stopped behind a pine tree of which there were a plenty near by & waited to see what would
be the result? After all Dr. W. was not seeing or hearing anything, more I went up to the first fl. and seemed they had something & thought they saw a man lurking among the pine trees. There fore they fired at ventures. They were excited & I supposed fired hastily. They had a Sergt. with them who is reputed a cold discreet man but on this occasion he did not do the best. When he had notice of the nore he should have silently got his men out into safe positions where they could see without being seen & then have crept cautiously toward the spot either alone or with one man. In this way if there was any one there he would have been pretty sure of a good shot at them if not he would have aimed.
A false alarm the occurrence of which is always more a help to the reputation of all connected with it as well as to the safety of the line. It has been raining now for several hours. There was no further disturbance during the night stop. Back home once more. Thank God. Last night was one of the worst nights for picketing that I ever saw. There was a drizzling rain and fog all night. The drizzling rain from the trees at every gust made a noise very difficult to be distinguished from footsteps. You could see but a few feet in the fog caused everything to appear three times its actual size. There was a nearly full moon or it would have been impossible...
able to see anything. The 2d. lot of Co. H, was shot at about just before dark while parading along the line. Some of the enemy were seen lurking around the hills not far off, all of which together with the gloom & uncertainty of the night produced some effect on our men & a very decided one on Co. H. I paced along the line between 2810 again just before daylight. I confess that I more than once took hold of my revolver & slid it up & down in the case to see whether it was exactly right although I well knew that it could not be otherwise. I found the men very wide awake & on one or two occasions all of them on the lookout at the same time.
At several places they were very sure they had heard men walking & had heard them talking in a low tone. It may have been so but I doubt it.

It was easy to tell who was scared. Those who were not cool knew their duty. When they heard me as I all could at a good distance, splashing along through the mud and water, would stop more deliberately behind a bush or tree. The first I would hear or see would be a short, low term—halt—and the muzzle of a loaded & cocked gun not 2 feet from my head. Those who were weak in the knees would now out & at a distance of 10 rods in a voice whose timorousness was per
fully apparent even at that distance. There was only one shot fired on our line that at a slant. The fog drifting along mi streaks and dense mountain gave to objects an apparent motion. There were 4 men of one Co. who showed cowardice badly; the rest were firm. It was almost impossible to keep a part of Co. Kio. on their posts. One of our men went off after provisions without leave yesterday; moon has not been seen since. I fear he was shot by the same men who shot at the Lt. of Kio. We reached home about 4 P.M. today, perfectly covered with mud. We fairly wallowed in mud for 2 days. There were full 72 hours of rain during our long duty. I was wet and tired not...
having had off my clothes, boots or belt belts during the time. My
feet & clothes have not been dry for 3 days.
21st. A very stale mean life we have at present. The weather
is like the worst of Spring time in Meik. We have no drills,
parades or anything else. They can hardly get provisions
here from Alex. The mare is knee deep all the time.
22nd. I made out to get Dickens, "Great Expectations"
from town to day & also some good military maps all which
afford me great pleasure. There has been a good deal of
drunkenness & absence without leave. Tomorrow we are
going to have some of them
sitting astride a pole all day.

I have commenced giving a
course of instruction to our
Corps. They need it & I cannot
better employ a few of my leis-
ure hours. We have a most
glorious lot of Corps. If they will
turn out some good Sergt.
run in drills, if well instruc-
ted & encouraged. There is nothing
like knowing how to stimu-
late ambition - a soldierly pride
renunciation among Non-Com.
Officers. It tends wonderfully
to lighten the duties of the
Officers & give promptness &
activity to the Co. P. Sam still
on Court Martial. Corps.

Mark is reduced to the ranks
& Charley Butler appointed in
his place. We have done
sending men to the Grand house for drunkenness. We just tie their hands & feet gag them & put them to bed till they get sober.

24th There is to night one of the worst storms of the season. Rain & snow. Benson has gone to the city. I have been getting ready to drill the loc. on skirmishing & bayonet exercise but there is no knowing when the weather will permit. Henry & Grego were both very drunk to night. I thought I should have to send them both out doors but finally succeeded in persuading them to pay the depot Major a visit & thus escaped them. P. Grego has just returned from the city where his pocket was picked of...
Court Martial still in session. I have been on camp guard but once since we came here. Benson talks of getting a box set of boxing gloves. Today for forwards amusement. Benson is a good boxer & I know very well how that he will serve us as he used to Prentice at home. My coach him into his room, lock the door & not let him out till he put on the gloves & then punch him till the breath of life is hardly left in him. It is very enthusiastic but has never tried. If his arrows is not dampered by the line both arms are black above to the elbows, ribs so sore he can't draw a long breath, eyes blacked & more knocked down as they
will be in a very short time in his case, I am very much mistaken in the man. I have had a taste of these things and wish it immensely in others. I do not object to it myself, very seriously.

It's on all minds that blows on one here. Now that we have finally settled down on the facts that we can go into the Artillery & that we are on bad terms with Gen. R. Kemptzeln. has taken a wonderful fancy for us. He & Co. Poe agree remarkably. Gen. H. tells him to take further notice of Gen. R. or his staff but to draw all our stores & supplies direct from headquarters. This chance of showing our independence is not lost. Gen. R. has been down twice.
lately looking through our camp as he used to, but I could not see
that he spoke to any one or that anyone took any notice of him. I
could never have believed that Regimental pride ran as high
with us as it does if I had not seen it. The likes & dislikes, more
especially the latter, of soldiers are very strong. I don't believe
there is a Pvt. in the Regt. who would not go 1/2 miles out of his
way to get rid of saluting fire. A month ago there was hardly one
who would not have laid down his life for him. Our men would
today rather shut a
tarocom one of the 3d Muskis than
a deadeh. The other Regts. of the
brigade have all new Austrian
rifles. They sent up Minie
Musket for us but they were not new. The men would not touch them till they were assured by Col. P. that they were better guns (which is indeed true) than the Austrian Rifles. They are an excellent gun. They can shoot up 40 rods with level sights, have a raise sight which brings the ball with a good degree of accuracy right to 160 rods.

21st. A lovely morning, no inspection by myself. All in good order. Co. looks well. Heard mounting was well done this M. for the first time in a good while. The guns is so bad that we never can have a good guard there. The Quartermaster's wife came.
out to see grand Mounting.

She took post on the hill back of our quarters. I thought the men would go crazy at the sight of her ankles. She is a very pretty lady & has indeed as pretty a pair of ankles as I ever looked upon.

They are a great deal too nice to exhibit in that way to the great aggravation of soldiers. I swore when I saw them that if she got out of the way I would conce on the first pair I came to if they were half as enticing as hers. I don't know whether she knew what a sensation she created. She would be pleased to know it though she would front over it in company. This is a joyful life like spring day field of the energy & aspirations.
One feels full of confidence, courage, and enterprise on such days. Everything is exhilarating, strong, giving - no blues, no sad thoughts of the past nor forebodings of future ills. No thought of troubles, difficulties, hopes or misfortunes. All low mean thoughts are laid aside. The soul, with enthusiasm, grasps at nothing, sees nothing save unalloyed pleasure and perfect success in life. Amid the sweetest of surroundings, everything moves with a flood tide toward victory. This soldiering, at times, is the gayest life in the world - what a pity so many fine fellows must needs be killed by means of it. Oh, as North used to say, it's their 'loes turned up.'
We have now a most excellent body of men I have worked long to make them what they are & am doing something every day to improve them. There is the best lot of non-commissioned officers in the Regt. Two of them all fitted for commissions yet I would not be surprised if before another year is past I should see half of them with legs or arms off or without heads or with bodies in two pieces or torn or mutilated even worse than that.

Then any good soldier will hear no more Reveilles. The perfect lorgne will get me going. My had hard work is lost & mourning is in many a home. The hands which were strong in their countries cause are motionless, their pale calm features turned to
heavenward, the small blue jacket faulstafon its mantle
is dabbled with life blood— the
heart— but now full of gay hopes
love, hate & the wild, patriotic
gear of the battled field has ceased
to beat. the faithful soldier
there not a truer man on earth! has
joined his many millions of com-
rades who have gone before him.
God grant these many toils & hard-
ships man, may not find some kind reward at last not only for them but for those
who have given their all to a sacred
cause.

28th. A long skirmish begins
weet drill.

29th. The 37th are in pocket
They had 3 men killed & 4 wounded
this M. They stood to it well
brought off 2 prisoners & it is reported killed 8 wounded several of the enemy. The weather has been fine to day. We had a most glorious skirmish drill. The men are enthusiastic & very eager for anything new in the line of drill. We fired at a mark yesterday P.M. with good success. We shall drill daily every hour when the weather will permit until the time comes for moving. I have been drilling the non-com. officers on bayonet exercise to-day & Benson to-morrow. I fear the weather will be bad to-morrow. There was a great deal of heavy firing down the river last. This for some reason is almost invariably followed
by rain within 24 hours. I have noticed it in many cases where never known to fail. Whether it be caused by the great concussion of the air or by some quality of the gas engendered by burning large quantities of powder &c., I must say. It seems for the last few days as if it never wanted a better business than soldiers. One gets such eagerness & enthusiasm, & soon after awhile as makes him half wild. A good officer on the battlefield will take no more notice of the bullets than a man all absorbed in a game will of the idle talk of others whom he does not even hear. He is as eager as watchful of every move & chance as an ancient chess or checkers player. He sees nothing & thinks of another.
but it may be the best movements for the men before him. I think a private soldier often needs a higher degree of courage to sustain him than an officer. He has nothing to do but stand, waiting while his officer’s mind is so busily employed as to shut out every thought of danger! The ladies are very kind to soldiers while they are present, some of them when they are absent. These seem however to be a pretty general disposition to go back on these 3 year soldiers. More than half our Co. were engaged to be married when they left home. There are not more than 1 or 2 whose ladies have not already (to use one of Reminies expressions) “fixed on them.” They for the most part
take it with soldier-like fortitude. It goes very hard with some of them for a few days but they soon to all appearance swear it off? There are some reasons for all this. The soldiers are very free and easy with everything that comes in their way. It is a very discouraging thought to them no doubt. It is perhaps as well that they should look elsewhere. Many of them will never return. Many more of them will forget them. It is perhaps as well that both should go where they please and seek their mates with freedom. We that is look 8 3 have a boy 13 years old for waiter. He came from Detroit with the 5th. He had been employed there in the Theater for
3 years. He is a smart boy, but about the hardest case in some respects that I ever saw. He will not steal (it from us), nor get drunk—but he'll do almost anything else. He is well enough drilled for a lawyer, learns very rapidly, and speaks Shakespeare at libitum—but he is the wickedest chap I ever saw.

30th. It rains hard & did nearly all night. No drill to-day. It's very lonesome & tedious. I have been quite sad during the day for some reason—because I was so idle I suppose. I finished reading Great Expectations to-day. It is a singular book. Like most of Dickens' works it requires great patience to get through the first two-thirds of the story. We all
gets beyond what is rational or credible. Such things might happen without an unreasonable stretch of imagination. The story amounts to a good deal in this end but one must live on the wit and satire which are for the most part independent of it till he begins to think there is no story at all. I do not think there is that bitterness and virulence about it that characterized his earlier stories. His best days are past. They are trying to reduce the pay of soldiers. It is a very bad policy. The pay was so low before that the army could not retain its best men. It is hardly improbable that so long as the government can pay, such a class of men as the officers of the army are or...
at least should be, will willingly view all the dangers & hardships of the war for their more subsistence.
It is now near 10 months since I enlisted. I have spent morning foolishly & but little which was in a sense necessary.
I have thus far barely $40 to fall back on in case I should leave the army minus legs or arms or as many will with broken constitution & ruined health. I can live on less than I have. When the country is poor & exhausted I will serve it still for 44 what I now get or when the worst comes you moth & do it willingly. The country is now rich & it can pay all that it does. It hurts me that it should begrudge the miserable.
instance which can now be saved beyond bare subsistence.

There is another feature of it which displeases me still more by that one says is to be cut down by men who lost away more time in houses of public prostitution than they spend in legislative duties. Let them cut down their own pay to begin with or long before they talk about reducing ours. Let them lie out in the mud or rain a few days on fricquet.

31st. We had a very energetic skirmish by bayonet drill to day. Benson is on fatigue there is no one but I to drill the co. save myself. The men are eager for dot drill. I have never seen them so full of enthusiasm.
They are getting vindictive, blood thirsty; willing to drill the whole day long if they can thereby be made more sure of success. I stimulate these feelings by words and actions as much as possible. A word at the right time often fills a soldier with a zeal and ambition which will be life long. I miss no such chance.

This spring will open with great events. It will be such a summer as never was seen on this continent. I await its coming with high hopes. No one knows whether he sees its end. I hope to but if I do not have little fear doubt that there is some reward in store for the soldier who does his best in his country's cause.

Meanwhile I will do all that
lies within my limited sphere to ensure success. So far as those under me and myself are concerned I will leave no stone unturned which can contribute towards victory. I shall with much pleasure receive letters from Arthur & from home.

Feb. 2, 1862

Capt. Godfrey came in with the gloves from town to-day. The first thing we set two big footers at a bull, but who had never boxed a blow, to work with them. They went in with Might & Main & in about 2 minutes one of them went over "surprised" on to his feet. He had strained both hands & strained across the very picture of giddiness.
ment, a stream of blood as large as a pipe stem flowing from each nostril. They concluded to dispense with any further announcement of that kind. I nearly laughed myself to death. Seward is sick. I am now taking no part. There has been quite a general round. Few, indeed, the poor frog appears to be the champion of our lot. The weather is fair but it being Sunday we have no drill.

3rd The snow is now deeper. This is the deepest of the winter. The weather is warm. It is very certain that we cannot leave here unless it be on a fleet for several weeks. I shall be glad to see spring activity. We are shut up in a little valley
Where we can neither see or know anything or any body.

3rd I put on the gloves to fight for the first time with Capt. Handy. We went easy the being a very weak opponent I came off without being touched. There is a great deal of boxing in the city & there is considerable latent in the crude state.

Capt. Godfrey is the instructor. He has the genuine fighting build - a square solid head a neck like a bull & though only 5'4 ½ feet high weighs 170 lbs without being fat. He is French & cares no more for pounding than for the wind blowing in his face. He is one of the real old Detroit French - a nephew of the man who owned
for years to by all the farms in
our country. The family at
Detroit are wealthy & he is said to
have some very pretty sisters.
He is himself well educated,
an excellent corps, but has
heretofore led a very hard life.
He has spent a great deal of
time & on the Mississippi
river & in places generally
where there was any prospect
of a muscle. I have been doing
the Mon. Com. Officers on buying
net to day. Benson is building
a log guard house & must needs
be excused for when he has a
log shanty in view it useless
to talk of any thing else. I hope
he will have it done soon.
Hannay is disposed to have a
little strife on whose coin...
come out ahead on the bayonet drill. He has a lot to help him and as I have no one up at present it goes much slower than it ought. He has become so jealous already that I cannot get a word out of him nor will he let me look at one of his books. I am glad to see that. It is a favorable indication I can get all the books I want with ease without his assistance. If Benson was one half as good on drill as on log houses we could beat him to death. 6th Rainy. E'en as a herd of bristling swine in Brentford town a town of mud are pricked along: so as we wallow all in mud and—
our knees. It is pretty dull business but we can see the end of it I think. We shall have to go on picket once more at that place but only once I think. The health of the Regt is remarkably good that your Co. is almost all that could be asked. How in the world it is kept so good is more than I can tell. The men are in the mud all the time feet wet a great deal. The ground on the battery damp & often clear mud— for less attention given to cleanliness than at home & frequently wet. They have little to eat—some meat, bread, beans, rice, coffee yet most of them are so fat they can hardly see out of their eyes.
Our expectations of rich holding were realized much sooner than we expected. At 9 P.M., last night an order came for us to go out this Mon. at 9 A.M. We had to take the place of the 5th. for some reason. I understand 300 of them have the measles. The men dislike to take their places. If it was another Regt., they would have cared less. We have only a brush shelter and the evidence of a coming storm are apparent. The mud in many places for rocks was full to make dead on the main road.

8th. I got orders last night to go beyond the lines, north of before daylight with a few men & a lookout. I accordingly set out at 4 1/2 A.M. with 18 men.
It was very dark but we worked our way along toward Thicket Church as well as we could. We scared 2 Rebel horsemen who were watching on the Beneventville Road, but one makes so much noise that it is hard getting near them. As we drew near the Church I sent Corporal Russell with 4 men around to the right to take them in. The near my one was there. We proceed cautiously along both sides. Keep a close look out for ambuscades. We do not proceed far when when we hear 5 shots all at once in front of us. After a while Corporal Russell has missed his way & came back on it to the same road.

He signs some videttes of the enemy they've had fired on them. We take the double quick to an
near the spot. We see some men run across the road (it is still dark) at about 10 rods distant. We are in doubt who they are. Fearing a trap, we withdraw about 4 rods on hands and knees to a thick line of bushes where it will be more difficult for them to get to our flanks on rear. We lie still for a moment to listen and then whistle the signal which is answered and we again advance. We look cautiously around but finding no one but on either side we go on to think and examine all the houses and survey the place generally. The boys were pretty raucous and marched pretty much every thing with their bayonets in their descent. They however took nothing and injured nothing. The people had just turned out of their
beds which were still warm and tumbled. The men were all gone except one or two old ones in fact the place is mostly deserted except by the negroes. After reaching about as long as we thought best we started for camp and a part of Co. Greene's who were coming to reinforce us. Two of the men were absent but they are always running off & we left them. Soon after we came in they came all out of breath & badly scratched by running through the briars. They report that they saw a Co. of Co. 1 were near enough to them to hear them talking all the time. Then we had been back a short time came a report that we had fired on some of our own Co. Of course we could not swear positively.
The land I think there is very little doubt—thst they were our own men whom we shot at yesterday. If so it is the fault of those who sent us. They had no business in front of our line. I ought not to have been sent out without knowledge of their whereabouts. A body of a dozen or a dozen and a half runs upon another in knowing nothing of their number, in a place where they expect to meet the enemy cannot be expected to make any very extended inquiries as to who they are. Some one was to blame but we had no share in it. I am very glad we did not kill any of them. One of them was cut through the coat over his shoulder and his bullet struck a tree behind him.
which one of our men stood. I believe there is not a braver man in the Regt. than Capt. Russell. He stands next Johnston & B.

Stevenson among the Non-com. officers. I had worked a long time before I could make Benson believe that there was genuine stuff in him but he has to acknowledge it. I disapproved Benson's appointment but could not prevent it. I knew he would never be a good Capt. Benson acknowledges it. We have both to acknowledge that we were greatly mistaken on Capt. McVicar! He is a good man but will do his individual duty but he is a first hand to make others do. Prentice will have to be the next Sergt. to satisfy the Capt.-not because he is worthy of it."
as to that, but I knew very well that they had no business there at that time of night.

Major Williams however got things confused so badly that I was afraid something might be amiss. I was still more confirmed in this by an order at 11 a.m. to report myself at headquarters forthwith. Although my orders did not specify any particular distance to which I might go I at once concluded that something was wrong and as my orders were not in writing the one who gave them would try to save himself by leaving me in the lurch.

My order was from Benson, his from Major Williams. As against anyone else B. would do anything in his power to spend his last cent.
to save me, but as between him and me the case might naturally be quite different. If Major had done wrong in not limiting the distance it was very probable that he would make a try to make me Benson or I should do it. I started for headquarters fully prepared for arrest. I knew that done nothing wrong I had confidence that I could stand it through somehow if my flanking party had gone right I should have known who the cavalry were. As our energy is always enquiring life is so checkered you never can tell how I found at head' of that they were veritable "seeds" whom the men fired on, that I was summoned to receive a commission 1st time, instead of being armed.
I got around to our quarters, found a good stock of fresh beef. I immediately laid hold of a good chunk—just half of it—roasting a while that was cooking, ate the other half raw.

See page 81.

The day has been a very quiet day. The men when not on the watch have been lounging around on the strand in their bush shanties or roasting beef on long sticks at a large fire in the centre of the circle. Some speculate on affairs at home, some tell stories or marine jokes, drive on each other. Indeed, we lead a very lazy but not unpleasant life. A few have letters & papers to read but most are employed as above or sleeping.
to make up for last night's watch. The weather has been good which is fortunate as our house is all walls & no roof. This frost & being interior we can keep as large a fire as we like. There is a large quantity of dry cord wood near by & we use it without stint.

We were relieved late yesterday, after 4 P.M. I did not reach home till after 11 P.M. I was somewhat tired but feel none the worse to day. I saw one of the Cavalrymen yesterday whom I have no doubt though Major Williams still denies it we shot at this morning. He had a bullet hole through his overcoat shoulder & the opposite ear was very red.
Nearly blistered, I presume the ball did not have an 1/8 of an inch from it. It is from my good judgment of the Major's that half of us on both sides were killed. Had target shooting a bayonet drill this M., a bayonet drill after dinner. I have added one bar to every shoulder stock, which makes no change in state or feeling. Bensons still at work on the grand house. Prentice has been sick for 3 days, bleeding at the lungs, I am afraid he cannot live long. There is too much mercury in his bones & bad whiskey in his system.

12th We have news of great victories to-night dare jubilant. The war cannot last a great while.
as this rate. I have been from living bayonet exercise & have to warm to write much. Things look encouraging. The weather is very warm to-day. Shaving & activity will soon be at hand. I would like a month for drill before we start. With that length of time too I could enter the field, not perfecting well drilled in all that can be required of an infantry soldier. Men will get tired & lazy if they would work as long as I would work with them a great deal might be accomplished.

Benson is a good leader but he sometimes lags. He is very energetic but he lets up now & then. What I like is a constant determination which Never
large or falters or seeks for excus- 
ies. I cannot say that I 
have this, I am at it, I won't 
give up the ship is what I mean. 
It will carry one through every 
thing. One can live on it the year 
when without it he would have 
died in a day. Have another 
and pursue it with an eagerness 
which cannot recognize defeat 
or hear words of discouragement, 
not blindly but with the most 
vigilant watch for every thing 
small or great which may aid 
your course, drag them all 
to you to force them to pave 
the way toward success. It 
may often be necessary to seem- 
ingly abandon your this object, 
but this is only the with that 
part of yourself which the words
see, know, i.e., the counterfeit man, the other part which is indeed yourself, the real man knows no change. There is a vast difference frequently between the man whom the world sees and calls by your name, and the one you see and call yourself. I am not now speaking of that peculiar class with whom self-esteem hides all other faculties. They believe themselves something which others know they are not. I am taking of those whom the world believes something which they themselves know they are not. In one case the man deceives himself in the other he deceives those around him. I would rather be the latter but would
all yelling like demons. This over he ordered a change down a steep hill at double quick. The men fraud broaden to any one but ran just as hard as they could. Many of them did not stop till more than 100 rods. We thought they were together against combined off the first to standing Major’s orders to form the line. Major says the men were really so full of the idea that he could do nothing with them. "It was all wrong," a military point of view but still he had to laugh to hard that he could not give the order half. It is exceedingly un-military wholly wrong for a field officer to allow himself to be beaten with men that way or even in the
February 4th. The Devil may also show himself in the form of a call for 200 men from the division to man gun boats. Two thirds the Rept. were anxious to go. I began to fear our whole Co. was broken up. They came almost as a body to our tent but finding we would have nothing to don with them were going away when they chancing to spy the Major they cried simultaneously - Rally on the Major - in less than 5 minutes he was surrounded. First they gave 3 cheers for the Major declared that he must go with them to give Gen. R. to see about it. Off they went taking Major with them. Every time he said anything which was often (he being a great talker) some of them would
Secon Ball
D. S. Ford
T. J. Ferry
J. C. Dowley
J. C. Ball.

Propose & cheer for the Major. Major had sense enough to know that he was making a very ridiculous appearance. He formed them in four ranks thinking if once got them in order they would obey him. It all went very well till he tried to run away from them when they all broke after yelling like devils, seized him on their shoulders till they were near the place where they let him down on his promise that he would not try to run away again. The General told them that next time sailors could go. Thus ended the excitement. We tried to jump off some waggon-places for sailors. They were very eager to go at first but as soon as they found we wanted to get rid of them not a man would enlist.
Jan. 18th 1862

David Coleman Jr. &
George H. Ball reduced to
the ranks.

Jan. 16th Drum Major
Freeman Underwood went to
the ranks voluntarily to escape
Court Martial.

Jan. 12th C. L. Godfrey &
W. D. Roper were added corps
in place of Coleman & Ball.

Jan. 22nd Capt. H. Butler added
corp. mis W. D. Mark reduced.

B. H. Brownell 1st Lt. of E.

Shealy 2nd Lt. of H.

C. B. Hammond 2nd Lt. of B. C.

Joe Berger 3rd Lt. of H.