Correspondence

Jan.-Mar. 1864

Dear Parents and Sister Emma,

As today is a rainy day, and I am not on duty, I thought that I would improve it in writing home to my friends. That is if I knew any; it is so long since I have heard from them, that it almost seems as though they had all forgotten me, but I do not know as I ought to blame you, for I think that you must have written, and I have not got the letters; one letter is all that I have had. The pleasure of receiving since I left Dr. That was the first one you wrote, and as for others not writing, I cannot blame them, for I have not written to any one except you and I cannot expect them to write to me before I do to them. I should have written to several persons before this had to the money to pay passage with.

The last letter that I wrote, was to a Mr. in Huntsville, since then I have seen harder soldiering than I ever saw before, last Christmas, and New Years, and the week between, were days that I shall remember as long as I live, we started from Huntsville the morning of the 24th, with nearly half our regiment dismissed, I was one of the dismissed, we expected that we were going to Nashville, after horses, but instead of that we had to follow the men that were mounted, and keep up with them, or so as to get into the same camp come night, our saddles and blankets were put into the company wagons, but our arms we had to carry ourselves.
The first day we marched 18½ miles, which was a pretty good march considering the roads being over some very rough hills, and through streams where the mounted men could ride through, but we would have to go some away around, which made the distance greater for us. Through a mistake, made by the officers, we left Irons, without any rations, in our haversacks, and before night it was so faint that I could pick up every small piece of hard tack that I could find on the road. We ate the mud and ate it. I got into camp about an hour after dark, one of our squad who had a little money with him bought some meal of another soldier, with that and water, but without any salt, made a brood for supper. Christmas Eve, and one for breakfast. Christmas morning, we lay down and slept until about four o'clock when we had to get up and get ready to move on, which we did at the break of day, that day which was Christmas. We marched nearly 24 miles. I did not get in to camp until a few minutes before the taps blew, which is at nine o'clock. Of course I found it was all I could do to drag one foot after the other. That Christmas I never shall forget. (Two years ago that day I was in Fort Wayne, Detroit, in Capt. H. Clay's company of Volunteers. Before we had the boys had pitched up their tents and made not one stick up, some nailed in, laid an uncertain something before morning, ate Some of quick bread, but our shelter was but little better than nothing.)
Saturday morning we resumed our journey in the rain, it rained all day and as we had one ride to forer (Old lone) we did not make so long a march that day. I gave out, I could not march one after the other, and had to be taken on to the wagons. I was not the only one, two or half of the footmen had given out. Before I did, we camped for that night in the woods, one and another, and such mud as you never saw in Michigan, you Michiganers know nothing about some real mud. It is mud without bottom, unless you happen to get on to a rocky road and then stand up. On Sunday we had gone about six miles when we were ordered to halt and wait for further orders, and there we are now waiting for the arrival of Bulashi waiting for orders to move on. We know not where. Sunday night or Monday morning, it cleared up, and we had quite pleasant weather until New Year's Eve about six o'clock, when it began to blow from the north-west, and all the omnibus had to stay there. All night, the wind was brisk, and after New Year's Eve, we were ordered to lie with all three of our coats on jacket, stable-jacket, and overcoat. Two blankets. A piece wrapped around us, to lie and not to sleep. But we men slept around this night, that is, of our tents, a great many of them.
of their feet? I press one toe on my left foot and the heels of both feet, one man in the tent with me presses both his feet, his name is T. M. Kepler one of the men that Bivins enlisted. It nearly laid him up. He can just get around, and that's all, my feet are pretty sore but not so bad what I can get around, if I was at home however, I would not be able to get out of the house. the second night of this month was nearly as cold, but the third was as warm as could be wished for.

Citizens of Palatka that have lived here fourteen years say that they never saw it as cold here as it was the first and second day of this month. I'm ashamed from what little I have written, that the Christmas of 1863, and the New Year of 1864 are days that I will not be apt to forget very soon. But it is the report through camp that one leave here tomorrow, some think we are going to Texas, in fact nearly all the officers think we are. They think that men will go west to Memphis and south-west across Arkansas to Texas. There are serious opinions as to where we are started for, but none of them know not even the Officers. It has stopped raining and is growing colder and it must be bringing my letters to a close as soon as possible, for the bugle has blown to muster and, my horse broke loose last and I did not know and in the dark last night, I will finish my letter after I take care of my horse I guess.
Camp near Pulaski. Ten'. January 4th 1864

Dear Parents and Sister Emma.

As today is a rainy day and I am not on duty I thought that I would improve it in writing home to my friends, that is if I have any; it is so long since I have heard from any of them, that it almost seems sic as though they had all forgotten sic me. but I do not know as I ought to blame you for I think that you must have written sic and I have not got the letters, one letter is all that I have had the pleasure of receiving since I left Dt'. that was the first one you wrote, and as far others not writing I cannot blame them for I have not written sic to any one except you and I cannot expect them to write to me before I do to them. I should have written to several however before this had I the money to pay postage with.

The last letter that I wrote, I wrote in Huntsville since then I have seen harder soldiering that I ever saw before, last Christmas and New Years, and the week between, were days that I shall remember as long as I live. we started from Huntsville the morning of the 24th with nearly half our Reg' dismounted, I was one of the dismounted, we expected that we were going to Nashville, after horses, but instead of that we had to follow the men that were mounted, and keep up with them, or so as to get into the same camp come night, our saddles and blankets were put into the company wagon, but our arms we had to carry ourselves. The first day we marched 18½ miles which was a pretty good march considering the road being over some very rough hills, and through streams where the mounted men could ride through but we would frequently have to go some ways around, which made the distance greater for us. through a mistake, made by the officers we left
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Huntsville without any rations in our haversacks, and before night I was so faint that I would pick up evry )sic( small peice )sic( of heard-tack )sic( that I could find in the road scrape of )sic( the mud and eat it. I got into camp about an hour after dark, one of our squad who had a little money with him bought some meal of another soldier with that and watter )sic( , but without any salt, we made a hoe-cake for supper Christmas-eve, and one for breakfast Christmas morning, we lay down and slept untill )sic( about four o clock when we had to get up and get ready to move on, which we did at the break of day, that day which was Christmas we marched nearly 24 miles, I did not get into camp untill )sic( a few minutes before the taps blew which is at nine o clock. Of wasn't I tiard )sic( it was all I could do to drag one foot after the other. that Christmas I never shall forget, (two years ago that day I was in fort wayne Detroit, in Capt. Mc loys company of Wittington Cadets) some of the boys had throwd )sic( up their tents and some had not we stuck up some rails and laid our ponchoes )sic( over them before morning it rained quite hard, but our shelter was but little better than nothing.

Saturday morning we resumed our journey in the rain, it rained all day and as we had one river to ford (Elk river) we did not make so long a march; that day I gave out. I could march no farther, and had to be taken on to the wagons, I was not the only one, over half of the foot men had given out before I did. we camped that night in the woods, wet and muddy )sic( and such mud as you never saw in Michigan. You Michiganders know nothing about Tennessee mud, it is mud without bottom, unless you happen to get on to a
rocky road and then stand up if you can. Sunday we had gone but about six miles when we were ordered to halt and wait for further orders. and here we are now within sight of Pulaski waiting for orders to move on we know not where. Sunday night or Monday morning rather it cleared of )sic( and we had quite plesant )sic( weather untill )sic( New-Weers eve about six o clock, when it began to blow from the north-west and of all the hurricanes )sic( that I ever saw it beat them all, we were camped on the north side of a hill, and had to take it worse than any other Reg' in the Division. it had not blown long before it began to hail and frese )sic( that night New-Weers night we went to bed with all three of our coats on Jacket, Stable-frock, and Overcoat, two blankets apace )sic( wraped )sic( around us, to bed but not to sleep, but few men slept a wink that night, that is of our Reg'. a great many of them frose )sic( their feet I frose )sic( one toe on ly left foot and the heels of boath )sic( feel, one man in the tent with me frose )sic( boath )sic( his feet, his name is L. M. Keyes one of the men that Bwins enlisted. it nearly laid him up. he can just get around and that is all. my feet are pertty )sic( sore but not so but what I can get around, if I was at home however, I would not be able to get out of the house. but here a man must keep going or die. the second night of this month was nearly as cold, but the third was as warm as could be wished for. Citizens of Pulaski that have lived here fourteen years, say that they never saw it as cold here as it was the first and second day of this month. You can see from what little I have writen )sic( that the Christmas of 1863 and the New-Weers of 1864 are days that I
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will not be apt to forget very soon. It is the report through camp that we leave here tomorrow, some think we are going to Texas, in fact nearly all the officers think so, they think that we will go west to Memphis and south-west across Arkansas to Texas. There are serious opinions as to where we are started for, but none of them know not even the Officers. It has stopped raining and is growing colder, and I must be bringing my letter to a close as soon as possible, for the bugle has blown to watter horses, my horse broke loose night before last and I did not find him until dark last night. I will finish my letter after I take care of my horse I guess.
Hopewell, Georgia, Oct 14 1862.

Dear Parents,

As it is nearly a month since I wrote my last letter home, and for fear that you would hear of the raids that our Regiment have been in during the last month, and not hearing from me would worry about me, I thought that I would use the last sheet of paper that I had in letting you know how I was getting along. At the time I wrote my last letter I had not heard from home since leaving Nashville, but two or three days after I received two letters, one dated Nov 30th, and the other Dec 13th, and the papers, and sermons I have not received any mail since that mail. I was pleased on receiving those letters to see that I was not forgotten at home. I remember that I was feeling rather down just before, but they soon made me feel better, and I shall not forget as long as I live how much better I felt after reading them. The day after receiving them I was on U. S. duty, the next day on picket, and the next day we started for Chattanooga. It was a long and hard march of thirteen days over mountains through valleys, across rivers, and the roads in the worst kind of a plight, several times we were obliged to dismount and lead our horses for hours at a time over the roughest mountains I ever saw. Several of our horses gave out and were left behind. The road kicked to think between two and three thousand dead horses and mules, might have been counted in and along
side of the road, one of our boys counted four hundred in
less than two days, got tired and stupid, another counted nearly
two hundred in less than four hours. Some, they were
animals that had given out on similar marches none
of them had been killed in battle. We saw also a
few, yes considerable, many soldiers graves along the
road, some places several in a bunch, others places soli-
ditary graves along side the road, as you will see in
the upper picture on my certificate one solitary grave
most of them without any inscription letters.

One thing that I never saw like before, that struck me
very much, and that was Never go over Look-out mountain. It is fourteen miles long, one
month is near Chattanooga and the other fourteen
miles back at the other end of the mountain. I paid
a visit to the camp and rode my horse in as far as I
could and then dismounted, left my horse with
another man who did not wish to go in any farther
and wandered as far as I could without a guide.

Beside the camp I have had several beautiful sights
one of them from Lookout mountains, but I may as well
stop for I have not paper on which to describe one half
with part of what I have seen. What would interest
you. We left Plesker as near as I can find out on the 8th
and reached Pensacola four miles south of Chattanooga
on the 21st of January; at any rate we were in camp
only one day when an order came to go on a scout
the next morning with three days rations in our. How
erseeks. I cannot give much of a description of the scout for want of room, I will however give some of the facts about it and you can see for yourselves that it was pretty rough on us, some of the old 4th, say that it was the hardest scout (or raid more properly) that the 4th ever saw, and no other Regt in the field has been any harder than they. We were gone from camp about 24 hours during which time the command (which consisted of the 8th 4th and the 28th Mounted 11th) were out of the saddle only 12 hours and that was at times when we stopped to feed our horses, the second day we traveled 20 hours exactly, without feeding, and stopped to feed and rest 4 hours that was the longest stop we made out of the 6th and Co. E. 4th Michigan was put out on picket that took 4 hours from the 12 and left only about 8 hours that Co. E. had to feed and get what rest they could get 64 hours of time and remember that that 8 hours was not all at one time, but at several times during the raid of 64 hours. We passed through Summersville, where we took about a dozen prisoners, and clear around to the rear of a camp of one whole Brigade of Rebels and charged into on the camp where there was about the same number of Rebels that then were of us about 400. We found the Rebels playing cards at the foot of the road, he fired his gun and run me had the order to "draw Revolvers" and "charge" into this camp, a few of us had no Revolver I was one
that had none some drew our sabers, and charged yelling like so many demons, but through some mistake we charged down the wrong road, the Rebels heard us yell and left their camp in such a fright that they left every thing even to their arms, they jumped upon other horses without stopping to saddle up, and burned their camp destroyed their arms taken away what horses they had left, and started back for Rossville by the same road that we went out but before we got within 20 miles of Rossville our scout who had command of the two R.C.s mistrusted that the Rebel Brigade might be on that road waiting for us, so we took another road to camp, and after enough the next day a scout came in and informed us that a whole Brigade of Rebels were lying in ambush with in about 15 miles of Rossville waiting for us but they slipped up on catching us that time, we turned off just in time to save our sides. We went another few miles of Rome (60 miles from Rossville and 12 miles to Rome) where on the map and see the distance we traveled in 64 hours, our prisoners said 144 miles. But God! I did not intend to say one half as much about the said as I have. Our veg has been an another scout since then but the first one ended up any time so that I could not give they made quite a brush with the Rebels killed about 50 they think, but did not close a man in our veg. They shot 20 full and 1 man burned
Well! I have written one sheet all over and now written comparatively nothing to what I would like to, but I must commence on another sheet or you will know but little about myself, while I am enjoying good health and have been all of the time, excepting a head-ache which I now almost of the time, the weather is very warm here, and has been since the first week in January, when it was so very cold. You can judge a little how warm it is, about a week ago I went down to the creek and took a bath, I did not take the least bit of cold. We have a great deal of slavery to perform, here under me one guard, picked "stable fatigue," twice desist to be paid so much that we can hardly get time to do our own washing, mending, and such work that we must do, or at least that I do, to save money, most of the boys hire their washing done by negroes, and when their pants get worn through draw a new pair and throw the away. I have set two large patches on to mine all ready. I have got that certificate of mine signed and will send it along with this letter, I hope that you sent me I need part of them to pay off my debts, the certificate will state two so if you will send me some more the next time you write which I hope will be
just as soon as you receive this, they will come good.

I have just come from the melon market in town and have but 18 cents left to buy paper with. I have about 800 quires and a very fine quality of note paper at that about as good as I need. Not sent for. I have not been up to Chattanooga to see what I can get it for there. One of our boys was up Saturday and said that he saw them sell apples about an inch and a half through 2 for a quarter, news papers 2 shilling each, and two or three weeks old at that. And my Testament is about all I find time to read. These sermons that you sent me I have read several times, they are sent now.

These shoes you sent me I am very much obliged for. Of what pleasure I look reading other Cuneo's letters it was said. I think of little letters to get still all the news about home and Sunday school and such. This last I have not been writing much coming back from matriculation my term is almost desperate. I'm sure and I must close this. Your letters poor I say because I cannot write a good letter when I have the head-ach and I heard we were going on a mother raid tomorrow so I thought I must write to you today still Cuneo that I must write one also the letter and tell me all about the sunday school. I cannot write to be now but will try to soon. Give my love to all my friends you know who they are and home.
Rossville Georgia Feb 1st 1864.

Dear Parents

As it is nearly a month since I wrote my last letter home and for fear that you would hear of the raids that our Regiment have been in during the last month, and not hearing from me would worry about me, I thought that I would use the last sheet of paper that I had in letting you know how I was getting along. At the time I wrote my last letter I had not heard from home since leaving Nashville, but two or three days after I received two letters, one dated Nov 30th and the other Dec 13th, and the papers and sermons; I have not received any mail since, but wasint [sic] I pleased on receiving those letters to see that I was not forgotten [sic] at home. I remember that I was feeling rather down just before, but they put new life into me, and I shall not forget as long as I live how much better I felt after reading them. The day after I received them I was on "Torage [sic] duty" the next day on "Picket" and the next day we started for Chattanooga, it was a long and hard march of thirteen days over mountains through valleys across [sic] rivers, and the roads in the worst kind of a plight, several times we were obliged to dismount and lead our horses for hours at a time over the rockest [sic] mountains I ever saw, several of our horses gave out and were left beside the road to die. I think between two and three thousand dead horses and mules might have been counted in and along side of the rode [sic], one of our boys counted four hundred in less than two days, got tiard [sic] and stoped [sic], another counted nearly two hundred in less than four hours time, they were animals that had given out on similar marches none of them had been killed in battle. We saw also a few, yes considerable many soldiers graves along the road, some places several in a huddle, others places
solitary graves along side the road, as you will see in the upper pictures on my certificate one solitary grave most of them with out any inscription however. One thing that I never saw the like before, that intrested [sic] me very much, and that was Nicker-Jack cane through look-out mountain, it is fourteen miles long, one mouth is near Chattanooga and the other fourteen miles back at the other end of the mountain. I paid a visit to the cave and rode my horse in as far as I could and then I dismounted left my horse with another man who did not wish to go in any farther and wandered as far in as I daird [sic] without a guide. beside the cave I have had several beautiful sights one of them from look-out mountain, but I may as well stop for I have not paper on which to describe one hundredth [sic] part of what I have seen that would interest you. We left Puleski as near as I can find out on the 8th and reached Rossville four miles south of Chattanooga on the 21st of January: at any rate we were in camp only one day when an order came to go on a scout the next morning, with three days rations in our haversacks. I cannot give much of a description of the scout for want of room. I will however give some of the facts about it and you can see for yourselves that it was pretty rough on us, some of the old 4th say that it was the hardest scout (or raid more properly) that the 4th ever saw, and no other Regt in the field has seen any harder than they. We were gone from camp about 64 hours during which time the command (which consisted of the Mich 4th and the 26 Mounted KY.) were out of the saddle only 12 hours and that was at times when we stopped [sic] to feed our horses, the second day we traveled 20 hours exactly, without feeding: and stopped [sic] to feed and rest 4 hours that was the longest stop we made out of the 64, and Co. E. 4th Mich was put out on picket
that took 4 hours [sic] from the 12 and left only about 3 hours that Co. E. had to feed and get what rest they could for 64 hours of time, and remember that that 3 hours was not all at one time, but at several time of 1 or ½ hour each during the raid of 64 hours. We passed through "Summerville, where we took about a dozen [sic] prisoners [sic], and clear around to the rear of a camp of one whole Brigade of Reb's and charged into another camp where there was about the same number of Reb's that there was of us about 400. We found the Reb's picket posted at the fork of the road, he fired his gun and run we had the order to "draw Revolvers" and "charge" into their camp, a few of us had no Revolvers I was one that had none so we drew our sabers [sic], and charged yelling like so many demons, but through some mistake we charged down the wrong road, the Reb's heard us yell and left their camp in such a fright that they left evry [sic] thing even to their arms, they jumped upon their horses without stoping [sic] to saddle up, we burned their camp destroyed their arms took away what horses they had left, and started back for Rossville by the same road that we went out but before we got within 20 miles of Rossville our scout who had command of the two Reg's mistrusted that the Reb's Brigade might be on that road waiting for us, so we took another road to camp, and shure [sic] enough the next day a scout came in and informed us that a whole Brigade of Reb's were lying in ambush within about 15 miles of Rossville waiting for us, but they slipped [sic] up on catching us that time, we turned off just in time to save our hides. We went within a few miles of Rome (5 or 6 miles past a sign bord [sic] that said 12 miles to Rome) look on the map and see the distance we traveled in 64 hours, our prisoners say 144 miles. but pshaw! I did not intend to say one half as much about the raid as I have. Our Reg
has been in another scout since then but the first one used up my horse so
that I could not go, they had quite a brush with the Reb's killed about
50 they think, but did not loose [sic] a man in our Reg. My sheet is
full and I must borrow a half sheet to finish my letter.
Well! I have written [sic] one sheet all over and have written [sic]
comparitively [sic] nothing to what I would like to, but I must commence
this half sheet on another strain or you will know but little about
myself. Well I am enjoying good health and have been all of the time,
excepting a head-ack [sic] which I have amost [sic] of the time, the
weather is very warm here and has been since the first week in January
when it was so very cold. You can judge a little how warm it is, about
a week ago I went down to the crick [sic] and took a bath, I did not
take the least bit of cold. "e have a great deal of duty to perform [sic]
here where we are "guard" "picket" "stable" "fatigue" "frige" &c&c&c
in fact so much that we can hardly get time to do our own washing, mend-
ing, and such work that we must do, or at least that I do to save money
most of the boys hire their washing done by negroes [sic], and when their
pants get worn through draw a new pair and throw them away, I have set
two large patches into mine all-ready [sic]. I have got that certificate
of mine sign [sic] and will send it along with this letter, those stamps
that you sent me I used part of them to pay up my debts, the certificate
will take two so if you will send me some more the next time you writ [sic]
which I hope will be just as soon as you receive this, they will come good.
Father I broke the rivet to your knife and had to get it fixed so I have
but .15 cents left to buy paper with and paper is worth.80 a quire and
a very poor quality of note paper at that about as good as I used to sell
for .06 a quire, that is what the pedlers sell it for. I have not been
up to Chattanooga to see what I can get it for there. one of our boys
wer [sic] up Saturday and said that he saw them sell apples [sic] about an inch and a half through 2 for a quarter, news papers 2 shilling each, and two or three weeks old at that, but my testament is about all that I find time to read, those sermons that you sent me I have read several [sic] times, they are lent how. Those tables you sent me I am very much obliged for. O! what pleasure I took reading sister Emma's letter it was just the kind of letter I like to get telling all the news about home and some day schoole [sic] Reports. this last I have written [sic] since coming back from wattering my horse, it is almost dress parade time and I must close this poor letter, poor I say because I cannot write a good letter when I have the head ach [sic] and I heard we were going on a nother [sic] raid tomorrow so I thought I must write this today tell Emma that she must write me another letter and tell me all about her sunday school as I cannot write to her now but will try to soon. Give my love to all my friends you know who they are around home.
Camp Stanley, near Chattanooga, East-Tennessee, March 27th 1864.

Dear Parents,

It seems a long time since I wrote any last letter to you, from which I have heard nothing, it is about a month I think for I was then at Tuscumbia, Alabama, and we have been there nearly a month; I think most likely that you got my letter but I have not yet received your answer. I suppose yesterday we got big bags mail from Chattanooga. I expected a letter from some one, but the mail was distributed and none for me, some of the boys in our Co. got four letters. We do not get our mail regular as we did at Tuscumbia, it stop at Chattanooga until our Officers send to it, the reason of that I do not know where and are they not at Chattanooga? I got it thinking this morning that it would begin a letter today and I should time to finish it. But not. As my health is and I think that it is as good as it ever was, and has been ever since I recovered from my illness, from the house that I stood from Nashville to Huntsville, by the way, that is the only time that I have been unhorsed since I enlisted, three or four months practice with a horse, and in the saddle as much of the time as I have to be has learned me some of the principles of equestrian, and the same thing at that time could throw me with ease, has yet to work to do at present, I have frequently ride on horse without saddle or bridle, hand with the rope around the neck, for a halter to guide him by, and keep another horse to matter. We are now in Gen. Stanley's command, the only cavalry regiment at this place, and so we have to do all the serving that is done here, before my came here the rebel scouts and burned whatever kept among the infantry, by closing in on their pickets and then shooting like they could get on their horses to fight us then, or more properly catch them. When the infantry that are stationed here, saw us coming they packed
A short of joy to welcome us here, for now and they the "bushwhackers" will have to stand both, or they will find a mounted Yankee after them, and do it, no, although there is but about two hundred of us here, one make them "burn their tales" when we get after them, we do not have to stand about all the infantry do, and we do nothing but see.

But it might as well to report while our course was riding through the woods, so dark that he could hardly keep in the path, two bushwhackers jumped on to him from behind a clump of brush, they grabbed his head by the bill the bill, at the same instant, made a twist at him with his bayonet, intending to run him through, and to get his dispatch without firing his gun, but the braves was a little too quick for them he caught the bayonet in his hand just in time to save its injuring his breast, and jockeyed it up from the gun. The bushwhacker fired his gun, the ball tore the covers with all to pieces, but just as he fired the horse made a jump and left him from the man that was holding him, and started on a gallop.

The Covered came into camp with the dispatch all right, but with only one hand. Thousand men were very soon unarmed mounted and after them but they got away. They pretty had noticed ready to desert and shelled, but I am running up from my own experience and talking about things that I did not see myself. I must give and tell about facts that I have been on myself as if it will be more interesting to you.

But I must begin back, one thing I must tell you about of do nothing about our little sketches, and that is my visit to Lookout Mountain. The staff there is and Nashville are kept the night that we were going to leave Tennessee, there were been engaged in their sight and only about five miles distant from the mountain, two armed men, and I had not found time to go up and give it a visit that day was my last in the vicinity of Lookout Mountain and it was nearly about ten o'clock, but I made up my mind that I must go I went to the Crayton and the gages had all been open and after that.
had, and he said that the gentl man of
prin wore red call of & could originate the
packets, well I started with a small basket
in my ead space, determined to steal of
camp, and by the packet, that it was
impossible to do with my horse. I started
aft for Sargent, while passing through the
three times I met one of our Sargent who
said he would go with me, so we took a
alot until we reached the mountain,
and we are must of, which our boys which
had been up on the mountain, said we never
could the climb the mountain, without the
assistance of the road, which doesn't in-
to the side of the mountain and some around
at, as a mending way, they're making the
alot easy, the reason that one could not
take the side is because there was no packets
stationed on the side and if they chamel
without a pass we would be full under arrest.

The Sargent one asked me and lost me to
take the lead & did we are started for
the city on top the mt called Summerton,
It was a hard road to travel on side still,
frequence we would be on our knees work-
ing our way up by the means of brush and
braves and the rocks. There is one little
phenomenous rocks which runs around the
base of the mt near the top and both for
rounded mile or each side, about forty feet
high, some places a little higher, that we
only seen just about that height all of
the way around, this we managed to get
out of the means of a creven on the mt
through which one could climb up, when
we found our selves up the top of the mt,
and about two miles from the point are
passed through Summer town, which
had a very pretty place, where the rich plan-
ters used to rect to spend the summer
season as it is quite cool there even in
a very hot day. The Town is just one mile
from the summit of the mountain which the
one we were upon reached, and of it I' do not
know a thing about, I cannot begin to describe it to you,
these lines could stand on the very rough where
Jefferson Davis stood and viewed the blue-
states with which he was fighting, a rock which projects out over the ledge, and it seems to hang down on the country below, so that just at the right and left, as it should think it would see, it looked down from a balcony, for there a person can almost imagine that he or suspended in the air, below, higher, and earth, but looking behind him he sees that he is still on earth, from that rock, strange as it may seem, a man can see seven states of the Union or objects, setting in seven states of the United States, and it is a mountain that men will travel from al over the United States. And after this was over, after we had spent our time as long as we had left, we started to the wind after a hovring hour, to have traveled a long measure. This being reached, the nation of the ledge about fifty feet below, out of breath, where we had to rest some time before going any farther. Then we had made some hundred, to make songs of our boys, made all kinds of music made of it. I have no letter before I ended, but I must cut short my story and say I saw nothing about the led, and through which we passed, first, and not as close a march as we were set early in the morning, the battle-field, which was just empty, but we reached camp before dark, and as these men generally are, I saw a song that I made for God, coming out of the ledger. It has a band on the top, mind, across the song, with the name of the words in raised letters. I understand the band of the puzzle as the song, I do not think that I will send in this letter. I pray that you may get the letter by the song being in this, and you must write to take from me by this time since the letter which our regiment had down, to Bengal, but a few days ago, I had been out on a survey, and I was ordered to abandon town, so I could not go out on that account. I have been out one since horses, on a return home. I have now got a captured horse, which was captured, and I give it to you.
Dear Father & Mother,

And now about 9 o'clock P.M. I have just arrived in camp from Chattanooga, ate my dinner of hard tack, lily, beans, and coffee, and returned to my cotting. I should have had this letter finished and in the way had it not been detained to go to Chattanooga as guard with a wagon train, eight or ten last. Our wagons ten in number and a large one along with four wagons are started from camp yesterday afternoon and reach the top of Missionary Ridge within sight of Chattanooga about the middle of the afternoon. We are just in for a short time to enjoy the beauty. It was beautiful although we could not see much as we could from Lookout Mountain. Afternoon however we could see a long distance into Rebellion, in which direction we could see a Mountain range. The weather this afternoone was very beautiful, but not as fine as the eyes could extend, they look from here as though they were very close to each other, but on the contrary they are quite a distance apart, and in those valleys are deeds very beautiful farm that I have seen while out scouting. To XmlNode the hills of enjoying the scenery for the first time we descended into Chattanooga valley, and down roaded where our wagons were loaded with clothing from the Commanding Department and me. We made halt, but made our fire in the base of Missionary-ridge before dark. There we stencil our boxes, made some dinner, and ate some of our beef and coffee, and then went to bed. In our blankets and log Moved to sleep until morning. Early the morning we made the Mountain one way to camp which we reached at 8 o'clock about such as a little after.

We had a very pleasant journey. Did not see a bush whisker on the road. The meteors fire so we enjoyed our selves well, qualifying through the levels, seeming you could jump, the largest logs at perfect paces and occasionally making our horses jump over the dead horses which led along it and beside the road. It is hard work make some of the horses jump over a dead horse, any horse as I said before is a captured one.
and he can sink as good as most of them. The Riels are obstinately coming into our lives every day, as we have probably read in the papers long ago. I hope to God with a great many of them, they say that the Bensonian Conspirators have failed on us, and I think they may have some hard fighting to do yet. So I don't think that it will last long.

Friday, March 5th, ten o'clock A.M.

I did not have time to begin my letter yesterday, although I tried hard to. I had too much work to do today and one of the camp guards and I have to take care of the horse and equipment. I have just come down to write it down. We have to go about one mile to water where one of the officers calls. We have to go to the stable with a man and work on a horse, covering them with hay. After coming inside, we have to go up to the water hole, stable, and wash the horses and equipment. The Captain had finished only let to at the same time. The horses through the Blizzard have not been decent to check the fences. Nearly all of the time, a great many little clouds which often brought snow, thoughts of cleaning horses, airing blankets, armlets, brushing, by securing them about every day, clearing saddles and keep them in good order, washing and mending our over cloths, then are done and inspection every day at your 1 o'clock F.P.K., at which time we have some and clear up to see if we do not have a good two or three times a day, at 2 P.M., Andrew Beeley, Rex, and Joe, and give P.M. The men are getting several and work, and burning our meat, cleaning sawdust and feed, purify the commissary, and Parsing the little plate which evens every few days. Those that I have mentioned are.

Every day all the floors, making our own fighting and washing our clothes, and sometimes our rations.

and sometimes our rations.
Well I do believe I almost scribbled all over the half sheet on which I intended to finish the letter but have not had one word in answer to your letter, I shall now begin on what in the fore part of your letter about the nice girl that you that with cheliness and affect cheliness. Hence, once said that you wished that I had been there. I should like to have you there. I can tell you, and, offer a good visit with cheliness. It would claim a great deal of good but a visit with a southern lady. I hope that we are in going to the country calling themselves Southern ladies, and, the one belonging to me. I see I am a bit, an girl I glory in the name. And better with greater pride. They glittering wealth is some one more things. Strikingly one mystery of our army. And that they spend more the arched and in the rebel stands. 

Our aid the cheliness want, that I should write to her and send her my picture, pretense are not to be given. Also for nothing the cheapest postage. They take at Leckfort and Thobie shilling, I do not think that they take anywhere at Leckfort, and, to see the southern place my money in all done played. Meaning all of me for I spent the last ten cents that I had taken before yesterday at Cheatham, for the mustard for Pulv. Edulisium, or as you will poorly meateled the English letter red pepper.zikn美媒n the first of the month for stay end and I have just signed my pay roll for pay up to the first of Jan and I will only be one month and, more days pay, our getting paying dollars after every four weeks pay day as can't I, we may not get but there is no mention made of if on our pay roll, I shall ensure with it, I must not get that unless I will draw less little pay this payday only $16.30. I want that you should write to me show how you are situated as regards money matters, what you are doing among the gone whether you have got the other fifty dollars of my city bounty or not. And how much money you want me. And you, in case its only draw, this $16.30.
Dear [Name],

I am extremely glad to hear from you again. I have been thinking about you very much and was delighted to receive your letter. I am sorry to hear that you are still not well. I hope that your health is improving.

I am doing well, thank you. I have been working hard and have been busy with my studies. I have been spending a lot of time reading and researching. I am looking forward to finishing my final exams soon.

I am excited to hear that you are planning to visit me soon. I will be looking forward to seeing you again. Please let me know if you need anything before your visit.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards,

[Your Name]
Camp Stanley near Ooltowak. East Tennessee

March 2nd 1864

Dear Parents,

It seems [sic] a long time since I wrote my last letter to you, from which I have heard nothing, it is about a month I think, for I was then at Rossville, Georgia, and we have been here nearly a month; I think most likely that you got my letter but I have not yet received your answer; day before yesterday we got six days mail from Chattanooga, I expected a letter from home, shure [sic] but the mail was distributed and none for me, some of the boys in my Co got four letters. We do not get our mail regular as we did at Rossville, it stops at Chattanooga untill [sic] our Officers send for it, the reason of that, is because, we move so often that they do not know where we are there at Chatta'. I got to thinking this morning that, as it is some time since I wrote you last, and, as we have been having a number of little brushes with the reb's lately, which you have probaly [sic] read of, you would be worrying about me; so I came to the conclusion that I would begin a letter today whither [sic] I had time to finish it or not. As to my health I think that it is as good as it ever was, and has been ever since I recovered from my throw, from the horse that I rode from Nashville to Huntsville; by the way, since I enlisted, three or four months practice with a horse, and in the saddle as much of the time as I have to be has learned me some of the principles of equestrianship, and the same horse that at that time could throw me with ease, has got to work to do it now; I have frequently rode my horse without saddle or bridle, and nothing but a rope around his neck, for a halter or to guide him by, and led another horse to water. We are now in Gen' Stanley's Command the only cavalry regiment at this place, and so we have to do all the scouting that is done here; before we came
here the rebel [sic] scouts and bushwhackers kept annoying [sic] the Infantry by dashing in on their pickets and then skedadeling before they could get out their horses to fight them, or more properly to catch them. When the infantry that are stationed here, saw us coming they raised a shout of joy to welcome us here, for now said they the "bushwhackers" will have to stand back, or they will find a "Mounted Yankee" after them, and so it has been, although there is but about two-hundred of us here, we make them "hunt their holes" when we get after them, we do not have to stand picket at all [sic] the infantry do that, and we do nothing but scout.

But a night or two since while our Courier was riding through the woods, so dark that he could hardly keep in the path, two bushwhackers jumped on to him from behind a clump of bushes, one grabbed [sic] his horse by the bit the other, at the same instant, made a thurst [sic] at him with his bayonet, intending to run him through, and so get his dispatch without firing his gun, but the Courier was a little to [sic] much for them he caught the bayonet in his hand just in time to save its penetrating his body, and jerked it from the gun the bush-whackers fired his gun, the ball tore the couriers hand all to peaces [sic], but just as he fired the horse made a jump and got loose from the man that was holding him, and started on a gallop the Courier came into camp with the dispatch [sic] all right, but with only one hand. A squad of men were very soon aroused mounted and after them but they got away they probly [sic] had horses ready to mount and skedaded, but I am runing [sic] of [sic] from my own experience and telling about things that I did not see myself, I must quit and tell about scouts that I have been on myself as it will be more interesting to you. But I must
begin back, one thing I must tell you about if I do nothing about our late scouts, and that is my visit to "Lookout Mountain". The day before we left Rossville we got the news that we was going to leave tomorrow, there we had been camped within sight and only about five miles distant from the mountain, for some weeks, and I had not found time to go up and give it a visit that day was my last in the vicinity of Lookout and it was already about ten o clock, but I made up my mind that I must go I went to the Orderly but the passes had all been given out for that day, but he said that he would excuse me from noon roll call if I could avoid the pickets, well I started with a small hatchet in my coat sleeve [sic], determined to steal out of camp and by the pickets that it was impossible to do with my horse so I started afoot for Lookout, while passing through the horse lines I met one of our Sargents [sic] who said he would go with me, so we took it acrost [sic] lots untill [sic] we reached the mountain, and now we must do, what our boys who had been up on the mountain, said we never could do, climb the mountain without the assistance of the road, which is cut into the side of the mountain and runs around it, in a winding way thereby making the assent [sic] easy; the reason that we could not take the rode [sic] is because there was inf' pickets stationed in the rode [sic] and if they found us without a pass we would be put under arrest.

The Sargant[sic] stepe[d] [sic] behind me and told me to take the lead I did so, we started for the city on top the mt' called Summer town. it was a hard rode [sic] to travele [sic] no rode [sic] at all, frequently we would be one our nees [sic] working our way up by the means of brush and crage in the rooks, there is one bluff of perpendicular rocks which runs around the point of the mt' near the top and back for several miles
on each side, about fifty feet high, some places a little higher but it is very even just about that hight [sic] all of the way around, this we managed to get over by the means of a crevice in the rock through which we could climb up, when we found ourselves up the top of the mt. and about two miles from the point we passed through Summer-town, which is a very pretty place, where the rich planters used to resort to spent [sic] the summer season as it is quite cool there even in a very hot day. the town is just one mile from the point of the mountain which place we very soon reached, and 0! What a beautifull [sic] sight, I cannot begin to describe it to you. there we could stand on the very rock where Jefferson Davis stood and viewed the bluecoats with which he was fighting, a rock which projects out over the ledge, and it seems, looking down on the country below boath [sic] in front at the right and left as I should think it would seem to look down from a balcon [sic], for there a person can almost imagine that he is suspended [sic] in the air betwix [sic] heaven and earth, but looking behind him he sees that he is still on earth: from that rock, strange as it may seem, a man can see seven states of the Union or objects rather in seven states of the Union, and it is a mountain that men will travel from al [sic] over the United States to visit after this war is over. After we had feasted our eyes as long as we daired [sic] to, we started to deessend [sic] and after working long enough to have traveld [sic] a long ways on good rode [sic] we reached the bottom of the ledge about fifty feet below, out of breath, where we had to rest some time before going any farther. There under that ledge I dug some Laurel-root, to make rings of, our boys make all kind of trinkets out of it. Have you father, not seen pipes made of it, I have in Detroit before I enlisted. but saying anything about the
reb's breast works that we saw on the mountain, the battle-field side through which we passed and so forth, but we reached camp before dark about as tiard [sic] as men generally are. I have a ring that I made for Sister Emma out of the laurels it has a band on the top winding across [sic] the ring with her name out on it in raised letters understand the band is the same piece as the ring, I do not think that I will send it in this letter for fear that you may not get the letter by the rings being in it, and you must want to here [sic] from me by this time since the little fight which our regiment had down to Ringale but a few days ago, I had been out on so many scouts that my horse was used up and I was ordered to abandon him so I could not go out on that scout, I have been out on one since, however, on a borrowed horse, I have now got a Confed [sic] horse which was captured and given to me.

Coltowak, East Tennessee. March 4

Dear Father & Mother.

It is now about two o'clock P.M. I have just arrived [sic] in camp from Chattanooga, eaten my dinner of hard-tack, beef, flower-gravy, and coffey [sic], and resume my writing, I should have had this letter finished and on the way had I not been detailed to go to Chattanooga as guard with a wagon train, night before last. There was ten men and a sargent [sic] along with four wagons; we started from camp yesterday morning and reached the top of Missionary-ridge within sight of Chattanooga, about the middle of the afternoon. there we halted for a short time to enjoy the scenery. It was beautifull [sic] although we could not see as far as we could from Lookout Mountain; looking behind us however we could see a long distance into Rebeldom, in which direction we
could see nothing but Mountain rai‘ges [sic] one beyond the other as far as the eye sight could extend: they look from here as though they were very clost [sic] to each other, but in those valleys are some very Beautiffull [sic] farm [sic] that I have seen while out scouting, toward the rebs’. After enjoying the scenery for a short time we desended [sic] into Chattanoog [sic] valley, and soon reached Chattanooga where our wagons were loaded with clothing from the Comissiary [sic] Department and we started back, but we only reached the base of Missionary-ridge before dark; there we stoped [sic] fed our horses, made some fires, and a cup of doffey [sic], eate [sic] our suppers of hard-tack and coffy [sic], and then wrapped [sic] up in our blankets and lay down to sleep untill [sic] morning, early this morning we crossed [sic] the Mountain on our way to camp which we reached as I said about noon or a little after.

We had a very pleasant [sic] journey, did not see a bush-whacker on the rode [sic], the weather fine so we enjoyed our selves well, galoping [sic] through the woods, seeing who could jump the largest logs or highest fenses [sic], and occasionally making our horses jump over the dead horses which lie along in and beside the rode; it is hard work to make some of the horses jump over a dead horse; my horse as I said before is a captured one and he can jump as good as most of them.

The Reb's. are deserting and coming into our lines evry [sic] day, as you have probaly [sic] heard in the papers long ago. I have talked with a great many of them they say that the "Southern Confederasay [sic]" has "played out" and I think that this springs campaym [sic] will use them up. we may have some hard fighting to do yet but I do not think that it will last long.
Friday March 5th ten o clock A.M.

I did not find time to finish my letter yesterday, although I tried hard to, I had so much work to do, today my tent-mate is on camp-guard and I have to take care of his horse and mine too. I have just been down to water [sic] them we have to go about one mile to water [sic], that we have to do twice a day, then when stable call blows we have to go to the stable and work half an hour on a horse couring [sic] them off, that comes twice a day. Our water [sic] that we cook with, we have to fetch full half a mile and most of the way up a steep hill. I have attended to role [sic] call, stable call, and water [sic] call, been and got a camp-ceattle [sic] of water [sic] this morning and am now cooking some beans for dinner, and thought that I would finish my letter at the same time. We have enough to do even if we are not out scouting to keep us busy [sic] nearly all of the time, a great many little duties which you probly [sic] do not think of, such as pelacing or cleaning up camp, airing blankets, keeping arms looking bright, by scouring them amost [sic] evry [sic] day, dleania saddles and keep them in good order, washing and mending our own cloths [sic], then we have "inspection" evry [sic] day at four o clock P.M. at which time our arms are closely inspected to see if there is a speck of rust or a little dirt on them. role [sic] call comes four times a day, at six A.M., twelve A.M. six P.M. and nine P.M. then there is geting [sic] wood and water [sic], and cooking our meals, and many other little duties which come evry [sic] few days, those that I have mentioned come evry [sic] day, all except drawing our own rations pelacing, and washing and mending, which comes, sometimes evry [sic] day, sometimes once in three days, and sometimes once in five days.
Well I do declare, I have scribbled all over that half sheet on which I intended to finish the letter; but have not said one word in answer to your letter, I will now begin; you spoke in the fore part of your letter about the nice visit that you had with Mr Morse and Miss Nellie Morse, and saw that you wished that I had been there, I should like to have been there I can tell you, and enjoyed a good visit with Nellie. It would do me a great deal of good to have a visit with a northern lady, for those that we come acrost [sic] in this country calling themselves "southern ladies", and singing the song begining [sic] with "O yes I am a southern girl. I glory in the name;" And boast it with far greater pride, than glittering wealth or fame! are mere things, doing more injury to our army than they could were the [sic] armed and in the rebel ranks. You said that "Ellie wanted that I should write to her and send here [sic] my picture, pictures are not to be gotten [sic] here for nothing, the cheepest [sic] pictures that they take at Lookout costs twelve shillings, I do not think that they take any [sic] here at Ooltowah, and to use the southern phrase my money "is all done played" meaning all gone, for I spent the last ten cents that I had day before yesterday at Chatanooga for "Pulp. Capsicum", or as you will probaly [sic] understand the English better "red pepper". We mustard [sic] the first of the month for pay and I have just signed my pay role [sic] for pay up to the first of Jan' that will only be one month and nine days pay, our geting [sic] fifty dollars of our bounty evry [sic] pay day I cannot see, we may get it but there is no mention made of it on our pay role [sic]. I shall enquire [sic] into it, if we do not get that you see I will draw but little pay this pay-day only $16.90. I want that you should write to me how you are situated as regards money matters, what you are doing about the house, whether [sic] you have got the other fifty dollars of my
city bounty or not, and how much money you want me to send you, in case I
draw the fifty bounty, or in case I only draw, the $16.90
I want, that is if you are not making payments on the house, to keep a little
more by me than I brought away from Detroit, only a little less than three
dollars, it was hardly enough to keep me in switing material and other little
necessary )sic(, such as Pulv.' Capsicum, Rad. Gingiber, two things that I
never want to be out of again while I am soldiering, for I think that three
little paces )sic( of Rad. Gingiber that I found in my house-wife, that was
put in there by my employers wife in Detroit, saved me one bit of sickness
since I came out. Rad. Gingiber is nothing more nor less than Ginger-root,
but much better than Ginger for medical purposes on account if its being
pure. I must begin to wind up this letter I have just been out to inspection
and will have but a few mimita )sic( more to write that is if I get the
letter in time to go tonight which I must do. Mother tell Emma that I will
write to her as soon as I get my pay as that I can buy some paper and stamps.
I think that I promised her in my last letter that I would write to her but
have not yet. I received a letter from Nat' Hunt the other day dressed in
mourning, he sent me an obituary write )sic( by Henry Hart of Adrian and
mistook me to send it home for my own Dear Mother to read I guess that this
letter will be full enough without, and I will keep it untill )sic( I write
next time. which will be just as soon as I get payed, do not neglect to write
however first as soon as you receive this write a long letter both )sic(
you Father and you Mother. I have written to Josephin but wound up in such
a hury )sic( that I forgot to tell her how to direct to me pleasure )sic( write
to her or have Emma and tell her to direct to Co. E 4th Mich Calvarie )sic(
Nashvill )sic(, Ten'. Tell Lydia Ann and Bercilur that they will here )sic(
from me soon I do not know but what you will have some trouble to read this,
as I have written nearly all of it in a hury that is as fast as I could
scribble it if you do say so and I will do better next timeGive by )sic( love
to all friends and neighbors. F. H. Bailey.
Wednesday, March 16th 1874

Camp Stanley, near Ottowah, East Tenn.

Dear Father,

I received the package last night that you sent by Henry Walsh, containing your letters. The paper, envelopes, and stamps, they were all very welcome, but more than welcome were the letters, as I had not heard from home for over a month, and but once before since the first week of January. Delayed passage to Nippey brought the package to me. It was brought up from Chatto on yesterday morning. It should have gone to St. Louis in time to reach you, but you omitted it, please remember hereafter and put in the letter of the Co. as well as the name of the Company, for if letters do not have the Co. on, they remain at headquarters, sometimes several days before they send them around to find their owner.

Due by your letter that you have the Sabbath again, as said as I ever had the War given you say that you are bound to go this spring, and want to know what I think of it. If your mind is made up to go then, it is no use of my writing upon my mind on the subject; I do not think however that you ought to leave your
family, for an uncertainty, I do not mean an uncertainty about their being gold there, but uncertain as to your being able to make enough more by going there, than you would at home, to make it an object. But then if you can leave a mother so situated that she will say nothing against it, I will say nothing, she says that if she can go to Mass she will not object to your going to the origins. I think myself that if you go, you ought to leave her and the children where in circumstances, so that they will not suffer, I am willing to do all that I can for them, in case you go, or forget all if you stay at home, but as far as my being able to earn anything much longer, is very uncertain, and that my health is on the decline, but there is a hard campaign before us, and I think likely that this they will take a very active part in it, not only this regiment but this whole brigade. I have several reasons for thinking so, Our Colonel who I have never seen, but of whom I have heard a great many speak as being a very ambitious man, and an indefatigable fighter, and who has been under arrest for a long time, has had his trial and been acquitted. Found taking not guilty of any of the charges brought against him, and ordered to
report to a Major General (I forget now who) for duty.
It is thought that he will have command of our
brigade. We do not take command of our brigade.
The men all say that we will take just as active
a part in the next campaign as a reg. possible.
I can say that Col. P. C. B. Mirabeau reached his present stand, that at high
cist of the Col. Col's, over the dead bodies of hun-
dreds of his men, that, had any other Col had
command of the regiment would have been
alone yet.
We heard but a few days since that
there had been an order issued for the reorga-
"nization of our brigade here. Huntville, Alabama,
our officers say that we will go back there, turn
over our fine shorting rifle and draw the Spencer
carbine a nine shorter. We have to drill three
time a day in the caln exercise and every day
except when on duty. I am not drilling today
for yesterday morning while on picket, at the
picket reserve I stepped on a nail and my boots
being all worn out did not save me from a one
foot laceration. A small shot however, and had
of a pair of boots should be aid in drill today.
my feet are just as good as on the ground as the
top is entirely loose from what little sole there
is to them, nearly all the way around on my
left foot, that is The one I hurt.
I have been mending from my subject, but must quit writing for a little while, for the orderly just stuck his head in and said, "Sir, I have to report in about ten minutes." I go and draw rations for the company. Having returned from the ration, I will resume my writing. I must tell you, before I wind up, about how anxious the rebels are, every time they take a few prisoners, and also those that come in and join themselves up, to see our guns, for they say that our new step to check. The rebel that met me while on a scout from Fowlersville said that they dreaded to come across their brigades (the 5th Penn. 5th Iowa 4th Reading and the 4th Ohio) for me kept shooting all of the time, when they see our guns. They say, "no wonder guns are short or lost. If we had such guns, we'd fight longer." I wonder what they will think when we get the mine shorters, but I must be mending my prints getting late almost. The letter was via the mail. It was about this time lost sight that I've been gone and I thought that I would answer by return mail tell Col. G. O., and Col. W. M. that I will write soon. From very soon, that is, as soon as I find time. Don't fail to write again as soon as you receive this. I wrote a very long letter home just a few days ago, a meeting with a friend I've not seen for a long time. Good night. With love,

From your son, J. H. Bailey.
Wednesday March 16th/64

Camp Stanley near Ooltowah. East Ten'.

Dear Father,

I received the package last night, that you sent by Henry Ralph, containing your letters the paper, envelopes, and stamps, they were all very welcome, but "more than welcom" sic( was the letters, as I had not heard from home for over a month, and but once before since the first week of January: orderly sergeant sic( Ripley brought the package to me, it was brought up from Chatta' yesterday morning, I should have gotten sic( it several hours sooner if the letter of our Co' had been in the directions but you omitted it, please remember hereafter and put in the letter of the Co. as well as the number of the Reg' for if letters do not have the Co' on, they remain at headquarters, some times several days before they send them around to find their owner.

I see by your letter that you have the Gold-fever again, as bad as I ever had the War-fever; you say that you are bound to go this spring, and want to know what I think of it. If your mind is made up to go, there is no use of my telling you my mind on the subject: I do not think however that you ought to leave your family, for an uncertainty, I do not mean sic( an uncertainty about there being gold there, but uncertain as to your being able to make enough more by going there, than you would at home, to make it an object; but then if you can leave Mother so situated that she will say nothing against it, I will say nothing, she says that if she can go to Mass' she will not object to your going to the digins sic(. I think myself that if you go, you ought to leave her and the children where, or in circumstances, so that they will not suffer, I am willing to do all that I can for them, in case you go, or for you all, if you stay at home, but as for my being able to earn anything much longer, is very uncertain, not that my health is on the decline, but there is a hard campayne sic( before us, and I think likely that this Reg' will take a very active part in it, not only this regiment but this whole
brigade, I have several reasons for thinking so. Our Colonel, who I have never seen, but of whom sic I have heard a great many speak as being a very ambitious man, and an indefatigable-fighter, and who has been under arrest for a long time, has had his trial and been acquitted found to be "not guilty" of any of the charges brought against sic him and ordered to report to a Major General (I forget now who) for duty. It is thought that he will have command of our brigade. If he does take command our our brigade the men all say that we will take just as active a part in the next campaigne sic as a reg' possibaly sic [-em dashes] can, I have heard several say that Col' R.H. G. Mintie reached his present stand, that is highest of the Cav' Col's. over the dead bodies of hundreds of his men, that had any other Col' had command of the regiment would have been alive yet. We heard but a few days since that there had been an order issued sic for the reorganizing sic of our brigade nere sic Huntsville sic Alabama. Our officers say that we will go back there, turn over our five shooting rifles and draw the spencer carbine a nine shooter. We have to drill three times a day in the sabor exorsize sic and evry sic day except when on duty. I am not drilling today for yesterday morning while out on picket, at the picket reserve I steped sic on a nail and my boots being all wore out did not save me from a sore foot it is but a small hurt however, and had I a pair of boots should be out on drill today my feet are just as good as on the ground as the top in entirely loose from what little soul sic there is to them, nearly all the way around on my left boot that is the one I hurt.

I have been wandering from my subject, but must quit writing for a little while, for the orderly just stuck his head in at the door of my tent and told me to report in about ten minutes to go and draw rations for the company.

Having returned from the rations I will resume my writing, I must tell you, before I wind up, about how anxious sic the rebs are. evry sic time
that we take a few prisoners, and also those that come in and give themselves up, to see our guns, for they say that we never stop to load. The rebs that we took while on a scout from Rossville said that they dreaded to come across our brigade, (the 7th Pen' 5th Iowa 4th Reg' and the 4th Mich) for we kept shooting all of the time, when they see our guns they say "no wonder yours shoot so fast if we had such guns we'd fight longer." I wonder what they will think when we get the nine shooters, but I must be winding up for it is getting time the letter was in the mail. It was about this time last night that I receive yours and I thought that I would answer by return mail. Tell Mother and Emma that I will write to them very soon. That is as soon as I find time, do not fail to write again as soon as you receive this. I wrote a very long letter home but a few days ago a week or two I forget exactly how long. Good night Father.

From your son F.H. Bailey.
Camp Stanley, near Coitowah, East Tenn., March 11th

Dear Mother,

As it takes so long for us to get each other's letters, I think it would be best if we each wrote just as soon as we received a letter from the other one. I see by your letter that you have done so, I will try and do so hereafter. I received your letters that came in the package, presented by Henry Walth, day before yesterday; yesterday I wrote a letter to Weller as he wished me to write him immediately on receiving this. Today as I have not yet been detailed for any duty, I will try to answer your letter, which I received with much delight. It had been so long since I had heard from home. You spoke of a month seeming like a year, when you were looking for a letter from me, and wondered if it came as long as it took me, when I was looking for a letter from home. I do wish that I could describe to you how slow the time passes with me, after I write, before I receive another letter. We receive some mail, perhaps once a day. It comes from Chattanooga and reaches camp about dusk, or in the forepart of the evening, as soon as it is brought to the regimental headquarters. The regimental bugle blows in advance, and calls the orderly of every company.
and got the mail for his respective company, while he is gone, all the boys that are not on duty start for his tent on double quick, by the time he returns they are there waiting for their mail. Sometimes he has an armful of letters and papers of other times but a few. and when a memememe is called he reaches for his letter with more eagerness than he would for a piece of meat or a slice of bread, for any of which he would reach as the length of his arm would allow him; how many times I have returned to my tent, thinking that if any folks only knew how much good a letter would do me they would write every week and several times a week. I have not written as often as I intended to hereafter, since I have got some money now to buy paper, stamps, and such like with. I forgot to mention it in Father's letter that I had received a little one one month ago. pay up to the first of January, not amounted August 16. 90.

I wrote Father letters in such a hurry that I properly did not write half of what I should like to have said, and not would I had taken more time in writing it. I do not think that I will send any home by mail during the summer, do not get all any letters. Shall try and keep it safe untill I hear from you again, and then if you wish express some of it home or keep it...
still next pay day, when I will be able to send some enough to make it an object. I cannot express it from here now at any rate. I guess I could from Chattanooga if I could get another chance to go down on a detail after clothing or something else, I say another chance. I wrote a letter to you, but a short time ago telling about a visit to Chat. If you have received that you will understand me better. I asked you, how you were getting along and how bad you needed the money, the little was matter before I received the pay, but then I had signed the pay roll and expected the pay in a few days, if you received that you have pretty answered it before this time, if not answer me on paper as short as you can. I have the money now, at least after option all except what I will need to keep me in writing materials, thread, nails, red peppers, postage stamps, every thing having how fire burners, small size not paper such as you write on, costs sixty cents a quire, the post office cheapest kind of envelopes cost per ten cents. That is better than a pen counting ink, print paper and envelopes, it costs me twice as much for me to write a letter than it does for you, and still omit the postage the same cheaper way, you can see that that package sent by Henry Ralph came very acceptable, although I had money, for it pretty would have cost me four times as much as it did.
...a home forever. I, however, shall ever cherish
the memory of those dear to me, and...
do not enlist in the same army and go with one to the battle field. This army is one of all others the most desirable to enter, in the first place it is an army of volunteers, there are no drafted men in it, none except those who desire to enter into its service, and another thing its pay, I have already received more pay and am receiving more every day than the government pays me, and I am looking forward for that big bounty that I expect to get when my term is over, and my services are no longer wanted here on this battle field, mother earth, and I feel sure of that bounty then, I do of my veteran's bounty offered me by the US, even if I was not share of it, my pay is enough to induce me to remain in the service all my life. There are but very few soldiers of that army in the 4th North Car, only three as near that I have as yet come across, and I think that is all; for we very soon found each other out, it was by watching every one and seeing who were clothed with the uniform of this army and who were clothed with the uniforms of its adversity the drab, and by watching these what kind of encampments they used to fight with,
whether those spoken of by the Apostle Paul in the 6th chapter of his apostle to the Ephesians as belonging to the armor of God, or those that came from the devil's cunning. I have found one in our C. & C., and only one, after watching him for some time, I spoke to him about our dissolving partnership with our tart nectar and tempting together. He said that he had thought of doing so for some time back, and had been watching me ever since I came to the regiment, so when we came here to Coldbrook, we built our shams together, and I enjoy myself much better now than I have before since I enlisted. We have no officers (as Chaplain) to lead us to battle with the foe as we have to fight single-handed with the great drill book as a Testament to assist us. I think that Emma is on her way to the recruiting office, if she hasn't already enlisted, my mother and father will not go both enlist an act which would add so much to my despair as well as yours ever. Please study this comparison and remember that the recruiting office stand ready to enlist again both, and our commanders in chief to receive you, deserters receive the same bounty, and pay, that recruits do, pray the prayers of your son to assist you. Jno. J. Bailey.
Dear Mother

As it takes so long for us to get each other's letters, I think that we each ought to write just as soon as we receive a letter from the other one; I see by your letter that you have done so, I will try and do so hereafter; I received your letter's sic (that came in the package, you sent by Henry Ralph, day before yesterday; yesterday I wrote a letter to Father as he wished me to write him immediately on receiving his; today as I have not yet been detailed for any duty, I will try to answer your letter, which I received with a great deal of joy, it had been so long since I had heard from home. You spoke of a month seeming sic (like a year when you were looking for a letter from me, and wondered if it seemed sic (as long to me when I was looking for a letter from home, I do wish that I could describe to you how slow the time passes with me, after I write, before I receive another letter. We receive our mail regular now, once a day it comes from Chattanooga and reaches camp about dusk, or in the forepart of the evening; as soon as it is brought to the regiment - at head-quarters the regimental bugle call, the orderly of evry sic (company goes and gets the mail for his respective company, while he is gone all the boys that are not on duty start for his tent double-quick, by the time he returns they are there, waiting for their mail, sometime he has an arm full of letters, and papers, at other times but a few. and when a man's name is called he reaches for his letter with more eagernes sic (than he would for a piece sic (of pie or cake or a slice of bread, for any, of which he would reach as far as the length of his arm would allow sic (him; how many times I have returned to my tent, thinking that if my folks only knew how much good a letter would do me they would write evry sic (week and several times a week; I have not written sic (as often as I intend to hereafter, since I have got some money now to buy paper, stamps, and such like with. I forgot to mention sic (in father's letter that I had received a
little over one months pay, pay up to the first of January, it amounted to just $16.90.

I wrote Fathers letter in such a hurry that I properly sic( did not write half of what I should like to have said, and would if I had taken more time in writing it, I do not think that I will send any home by mail seeing that you do not get all my letters. I shall try and keep it safe untill sic( I hear from you again, and then if you wish express some of it home, or keep it untill sic( next pay day, when I will be able to send home enough to make it an object. I cannot express it from here now at any rate. I guess I could from Chattanooga if I could get another chance to go down on a detail after clothing or something else. I say another chance. I wrote a letter to you but a short time ago telling about a visit to Chat' if you have received that you will understand me better. I asked you, how you was getting sic( along and how bad you needed the money, the letter was written sic( before I received the pay, but then I had signed the pay role sic(, and expected the pay in a few days, if you received that you have probly sic( answered it before this time, if not answer me in your next, I have the money now, it is at your option all except what I will knee to keep me in writing materials, thread, ginger root, red pepper, and postage stamps, evry sic( thing is very high here however, small size not sic( paper such as you wrote on, costs sixty cents a quire, the poorest or cheepest kind of envelopes six for ten cents, that is mutters prises sic(. so counting ink, pens, paper, and envelopes, it costs over twice as much for me to write a letter that it does for you and still count the postage the same each way, so you can see that, that package sent by Henry Ralph came very acceptable, although I had money, for it probly sic( would have cost me four times as much as it did you.
You spoke of going to Lancaster if Father went to the gold-digins [sic]. and if you did that you never would come back to Mich'. it does not seem [sic] as though Father ought to leave you for the west, while I am gone too, but if he does, I do not know but going east to your folks, would be the best thing that you could do, although it looks like dividing the family up considerable, and widening the chance of our all meeting on earth again, as far as I am concerned [sic], it matters not wheather [sic] we meet again in 'Michigan', 'Massachusetts', or the 'Sunny South', that is if we ever do meet again, and our ever meeting again on earth is a matter of very little moment to me, compared [sic] to the meeting hereafter.

To be shure [sic] I should like to return home to you all, but had I the assurance that we all would meet in the same eternql home, I should feel happy, and perfectly willing to die if it is my Father's will, in one of the noblest causes that ever caused man to unsheath the sword, however much that cause has been abused by a certain class of men. It is not at all likely that I shall ever look up a home for my self here on earth, for I have enlisted for life, to fight in a nobler cause, even than that of our country; and O! what wouldent [sic] I give to hear of the enlistment of those now at home who are dear to me by the tyes [sic] of nature, and who I must leave for ever if they do not enlist in the same army and go with me to the battle field. This army is one of all others the most desirable to enter; in the first place it is an army of volunteres [sic], there are no drafted men in it, none except those who desire enter into its service, and another thing its pay, I have already received more pay and am receiving more evry [sic] day than the government pays me, and I am looking forward for that big bounty that I expect to get when my servisises [sic] are no longer wanted here on this battle field, mother earth, and I feel shures [sic] of that bounty than I do of my veteran's [sic]
bounty offered me by the U S, even if I was not shure [sic] of it, my pay is enough to induce me to remain in the service all my life. There are but very few soldiers of that army in the 4th Mich' Cav. only thre [sic] or four that I have as yet come acrost [sic], and I think that is all, for we very soon found each other out, it was by watching evry [sic] one and seeing who were clothed with the uniform of this army and who were clothed with the uniforms of its advisory the devile [sic], and by watching to see what kind of weapons they used to fight with, whither [sic] those spoken of by the Apostle Paul in the sixth chapter of his apostle [sic] to the Ephesians as belonging to the armor of God, or those that come from the devils armory. I soon found one in Co. E. and only one, after watching him for some time I spoke to him about our dissolving partnership with our tent mates and tenting together [sic].

he said that he had thought of doing so for some time back, and had been watching me ever since I came to the regiment, so when we came here to Cootowah, we built our shebangs together, and I enjoy myself much better now than I have before since I enlisted. We have no officer (no Chaplain) to lead us to battle with the foe so we have to fight single handed with the great drill book (or Testament) to assist us. I think that Emma is on her way to the recruiting office, if she has not already enlisted. O Mother and Father will not you boath [sic] enlist; an act which would add so much to my happiness [sic] as well as your own. Please study this comparison and remember that the recruiting offices stand ready to enlist you boath [sic], and our comander [sic] in Chief to receive you, deserters receive the same bounty, and pay, that recruits do, you have the prayers of your son to assist you

F H Bailey.

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Mother please write a long letter, as soon as you receive this, and direct to Chattanooga, Co' E. 4 Mich' Cav. Chattanooga Tennessee.