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Head Quarters Detachment
5th Regt Minn Vols Inf
Camp Carver Mills State Miss
Jany 3rd 1863

My Sweet Little Molly, You did not like to
have Papa go to the war like a cunning little
mump you thought that it was well enough to be a
sauldier at Fort Snelling but come to know your
Papa go in range of the Enemys shell and shot it
was awful but my dear little duck you have
got over that I hope you are now convinced that
Papa can go in to the thickest of the fight and come out
safe so long as he has such little angles as you
to pray for him have dose Mamma seem to like
you a piece before the Lord I know
she would like him be for the best thing
you know that Mamma always loved a
hero I do not know that I would come
up to him I am of what constitutes a hero
but one thing I can say to you my dear Molly
that when the war is over that you will not
have to blush for the cowardly conduct of
your ~~father~~ live for Mamma and the

Dear Berds I will fight for you and
if necessary I will die for you
you are my precious pearls the only thing
that a man has to make life dear to him
if I did not love my my Wife and children I should
beg of some good saint to shoot me now let me
ask you are you going away Mamma
in every thing pray for Papa night and morning
attend school regular and get your lesson made
associate with other children as little as possible
and feel proud of what you are Mary White McCarty
be very kind to Bessy respectful toabella
and let your conduct be such to all persons
that none will have occasion to find fault with
you Now let me say to you that I thought of you
and Mamma and all the Berds at the Battle of Gettysburg
at the pushing of every Bushnell and on every
step that I advanced and you helped me to
perform my duty although you were in
Mamma and the Battle was in Miss, now
what fun will you play for Papa
When I have time I will write you
and all the Berds and believe me to be
your ever loving Papa W B McC

P.S. This is a dreadful stormy day here
the win Blows a hurricane and the rain beats
a great and Canada House and not a little
of it penetrates so that on the whole comfort
just now is not very agreeable the roads
are very bad here at present I do not
know what more we are likely to make I
think however that we will remain in this
camp until the Rail Road is open between
Holtzsummers and Jackson I wish I could
hear from you once more I hope you have
received the \$25 Dollars that I sent you from
the camp near Oxford I am quite uneasy
about it it was just about that time
that the Rebels cut off the communication and
I fear that the letter shown last I hope
not be shown and wrote to me after
My health is very good thank God never
better in my life I have a great respon-
sibility here now in the absence of my
Regt I have got a little Detachment
left to guard the camp and train and I am
the only officer left the Regt are up some-
where in the vicinity of Frontenac
I suppose in pursuit of Bragg I hope they
will find him

have are all the people in Invention
there is ~~about~~ Bell John Gurnett & Bury
and all the children. Have are all the
friends in Castleton. Have long since you
heard from them I have had the pleasure of
an introduction to Genl McKean on the
March from the Springs to Oxford
is now between here and the Springs.

I have had a letter from O. S. Kenney
from Memphis he then said he was
in the cotton trade I have had two letters
from Genl. Shuler since I have been
South but lately have not heard any
thing of him directly or indirectly.

Summer has gone to Helena Arkansas
is everything well with you and the Birds
is the most comfortable and warm I could
call Papa yet the house is a lonely dear
what does Paul tell say about Papa dear
some often speak of Papa Bury is the
man of the house and Molly is the little
Queen Isabella the Head of all I hope you
have had a happy New Year. Keep the Birds
for me and believe me to be your son

Sincerely

William

To Mrs W B M. St Paul Mission