



James C. Christie and Family Papers

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copy:

Account of Receipts and Expenditures of
 Corporal T. D. Christie for Jan'y & Feby. 1863. [photocopy]

\$ cts

<u>Receipts.</u> Two months' pay, Sept. and Oct. 1862, as private.	26.00
Payment for clothing not drawn.	1.30
Gold pen, sold to comrade.	3.00
Total Receipts.	30.30

Expenses.

H. B. I was earning my own money; still, I gave accounts regularly to my father. My children neglect giving account of the money that I give them! Jesus, Nov. 22. 1904.

Bought watch when made Corporal.	12.00
Repaid borrowed money.	1.25
Expressed a box home.	1.00
Extra wages to Platoon Cook.	1.00
Bought shirt, hkerf, towel, books, at Auction of Lieut. Allen's things, (he died of wound recd. at Battle of Corinth.)	3.40
Newspapers, ^{.50} Soft bread, ^{.50}	1.00
Paper, ^{.75} Envelopes, ^{.40} Stamps ^{.25}	1.40
Paid an old cooking bill.	.75
Lent to comrades.	6.50
Cash actually in pocket.	2.00
Amount accounted for	30.30

Lake Providence La., }
 March 21. 1863. } E. & O. C.
 T. D. Christie

for Paul, Mary, Agnes.
(Anna does not need
this hint.)

Original in
possession of
Maryly Craigfield

[photocopy]

Jarsen, Sept. 17. 1904.

arrived to his children ^{The old man sends} what the young
c Moscow. ^{Telev.}

new year's Day, 1863.
man wrote so long ago.

My Dear Father. J. D. C.

Having again
come to a halt I must let you
see how we are, by scribbling a
sheet of foolscap in your behalf.
We are both very well
with a prospect of continuing so,
and our New Year's wish this morn-
ing to you is that you may be
found hale and hearty by many
a young year hereafter.

God speed the day when
we shall celebrate the Holidays
again together in the Old Home,
but I would rather never see
that day than that it should
dawn on our country divided
and humbled.

Rather let us
keep the Field until the object
of our war is accomplished, even
if many a coming New Year should
see ~~our~~ America in the same
condition that '63 now beholds
it in. (I have copied this, and am copying
scores of others.) The Boys of our Platoon
made me a New Year Gift yesterday
by electing me Second Corporal or
Chief of Caisson.

I am indebted ^{greatly} ~~particularly~~
to William for his assistance in
helping me on to this lowest
round of the ladder of promotion.

Letters to W. were reviewed at J.D.C. Many thanks for the stamps

[photocopy]

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The Boys of our Platoon
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I am indebted ^{greatly} ~~primarily~~ to William for his assistance in
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round of the ladder of promotion.

Harvey's to W. were received at J.D.C. Many thanks for the stamps

Manufactured for pay yesterday. but don't expect it for some time.

My duties in this new position are, to have command of the Carison on this march, and to see that ammunition is supplied from it in action.

To take my turn once in 12 days as Officer of the Guard, and to see to things generally in my Department.

It is a step, and but a step, higher, and opens the way, if I am found capable, to higher promotion.

I shall try not to disappoint the men who elected me nor the hopes you will have of me, and that is all I can promise.

We left Holly Springs on the afternoon of the 29th and marched to Coldwater 4 miles north, that day.

On the 30th marched to this place which you know is on the Memphis R.R. and also on Wolf River.

The Engineer Regt. is repairing the bridge here and I suppose we are here to guard them, afterwards to go either to Memphis and down the River, or east to Eastern Tennessee.

I think the former supposition the correct one and we will not remain here long. (Supposition correct.)

We wish you to write frequently for we will always get your letters if directed rightly.

My friends are cold so no more at present. I D. Christie
Happy New Year to all.

Manstence for pay. Yesterday, but don't expect it for some time,

My duties in this new position are, to have command of the caisson on the march, and to see that ammunition is supplied from it in action.

To take my turn once in 12 days as Officer of the Guard, and to see to things generally in my Department.

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I think the former supposition the correct one and we will not remain here long. (Supposition correct.)

We wish you to write regularly for we will always get your letters if directed rightly.

My hands are cold so no more at present. I D. Christie.
Happy New Year to all.

Original in the possession
of Dr. William L. Nitt

196,501 w. 123rd St.,
New York, N.Y. 10027

Moscow Tenn Jan 4th 1868.

My Dear Sister:

No mail has come to us since we left Holly Springs and so I cannot chide you for not writing, as there may be a dozen of your letters lying at Memphis waiting for communications to open.

Our Division is scattered all along this R.R, a Brigade here, a Regiment there, at every little station or bridge between this and Memphis.

This is the reason probably, why our mail is delayed, and we must just be patient until things get settled down again in the old shape.

I am expecting with the first mail a letter from you giving an account of how you passed the Holidays.

We are both in good health although the weather has been very rainy of late and our tent leaks badly.

Two or three of our boys are down already from the effects of the marching we have done lately, and the poor weather, but I have no fears for either William or me, as we practice the rules of health better than any others, I think, in the company. Moderate diet, drinking neither tea nor coffee nor eating much meat; Exercise, taking

a ride once in a while, and being busy all the time at some thing. Cleanliness, changing clothes once a week, and bathing regularly when I have opportunity.

These are the means by which my health has been preserved so well up to this time, and I think that a continuance of my employment of this kind will insure future health and happiness.

I hope that you are as careful of yourself in the same way.

Your wishes in regard to my promotion have at last been gratified; a vacancy arising in our Platoon by the promotion of Corporal Everts to Quartermaster Sergt. I was appointed, in accordance with the vote of the men of the Squad, to fill it. So now I wear the chevrons of Second Corporal or Chief of Squad. That is, rather, I am entitled to wear them, for there is scarcely a Non Commissioned Officer in the Battery that sports the stripes now. To use the classical and appropriate language of our Boys, stripes are "played out."

I am the youngest man that has ever held office in the Company, and the smallest. Another curious fact is, that our Sergt. Gordon, Gunner, Rogers, and myself are the three shortest ~~men~~ in the Platoon of 21 men. From this you can infer that we believe in Napoleon's axiom, that the smallest

men, or men of medium height, make the best soldiers.

I know they are the toughest and most enduring, not so apt to give up in the face of little difficulties as the Lencztries.

Probably you have heard through Father, of our marches from Abbeville, through Oxford to the Potomac creek, from thence back to Holly Springs, and after a short stay there, up to this point. I have written regularly to Eliza, and without answer too, but this I blame the P. O. Department for, and not our folks, who I believe answer regularly.

I always take it for granted in my letters that you have maps handy, and so don't take pains to give distances and locations, as these you can ascertain for yourself.

We are camped now near the banks of Wolf River which you know runs into the Mississippi at Memphis. Down below us in the cypress swamp through which the river runs the 5th Ohio Cavalry are camped and up near the little town lie the camps of one of our Brigades. Our Battery is posted to defend the bridge over the river.

I must give W. a chance, so no more at present. Yours fraternally, T. D. Chisum

January 4th 1863. Moscow Tennessee,

Dear Sister I Believe the last letter I
penned to you was dated Waterford, at least I
do not recollect. of writing to you since that time
I need not tell you the cause of my delaying so long
for I suppose Tom has told you of our many movements
and alls about our communications with the North being
cut off. Although in poor plight to receive letters or papers
and in fact but little food from Uncle Sam. yet we have
lived in good style as far as food or drink is concerned.
But still it is very bad to be without letters or papers and
I am thinking if ever the letters that you and the rest
of the Northerners has written: we will have a jolly time reading
them if they were so. Has Father let you make arrangements
to let you stay another term at the College. and I hope he gave
you the means to enable you to pay for your drawing lessons
and let me tell you I am expecting a specimen of your
work in that line before a great many weeks "pass by."

Our Christmas and New Year were rather dull, much
duller than many I have seen. But still at both of the
time many days. Old familiar faces crowd throng around
me: and hope that all of our Dear Friends so far are well
and having a happy time. Rumors of various kinds
are haunting our camp by night and day, and we are
sure of anything being true, in regard to the movements of
the troops East or West. Save those of our own Division
And that is pretty well strung out on the Memphis R.R.
we are here guarding a Bridge on the Memphis R.R.
that crosses Wolf river. They say that three guns are
going to move, about a quarter of a mile to guard the
R.R. across the same stream. Hoping you are in
good health, and happy: Improving your opportunities
to the utmost, in acquiring wisdom, and fulfilling the
hopes of your loving Friends. I sign myself your
Ever Loving Brother William J Christie
Write soon,

Cox Lake, Jan. 5th A.D. 1862.

My Dear Father, [James Christie]

I will now
give you a few lines, just to let you
know how I prosper. In the first place
I am in excellent health, having got
over our tire, following the examination.
We went up to the Lindseys, on Thursday
morning and got back on Saturday evening.
We visited the prison at Wenham while away
and had a first-rate time generally, but
I will tell you all about that afterwards.
I hope that you are all as usual at home,
and yourself and Mother better than usual,
and all the rest too if they need to be.
I have not received any letters, from
the boys for a long, long time. But I
do not feel anxious at all, as I think
the mail communications have been cut

(2)

of, and also I see by the papers that our forces have retaken Wolf Springs, and they may have been ordered out on ~~that~~ or some other expedition. But I presume that you have seen an account of it all in the papers, as well as myself. Now I will tell you about what you have inquired in two of your letters. Now that first letter of yours hurt my feelings very much, and kept me awake for a couple of nights. I would have not said anything about it but you asked how I felt about it. And yet I suppose that I deserved it. I commenced to take Translating lessons. but do not now. I did not think that you would approve it on any other grounds than that I had too many studies, as it did not cost only \$2.50 and I thought that I would not tell you anything about it till I got home. I did not do it. Thinking that I was doing wrong and trying to conceal it. I did not take only two or three lessons

(3)

as it was so arranged that the hours for Drawing would come at the same hours as my Algebra. So I gave it up and took German in its place, which costs \$3.00 per term. Now I would not have told you anything about it, if it had not been for the boys. I did think that I would tell you of it at first, as I had a kind of conscience warning that that you ought to know everything about my studies. But then I thought the boys would lend me money to pay for it and I would keep it from you till I went home. It was wrong to do it without your sanction, but still somehow I do not think there was anything awfully wicked about it. as I almost began to think when I read your letter. I then wished that I had never seen a German letter, or book. I have got so that I can little read, translate, and write, German using the German letters. Prof. Read says that I

am his best German Scholar, being
 further advanced than those who were in
 the fall term. I can read Schiller,
 and translate it. It seems to come very
 easy to me, and I never saw anything
 I liked so well. Now I want you to re-
 member that I am not guessing, but just
 telling, you what I know is so, and I
 don't want you to scold or lecture me
 any more, for I feel a great deal hap-
 pier than I ever did in my life before,
 and when I come home I am going to
 try to make you Ditto, if it is in my
 power. To pay you in part for what you
 are doing for me, and I will stay at
 home for a long time and do every-
 thing I can for you and Mother, and
 you know, when I get married, (if such
 a thing ever takes place) Mother and you
 can come and live with me, and let
 Dave have the old homestead, for his portion.

(5)

Well, I guess I have gassed silly stuff enough to last a spell. So I will tell you about the rest of my studies. As for Algebra I love it. you can tell Sandy that we use Davies Algebra and have got half through or more. As for the Powers of Monomials, and as for that old Boy here of mine, Arithmetic, I intend to entirely finish my education in that line before leaving Mrs. Kemble College, and I may say that I am about perfect in Grammar. I think I understand the entire Science and Art, Theory and Practice, of it. Physical Geography and Physiology, I have finished the middle of this term, and am to take up Natural Philosophy in their place. The Class was formed today, as there was a reversal of us of the Normal Class, wanted it to begin it once. So when I come home, if there is any principle you wish explained and demonstrated Philosophically, just call on me. Our first lesson will be tomorrow, of ten pages, and

(6)

Treats of the "Preliminary principles and mechanics of solids," and "Definitions and general properties of matter," I think I will like it even better than Physical Geography. The name of the one we study is "Becker's Canon," and costs \$1.50. Van Horn has just got one tonight.

Tell Sandy that I really cannot find time to give him and Dave a letter till Friday evening, so they may expect a long one on Saturday night or Monday at the farthest. I hope you all had a good time here. As I did. I got a New Year present of an Album, it very pretty one. You can all see it when I come home so I will not send it in my letter, as I had some very serious thoughts of doing, as I want to show it off, and feel pretty big over it. But I must tell you that I cannot scribble much more as it is near dark and I have taken the entire study hour to write to you, and will have to

report for it, besides getting my lessons
 early tomorrow morning, but I have
 got so that I can get a lesson with
 one quarter of the study I expended
 on them at first. As I have commenced
 another sheet, and may as "Well be
 hanged for a horse as a sheep," I will
 risk the reporting, and go ahead, giving
 you some detail of our visit to the
 Lindseys. Well, in the first place
 they (that is Fanny and Willie) came for
 us (that is Nettie and I.) them, about
 8 o'clock on New Years morning, took
 us up to their home to dinner and in
 the afternoon to Wexford, to see the
 prison. I was greatly struck by the
 great walls and the stone steps
 and walls of the building itself, with
 the great iron bars, I felt awful
 nervous all the time I was going through
 it, and breathed freely when I got out.

(8)

The building is very large, a great deal larger than I thought it was. We went up the spiral staircase to the top and got a good view of the Country round. We could see Lake Huron very plainly and could see with the glass the village of Huron. A great deal better view than from the College Campus. There are 121 prisoners in at present 6 women, 18 men for life, for murder. We saw them all sitting at work, some hammering stone for to build wall, others making boots and shoes, and all going on, without a single word being spoken. Such laggard, wicked looking creatures I never saw, and never want to again. They never looked up at us at all, just glanced out from under their eyebrows. I think that the State Prison System, is all wrong. It does not give them any chance of amendment at all. Not any good influences around them, just their own wicked selves to look at. I hardly ever felt so bad for anyone

(9)

as I did while looking at them. I asked the keeper if any of them were ever known to go from the prison better than when they came, and if their life improved afterwards. He just laughed and said, "Oh, No." "They are ten times worse, if anything." "For they are plotting Deviltry all the time they are here, to find in practice when they get out." I left the prison with very sad feelings, you may be sure. There must be some remedy, for all this. I wish I were a man and I would go to work in some way, but what can a woman do?

But I will commence the next chapter. We got home in the evening about 8:00 clock, and had some nice music, as Tommy plays the violin, and Will the flute, and the clarinet also, and Tommy plays the Melodeon, and his brother two, beautifully. They have a nice one. One Mary Katon is there boarding, teaching school in their District. She is one of the Institute

girls last Spring and, is a good singer so I can tell you we had a Splendid time. The next day we visited Mary Ketchum's school. The boys got out there till sundown, and we had some games of checkers and chess. I am learning to play chess. They are going to show me how. And I heard them at the checkers every time.

They showed me a lot of Chinese curiosities which they had in carved ivory, and a large portfolio of Chinese Paintings and Drawings on the finest of Tissue paper. They were very delicate and beautiful. Mrs. Lindsey showed me a lot of Scottish scenes, in Drawing, of old Abbeys and castles, Lochs, &c., of her own work while a young Lady. They have a very large Library, among which are a great many very solid old books, that would take one years to labor through. Some very ancient books, two old Latin Bibles in particular, which were Dated 1561 and 1621, respectively. Also a book in old English, Dated the same.

(17.) which was the same as Latin to me almost. They had heavy board covers, covered with thick leather, and then cornered and bound with iron bands, and riveted. They looked as if they could stand a few centuries, more there was also a polyglot bible in eight languages, the largest book I ever saw and ever so many more interesting things that I should take too much paper to write about. I never, I think spent so pleasant a time on a visit. They brought us home Saturday afternoon. Another thing I must tell you about. They have an almost life size, oil painting of Mr. Lindsey. The first of the kind I ever saw. Mrs. Lindsey is one of the best women I ever saw. She looks some like Aunt Jessie.

I cannot write more as it is 10 o'clock. Give my love to all, and best respects to everybody.

Now mind, I want the boys to pay for. Let me not go, everything, and if you get a letter let me know and I will do the same. I have written so much stuff, that I will have to put in two envelopes. No more to-night, certain.

Good night, from,
your loving Daughter,
Sarah Lindsey

Everest G. L. Frisbie.

Camp at Moscow Tenn.
Jan. 6th 1863

My Dear Alexander,

An immense amount of delayed mail coming to the Camp this forenoon we got 6 letters among which is yours of the Christmas Eve, and as it interested me more by its news than any other did I answer it first.

The news of John Ramsey's death affected me deeply. Poor fellow! little did I ever think that such would be his fate! He seemed just the kind of man to get through. These are awful times we live in today, and there is no telling what will next afflict us. Still, I do not lose faith in the Supreme Intelligence which directs the events of the Age, nor doubt that everything is working towards the accomplishment of the great end - the ultimate happiness of the Race.

The Cause for which John gave his life may require mine in its defense tomorrow, and, if so, it

shall be given cheerfully and without a murmur, for I believe that it is worthy of the sacrifice. Things look dark enough now, and it seems as if all the life and effort expended in this war will avail nothing of commensurate value, but God rules, and out of this tangled web of gloomy uncertainties He will yet bring results most important to the happiness of a Human kind. This is my faith, and trust, and hope; and it is all that sustains me from despondency when I think of the amount of personal sacrifice involved in this War.

However; to more cheerful subjects; Our life here is not unproductive of amusing episodes, and among them I reckon an incident that occurred in our tent night before last.

At the risk of boring you with trivial details I will attempt a description of it, begging you to remember that among soldiers as among school-children a very small amount of humor in an incident serves to amuse.

Know then, that in our place of habitation there resided a cannoner yet W. L. ("G" heard)

and his bedmate who answered to the euphonious designation of Bill Wilcox. These two valiant comrades, having just eaten a stimulating supper of shingles, (facetiously termed chackers) washed down with something less than two quarts apiece of a hot liquor, whose constituent parts are; swamp water, 99 Per. Ct. Chicory, rotten coffee, and other adulterations; 1 P.C. and feeling, no doubt, more than a match for the rest of the tent, instigated as much by commencing hostilities on the others in a manner suggestive of an intent to "rule or ruin," a la Southern Democrat.

These indications of despotic inclinations consisted of throwing crumbs at every one, and boasting in a most arrogant manner of supposed ability to "clean out" all opposers of their tyrannous prerogative.

The rest of us, receiving with calm indifference or wordy remonstrance the first aggression, soon became conscious that our only safety lay in combined resistance, and accordingly a draughty warfare was initiated of whizzing chips from crackers, and the softer but more rare material of Beech chips, recourse being had to haversacks and the woodpile for ammunition.

The contest soon waxed warm

as the pain from bodily abrasions took the place of moral Principles in urging "a vigorous prosecution of the war." The overcoming conscientiousness in many of the belligerents, the missiles increased in size and velocity, and matchless advantage was taken of unguarded postures in an evening, consequent on steeping search for ammunition crisscrossing "the air."

to "peg" it to him" on the most sensitive parts, ^{and} where the reinment fitted the tightest, as well as on other extremities not defended by the natural covering of hair, in which may a certain blood receptacle of the Physiological organs resident in the tent suffered severely.

I, in the role of commander of the forces of the resistance made more than my share of the confusion by shouting

Shell: 2/ seconds time, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Degree elevation,

"Give them the Carrier Boy," and immedi-

But now our ammunition was expended, and to crown all, the enemy had found and appropriated a great leather cartridge pouch full of crackers, which it had been our custom to rely on as a kind of reserve commissary where the contents of the haversacks were ^{all} eaten on a march. Animated by this immense ^{addition} accession to their reserves,

part. the enemy answered our slackened fire with renewed vigor, and solid shot.

There was a cheer; a rush; a tramping
of many feet on the punks, then a
pile of legs and bodies very scrambling
and convulsively heaving against one
side of the tent, then smothered
cries of "Quarter," and the battery was
captured, the field of Moscow won.

Where all behaved so well it is perhaps
invidious to particularize individual
heroism, but I can mention, sustained
by the united testimony of all eye wit-
nesses, the names of Sergt. Gordon,
and my lead Driver Johnston, as men
who especially distinguished themselves
during the Action by bravery and accu-
racy of aim. " The enemy fought
well, and only the unflinching gal-
lantry of our boys could have withstood
the tremendous fire of heavy artillery
which he brought to bear on them,

Probably you think that 7 against 2 is ungenerous odds, but I assure you that those two weigh almost as much as all the rest of the combatants, and that they could put a Heenan-like force into a projectile utterly unattainable by our smaller muscles.

Our little 12th. howitzers were almost disabled every time a shot from one of their 64^s struck them, and it was with the greatest difficulty one of ours could

as the pain from bodily abrasions took the place of moral Principle in urging "a vigorous prosecution of the war." The overcoming conscientiousness in many of the billgerents, the missiles increased in size and velocity, and watchful advantage was taken of unguarded postures in an energetic conquest on steeping search for ammunition crevices, to "peg it to him" on the most sensitive parts, where the regiment fitted the tightest, as well as on other extremities not defended by the natural covering of hair, in which away a certain blood receptacle of the Physiological organs resident in the tent suffered severely.

The Battle ground being circumscribed by canvas walls enclosing an area of 20 feet Diameter only, and there being some 9 combatants engaged, you may suppose that the break bats in the air left but a small room for corporeal densities, and if you also remember that the meeting of the former with the latter always produced sounds discordant and cacophonous from little ^{or} bigger, you will have some idea of the scene and noise.

I, in the role of commander of the forces of the resistance made more than my share of the confusion by shouting directions to my artillery. Giving, as necessity required the commands: "Shell; 2 seconds time, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Degree elevation;" "Spherical case; short time. Point Blank;" "Give them the canister Boys," and immediately the crevices from the bottoms of haversacks flew in showers.

But now our ammunition was expended, and to crown all, the enemy had found and appropriated a great leather cartridge pouch full of crackers, which it had been our custom to rely on as a kind of reserve commissary where the contents of the haversacks were ^{all} eaten on a march. Animated by this immense ^{addition} accession to their resources

part, the enemy answered our slackened fire with renewed vigor, and solid shot.

This would never do; a charge on the battery of the foe was ordered. There was a cheer; a rush; a trampling of many feet on the punks, then a pile of legs and bodies lay scrambling and convulsively heaving against one side of the tent, then smothered cries of "Quarter!" and the battery was captured, the field of Moscow won.

Where all behaved so well it is perhaps invidious to particularize individual heroism, but I can mention, sustained by the united testimony of all eyewitnesses, the names of Sergt. Gordon, and my lead Driver Johnston, as men who especially distinguished themselves during the action by bravery and accuracy of aim. The enemy fought well, and only the unflinching gallantry of our boys could have withstood the tremendous fire of heavy artillery which he brought to bear on them.

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part, the enemy answered our slackened fire with renewed vigor, and solid shot.

This would never do: a charge on the battery of the foe was ordered; There was a cheer; a rush; a tramping of many feet on the punks, then a pile of legs and bodies lay scrambling and convulsively heaving against one side of the tent, then smothered cries of "Quarter," and the battery was captured, the field of Moscow won.

"Where all behaved so well it is perhaps invidious to particularize individual heroism, but I can mention, sustained by the united testimony of all eyewitnesses, the names of Sergt. Gordon, and my lead Driver Johnston, as men who especially distinguished themselves during the Action by bravery and accuracy of aim." The enemy fought well, and only the unflinching gallantry of our boys could have withstood the tremendous fire of heavy artillery which he brought to bear on them.

Probably you think that 7 against 2 is ungenerous odds, but I assure you that those two weigh almost as much as all the rest of the combatants, and that they could put a Heenan-like force into a projectile utterly unattainable by our smaller muskets.

Our Little 12th howitzers were almost disabled every time a shot from one of their 64s struck them, and it was with the greatest difficulty one of ours could

be brought to bear well before a shot would strike it.

The tent after the battle presented a rather confused appearance; the stove overturned and the ashes and cinders trampled into the ground; the knapsacks crushed and blankets wadded, and two plates of Peach sauce that had been laid away for morning mashed into cocked hats, and the contents ~~was~~ smeared over the combatants.

Such is the way we amuse ourselves sometimes, always in good humor, and I hope you will enjoy half the pleasure in reading my poor description that I ~~experienced~~ ^{experienced} in witnessing the reality.



Sincerely, you are too excitable, your denunciations of men and measures are too vehement. You must take things more coolly, and not fret yourself about things over which you can have no control. Don't always look at the gloomy side of events, nor live continually in dismal forebodings. "Sufficient unto the day," you know; and there is no use in borrowing trouble; rather let us live quietly according to Principle, and extract what joy we can from even untoward and disagreeable circumstances. "Laugh away care," "Begone melancholy!" are the rules of life of
Yours truly F. D. C.

Camp at Moscow. Tenn.

Jan. 8." 1863.

My Dear Sister, [Sarah Christie]

Yours to me of the 19th has come to hand, and much interested me. It seems to me my dear Sarah that you are better satisfied with your present mode of life than you have ever been heretofore, probably because you live as you say, more in accordance with natural laws, and are more interested in the objects of your pursuit. But you must remember, that you are now only preparing for the real duties of life, and must always act with that object constantly in view. This term of probation can not last long, and you should improve it to the uttermost, not by a weak compliance with the customs of other young ladies in selecting objects of study, and thus slighting

Camp at Moscow. June

June 8th 1863.

My Dear Sister, [Sarah Christie]

Yours to me of the 19th has come to hand, and much interested me.

It seems to me my dear Sarah that you are better satisfied with your present mode of life than you have ever been heretofore, probably because you live as you say, more in accordance with natural laws, and are more interested in the objects of your pursuit.

But you must remember, that you are now only preparing for the real duties of life, and must always act with that object constantly in view.

This term of probation can not last long, and you should improve it to the uttermost, not by a weak compliance with the customs of other young ladies in selecting objects of study, and thus slighting

the less interesting, but more important subjects; but by considering what will be most required in the vocation which you will depend on hereafter, and consistently and patiently applying yourself to their study.

I will speak plainly to you Sarah, and I hope you will take what I say in good part. I think you are too much influenced by those around you in the selection of studies, and that you think more of "How nice it looks," than you do of "What is the best."

To use an illustration; here you are studying German before your English education is well begun, and neglecting the improvement of your hand writing, and several other requirements of a good Teacher, to gratify a morbid desire to do a foreign language and thus be like, or superior to, the other girls. Trust me; when you have established

a good reputation as an English scholar, it will be time enough to see what is in other tongues; and to do this will require your best, and most earnest efforts during the whole of this winter at least. Don't have too many ~~irons~~ irons in the fire, especially if some of the irons will not be required immediately to earn your bread.

I must compliment you on your success at the Spelling School. Your Orthographic education is, I am sure, excellent, for you always took to it naturally, and by your late success it seems that you have improved greatly in that respect.

I hope that this homily will find you enjoying the greater triumph of spelling down the County, and thus becoming the Champion of Dodge.

I am a little ashamed of the date of this epistle: I expected to have been down in fackoon by this

time, and here we are in this small village defending the R.R. bridge here.

Nothing of importance occurs to interest you in reading or me in writing, and so I must ~~just~~ bid you adieu.

T. D. Christie.

P.S. The following was issued from Co. Head Quarters a few days ago.

Head Quarters 1st Minn. Battery.

Moscow, Tenn.

Jan. 1st 1863.

The following named persons are hereby appointed to the offices designated: Harvey C. Shephard; Sergt. and Martin Harvey Chief of caisson in the Right Platoon, and Thomas D. Christie Chief of caisson in the Left Platoon. They will be respected and obeyed accordingly.

Wm. G. Clayton

1st Lieut. Commanding

Moscow Tennessee Jan. 9th 1863

To: Alexander Christie

I have not the least doubt you think I am slighting you. Seeing I have written to you in such a length of time. I do not recollect of writing a letter to you since I was at Waterford. As now having read your letter to Tom the Corporal, well liking the style. I will have the impudence to give you a screed, from my Pen so that I may keep your memory green, and that I may be remembered, in the Land of Groggish and Sleepers. Some how I am a kind of glad to think that Uncle William gave the two wretches you speak of a sound thrashing; for it seems there is some rigour in him yet. I hope he wasn't hurt while he was at the job. But I am also sorry he had to descend to the level of the brutes he mauled, in the same way he walked and so trampled over them. I hope in fine style. Now as for Burnside. He was certainly foolish to do as he has done. But he is honest enough. To say he is at fault, and don't do as Mac Clellan did, through the blame on some one else, Burnside lacks caution. But not honesty, and there is

some hopes, of a man of his stamp. yet,
it is very likely, that before this letter reaches
you, Richburg will be in possession of our
troops, and let me tell you I think that
would be an offset to Fredericksburg and
in fact, be the means of causing much
trouble to the Rebel Army in Virginia.
I suppose you are informed through the
papers, that Jeff. Davis and Joe. E. Johnson
were in Vicksburg, and that Jeff. left
only last Sunday, leaving J. B. S. in command,
against Sherman. Do you see if Rich-
burg was not of the utmost importance. These men would
never have been there or either one or the other stayed.

But let us hope that we will soon
see the dawning of the morning, and that
on another 4th of July comes, we will have
a thorough hold of all Territories North and
South, and that we will have a free and
united Country. What we have never yet
had. Did you ever see a Parcel case,
in all your reading of History. Republics
have fought to keep slaves in subjection, not
North each other, but united against the
Bondmen. Here we have a so-called free
Country, and Government, fighting for a unity
not with Freedom, but with Slavery. Such a
a concoction of Hellbrot, Slavery has
breed forth, and it is characteristic of
of the perverted education of this People

as a Nation. That they look as a general
thing as far as I can learn, that they look
on the President's recent Proclamation
of Freedom to the slaves, and the acceptance
of the Slaves as soldiers. We need not ask
each other why or how this is the case,
for the Past history of the Nation solves
the question. Now perhaps you want
to know my sentiments about Grant,
I will take it for granted, you do, and so
I will succeed, (as we say in camp)
I may be mistaken. But I think Lee
is at the bottom of this Backward movement,
for he was requested to send help to Col.
Murphy, at Holly Springs. But failed until
it was too late. I have heard from a good source
that Mr. Tellegrapher, to G for help, for
he told G, that there was to be an attack
either at the Springs or the Junction.
So G telegraphed to Mr. A to send what
troops he could spare to the junction and he
would forward troops from Oxford to the
Springs to take their place. The troops did
not get to Murphy in time, and the town
was taken. Partially Burned, and about 300,000
Dollar worth of Government, Destroyed or carried
off. Rumor also says that this is not the
first time Murphy has done just such a
trick. That he is without fighting.

if it is Genl Grant was foolish or careless.
Not to say more, for having such a man in
command of a Post, all honest men say that
Memphis could have resisted successfully
even if he had had high expectations of
aid, and it is added that there is a pair
of rogues in the matter some where.

This morning at roll call, it was read to
us as an order, to be ready at that notice
to be ready to go to Memphis. It is thought
we will go tomorrow and that we are bound
for Vicksburg. For it is said that Sherman
has called for twenty thousand more men,
to reduce that place, and that Grant has
to furnish them. We heard in camp that
Sherman and Banks combined has
taken three lines of breast works and
holds them. That there are three more to
take, and that we so far have lost more
artillery than we have gained, and that there
has been some of our mortar boats sunk.

The reason that Sherman has been so hard
pressed, was on account of Price being able
to throw himself and a great portion of
his troops in the succor of Vicksburg.
Whereas if Grant would have only destroyed
instead of guarding the R.R. and marched
on to Jackson, subsisting on the country
as we are ultimately doing now, we would
have been able to have destroyed the

My Dear Samely,

I add a
few lines to William's
letter to ask of you as
father to get my watch
cleaned up and sent
to me by mail.

Every time I come on guard
now I need a watch and
it is too bad to have to
borrow all the time, as
I had to do yesterday.

I think that if my
watch was packed in cotton
in a small pasteboard
box, it would come with
out difficulty.

If you do not think so
I will have to buy an
other one, so it will be
cheaper to send me the
old one.

I have a good
stout crystal put in it, and
send another spare one.

Attend to it immediately and oblige
Yours, J. D. C.

attention of the Rebels and as made Sherman work easier. But that would not do Banks and Sherman. or Perhaps Macclernand. would have done more than it would have suited the half and half men of the times to have done,

and the works of U. S. less Grant, been left in the shade. Jealousy I believe is at the bottom of the whole thing and Political wire pulling at the top. The story is current in camp and Belmont. That reason. General MacArthur's Division was assigned to the rearguard, after the skirmish at the Tallahatchie was because he pressed too hard on Price's heels. To suit Grant, as he were assigned to the rear and Ross's division also, he being another fighting General. Both Scotch. Mac. is I heard from the Isle of Islay, and it may be Ross is of American Birth, I don't know. But he may have been Scotch born. Now do you really think that there is any danger of matters becoming as bad as you think, or did think, when you wrote to Tom, for let me tell you if you could only see how I felt when I tried to think how matters would be if this wicked war was spreading over the Northwestern, or Eastern States while it was occupying such an Army as is now in the field. You would pity me. I felt no downhearted, but surely the Bearded drunken fellows of Old Ireland won't try there

such a way as you speak of. God forbid they should. But let us take heart for Brave General Rosecrans, has given Bragg a regular mauling, and as he is doing. What neither Grant, or Buell, or that arch Villian Macclernand, has never done. That is following his battered foe, and keeping him from recruiting. It is likely to be of some service to our Country. You have heard I suppose. By this opinion of the brilliant and decisive affair at Jackson. how finely Decatur paid for the loss of some of our Cannon, for one night. Four of ours, and next day we took our own, and seven more for interest, if you have not got the Particulars. I will give them and good news is none the worse for being twice told. Especially if true. On the 31st of Dec. last. General Decatur's Cavalry, attacked two or three regiments of ours, a few miles from Jackson. It was assisted by Richards or Richardson and between the two they took our Boys Prisoners, some of them being Green troops. Word got to Jackson, and the commander of the Post immediately sent out five regiments of old and new troops mixed I believe. Early in the morning of the new year they fought in Decatur, and whaled them both, recapturing over 4 Guns, and seven of the Mearns. also all the small arms. Three hundred and odd men, besides our own, over three hundred horses and equipment. Cavalry, and the Principle Part of the Baggage train, and drove in the whole of the Spoils to Jackson. Clearing the country of every thing in

in the shape of hogs: sheep: chickens: making the
square of the town look as though there was a
fair. Do you see that there is bright
spots in the dark sky. to begin the
New year with. Let us hope that before another
year is swallowed up in the past that
there will be no more war in the land.
That justice will triumph. and Peace
be the Boon of Liberty. ~~and~~ To All,

I am happy to know that Dary is going
to school every day, and I hope he will give
our eyes an evidence of his Progress in ~~learning~~
if nothing else. There is lots of stock. we want
him to put us on. Surely he has not got so
learned. that he has got above looking into the
Barnyard. We have been having an Easterly South
Sea: Easterly wind which has brought in two days
Frick weather. and this morning it look
drain. and now it rains. Tom has made his first
step. On theadder Militaire. he is Corporal
Christie. Now dont put any style on the back
of your letters: but you may tickle his vanity
a little. for as sureⁿ you live. he is ~~in~~ ^{as} little as
on his account of ^{his} Promotion. I have, to leave
now. for some, to write. So Good By for the
Present. Your loving Brother.
William J. Christie,

Olyman, Dodge box Wis. }
Jan^y 9th 1863. }

My Dear Sister, [Sarah Christy]

I write before
the receipt of your promised letter
perhaps contrary to your expectations.
The reason is, that I wanted the
pen inclosed to reach you before
Sunday.

Q You see I had made
up my mind to make a New Year
Present to each of the boys and to
you, and I thought that a Gold
Pen would be most acceptable.

~~It~~ So here it is. I must allow
that it is a little too late for
New Year, - unless it were A.D. 1864.

However, the delay was una-
voidable and so I hope that you
will kindly overlook it.

As to those intended for the Boys
I cannot send them just yet
as things are pretty unsettled down
in that part of Dixie. They
will be sent as soon as practi-
cable.

I wish that I had
got them last fall when they
were at Corinth and everything
was quiet. I have often noticed
that the pens they wrote with
were not to be depended on, and
when these reach them (if they

are not taken on the road) they will I hope have a tool that won't be apt to give out, besides it will show them that I haven't quite forgotten them.

As I have commenced to write I suppose that I might as well go on and give all the news - for of course, you will be thinking as usual that there is lots transpiring round here whether there is not.

Well, in the first place there has been a Birth, that is Mrs Lawrence Walsh has got another child. If you teach our School next year season you will find that the main attendance is composed of Walshs.

The next remarkable event in importance, was Mother's three-years-deferred visit to Uncle Thomas's which took place on January 1st 1863. When you come home Mother will give you all the particulars of it. Dade and

Willie were over there too and also skating on the Rail-Road ditch. I went hunting. There was no parties in the vicinity.

I'm glad that you had a good time at Lindsay's. I'd like to get into their Library for a day.

The last letter Father got from Tom was dated the 25th, in Holly Springs. They had marched toward Grenada to a point 8 miles south of Oxford when they received intelligence of the raid into H.S. They immediately turned about and made a two-days march to that point. They expected that the whole Division would go to Corinth to protect that place from Bragg.

If you get any news from them let us know.

Capt. Webster has died of his wounds received at Prairie Grove. Jack Ramsay was killed in the taking of a Battery.

I have not gone to School any since my last but Dave is going pretty steadily. There are 4 or 5 Schollars coming from the Emmet district. The Teacher has instituted a new Rule in the School which is causing considerable excitement and grumbling among the Schollars. He makes them all (excepting the littles) speak a piece every other Saturday. Now you see, on the first occasion he let all the Ervins and several of them Southern Irish off without speaking. And yet he takes in hand to enforce it again on the next Saturday.

Ed Kleeffe and Dave Waterhouse
were up on New Year's but I did
not see them. They have got their
Uniform.

I guess that the twenty-ninth
has been at the taking of Vicks-
burg. Does the College get a Daily
now? Do you ever see anything
about the Battery in it?

I often see Batteries belonging to
Grant mentioned but never the Minn.

I will put the pen and
case at the bottom of the page.

Please write when you get
this so as to let me know if
got through.

I remain your
Affectionate Brother,

A. S. Christie.

Clyman July 16th /63

My Dear Sarah [Christe]

I may receive
your stating that you had
received the Pen, and of
your long letter, I am
glad that you are in health.
We are enjoying many blessings,
for which we are not
sufficiently thankful.

Now as it regards
what you say about
commencing to draw
there is not anything
very wicked about it.

But you must not do of the World,
Wrong by little and little These things which
For that inevitably leads you esteem as small
to all evil. You do departure from a right
not wait for the approved course of conduct, are
of your Conscience. Whenever in reality the Tests of
a desire starts up, you go Character, "He that is
to its Gratification, without unfaithful in the least
the Sanctions of your Moral will be unfaithful in
feelings, that is exactly the Greatest"
the course that lead to Let no temptations of
all Harmonious Sin and folly, the lower feeling pass
If you wish to live into action, Untill they
happily, never do any - have had the Unrequited
thing that needs Con- Sanctions of the judgement
-cediment. Keep a straight Guided by the Moral
-ght course that might Sentiments.
be open to the inspection

There can be no dependence
on Man or Woman. Who does
otherwise,

You have very strong
desires, and you must learn
to curb them, or you are
entering on a life, which
will increase in misery
as you proceed. Now
Sarah, see to it, you are
yet young and it may not
strike you that there is
any necessity for talking in
this way. But I know
it all to be true that I
say, and it is said for your
Benefit, trusting that

What I have written in my
Love and Care for you, may
be pondered,

I am very well
pleased that you enjoy
yourself and friends so well
about the holidays,

Your visit to Mrs
Lindsays must have
been very gratifying,
and I think the Conference
an honour upon you

Endeavour to be
worthy, and you fully
pay me for all my care
about you. God and
wise conduct generally
bring happiness and honour

is this World. But Remember Not Always.

I will send one of T.D's letters to you I receive one apiece from him and William. They are I see by the Map Within 38 miles of Memphis.

I have not as yet written to them in Reply -

I enclose a Dollar for you, be Careful, do not Borrow from your School Mates, that also is bad. let me know when a little change is necessary and if I have it I will send it

I could wish that you wrote to me a little oftener it helps while away the long winter nights to get a letter, even were there but little in it,

17th I Received a letter from William last night. they were to march in the morning of the 10th for Memphis. T.D. wishes me to get his watch cleaned and repaired and sent to him. as he will require it as Officer of the Guard

Occasionally,

Last night
and to day I have been
very ill, I attribute
much of my Sickness
to Tobacco, I have
been so nervous as to
be unable to sleep any

How Dreadful
to be unable to want
Tobacco. Yet knowing
that it is killing me
See the fearful evil
of acquiring bad habits
in youth.

Yours in
Hope nevertheless,
Christie

Memphis Jan. 17th 1862.
My Dear Sandy,

I write to tell you that we have been paid two months wages, July and August, and that we expect to leave for the vicinity of Vicksburg tomorrow, orders having been sent to Division Head Quarters to report to McClelland as soon as possible.

The state of the weather alone has hindered us from embarking today or yesterday, and it is confidently expected that McArthur's orders will come in the morning.

I was in Memphis this forenoon and made some purchases necessary to my comfort in the campaign coming. A rubber capoon, to keep the head, neck, and shoulders, dry in a rainstorm, \$50. Two shirts, woollen and strong, which are needed because there are none to be had in the Quartermaster Dept, \$6.00.

Gold pen, much better than steel to

write with, and will outlast five dollars
worth of them \$3.00. Pocket Book .50.

Memphis is full of drunken soldiers, there being no restrictions placed on the men to keep them in camp. One or two of our Company went down yesterday to town, stayed all night, and came back this afternoon minus money, watches, and everything, having fallen into one of the numerous dens of the city, and been fleeced of every cent.

I think that I will write next to you either on the Boat or after we land at our journey's termination and you must have patience to bear suspense, for very probably it will be here as ^{on} at any other of our great movements; no letters will be allowed to leave until all necessity for secrecy is over. We may not go when we think though as the order may be countermanded. So you shall soon hear again from T. D. Christie

Box Lake, Friday, Jan. 23.^d 1863.

My Dear Brother, [enc.]

As I have not given you a letter for quite a while, I will proceed to do so now. I am enjoying good health and hope that you all are "Ditto." I hope that Father is in better health now, than he was when he wrote to me last. I haven't anything in particular to write, but will ~~say~~ tell you what I think will be most interesting to you. Our term is out next "Wek," and the spring term begins next day, so we will not have any vacation. This time, I will speak to you now, while I think of "D." about any next summer school. I would like Father to speak for one, for one either our own or the one in the North District.

Fox Lake, Friday, Jan. 23^d 1863.

My Dear Brother, [dear]

As I have not given you a letter for quite a while, I will proceed to do so now. I am enjoying good health and hope that you all are "Tatto." I hope that Father is in better health now, than he was when he wrote to me last. I haven't anything in particular to write, but will ~~say~~ tell you what I think will be most interesting to you. Our term is out next "Wek," and the spring term begins next day, so we will not have any vacation this time. I will speak to you now, while I think of "D." about my next summer school. I would like Father to speak for me, for me either our own or the one in the North District.

whichever will have the longest term and will give the most money. For of course, I will want as much as I can get after spending so much this winter. I would like to get the school North of us, for I guess they will have the longest term. Father might speak to Mr. Baird and he could tell him how much they intend to give and also how long the term will be. It won't do any harm to engage one early anyway. He might find out in the course of a month about both schools, and let me know, for I would like to teach at home.

I had a letter from Tom and Willie day before yesterday still at Moscow, guarding R. R. Post. I must not forget to tell you that I was at a Festival of the Soldiers Aid Society, held at the American Hall, last Friday evening, for the benefit of the sick and wounded in

the hospitals. They furnished a good supper for all, for 25¢ at a piece. They also sold ice cream, confectionary, and Oysters extra and took in about \$100. There was a great crowd there, and the tables were filled 12 times. I don't think I ever saw such a crowd together in one house in my life. Most of the old people went home as soon as supper was over about half past 8. Then the rest amused themselves by marching round the hall and conversing, just as we do at one of our College Sociables. Prof. was there and the Teachers, and almost all of the girls. The most of us were home by 11 o'clock. I got acquainted with Almon Davis, a friend of Lieut. Claytons, writes to him. He is coming to school this next term. He has just come back from the east. He was here at school last winter.

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I enjoy The Lyceum very much.
The question has not been decided
yet, and they have debated on it
for two evenings already. They will
have it up again next Friday evening.
The question is, "affirmed, that 'all'
was is inconsistent with the Bible
and with the moral laws of God."
There are some splendid speakers
on both sides. But there is one
Gentleman, a Mr Buchanan who speaks
better than any of them. I tell you
he is regular, slow and sure old
Scotch, and speaks as broad as
Gerrard Ramsay almost. It does me
good to hear him. He is on the
negative side and says he will
prove from the Bible that was is
not only consistent ^{with} but vindicates
the moral laws of God. Every one allows
that he is the best speaker. He never

says anything till he has weighed it and is sure that it exactly hits the point.

I will now say something of my studies, in algebra, we have got over to Equations of the second degree and there is only one thing about it that I don't fully understand, and that is the formation of powers. I can do them but don't understand them fully, I expect I will next term though, for I am going into Prof's advanced review class, and into Davies Boudon, and then I expect to know all about it. In Arithmetic we are in Euclid at the end of "Davies University," we are to commence back again next term.

We keep on scribbling and parsing, and I don't like better fun, than get hold of a crooked sentence to "straighten out," as Prof. says. And our Philosophy goes off first-rate, we take 10 pages every day, for 4 days in the week, and then

on Fridays we take 30 in review, you may think that is an enormous lesson but we get used to it, and I have got so now, that by reading over my lesson once or twice, I can repeat and demonstrate almost all of it by topic, without a single question being asked. Our lesson for Monday is the "Mechanics of Gases and vapors." Why, you don't know how Philosophy makes us think and every little thing that I never gave one thought to is so nicely explained. For instance, the reason that sugar dissolves in water, because the cohesion between the molecules of the sugar and water is stronger than the cohesion between the molecules of sugar, and it is also due to cohesion that water spreads over a board upon which it is poured, between the particles of wood and water. Such very little things which we see every day and never thought of, all governed by Laws.

I know how it would interest you to study it and had to explain the principles of the Hydraulic press and Artesian wells yesterday and demonstrate on the blackboard. That is something which I hate to do to get up there on the platform and not edify myself or anyone else either. I tell you what Prof. Gault says through, He says that we never know anything about anything till we can tell it to the class. He says he wouldn't give a snap for an idea which we only have faintly and can't bring out clearly. There is the dinner bell.

Saturday 2 o'clock. We have just been to dinner and now I will finish this letter for I have been long enough about it, and I must write to each of the boys yet. I want you to tell me all about your progress in algebra and also in all your studies and I expect a letter again from Sam, now, a long one I will write to him next week. We love to all who care to have it.
your loving sister,
Sally Ann,
[SJC]

I know how it would interest you to study it I had to explain the principles of the Hydraulic press and Artesian wells yesterday and demonstrate on the blackboard. That is something which I hate to do to get up there on the platform and not edify myself or anyone else either. I tell you what Prof. Frost as though, he says that we never know anything about anything till we can tell it to the class. He says he wouldn't give a snap for an idea which we only have faintly and can't bring out clearly. There is the dinner bell.

Saturday 2 o'clock. We have just been to dinner and now I will finish this letter for I have been long enough about it and I must write to each of the boys yet. I want you to tell me all about your progress in algebra and also in all your studies and I expect a letter again from Dave now, a long one I will write to him next week. My love to all who care to have it.
your loving sister,
Gally Ann,
[532]

Light.
Clayton
gives res-
pects to
you and
blair
your to
grieve
his friend
of his
sincerely

I received this
the 1st of the month
you may get
another letter
from me on
I attend to,
(Snatch)

On board transport "Jeannie Deane",
Mouth of the Yazoo. Jan. 24/65.

Dear Sister,

Your favor of the 12th inst
was received at Meru this in the
hurry and bustle of embarkation,
I was officer of the guard too, at the
same time, and so had too much
to occupy me without writing.

This must be my excuse for not
answering sooner.

Here we are at last, after a voyage
of ~~5~~³ days, tied up on the sacred
soil of Louisiana, and a very poor
looking soil it is. I shall not

attempt a description of the scen-
ery of the lower Mississippi. You
can find that in many a book
of travel, enough to say, it was
just as I expected to see it.

I may sometime, if God spares us
both, interest you by description
and incidents which I have no

There is no immediate prospect of fighting here; troops are rapidly concentrating. Division after Division is sweeping down, and when we do attack again it will be with a force sufficient to overcome all opposition and carry the Key of the Mississippi by a Coup de main.

The Kansas First is on board with us, and a wild set of fellows they are. I have discovered in their ranks an old schoolmate no less a personage than Martin Croover. I knew him at once

and had quite a talk with him in which he told me that when he ran away from Billy Welch he went to Kilwaukie, from there to the Missouri River, and when the war broke out went to Leavenworth and enlisted. He was in the Battle of Tison's Creek and is wearing skrimishes, and looks just as he used to in every particular.

Before leaving Keen-
this we got two months pay, 26 Dollars
and between small debts con-
tracted during the moneyless
summer, and necessary pur-
chases, such as shirts, boots &c,
my pile is extremely small, as
is William's; and I must
advise you to apply to Father
on our account for the money
you need. You should not
conceal your debts from him,
tell him frankly all about it
and it will be the best way.

time or inclination to write,
and until then you must
be satisfied with bare state-
ments of facts, satisfied that
nothing of interest is forgotten
by me, and that I only await an
opportunity to satisfy your curio-
sity. "Good time coming" you know.

There is no immediate pros-
pect of fighting here; troops are
rapidly concentrating. Division
after Division is sweeping down,
and when we do attack again
it will be with a force suffi-
cient to overcome all opposition
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their ranks an old schoolmate
no less a personage than Martin
Croover. I knew him at once

and had quite a talk with him
in which he told me that when
he ran away from Billy Welch
he went to Kilwaukie, from there
to the Missouri River, and when
the war broke out went to Leav-
enworth and enlisted. He was
in the Battle of Tipton's Creek
and did many skirmishes,
and looks just as he used to
in every particular.

Before leaving Keem-
phris we got two months pay, 26 Dollars
and between small debts con-
tracted during the moneyless
summer, and necessary pur-
chases, such as shirts, boots &c.
my pile is extremely small, as
is William's; and I must
advise you to apply to Father
on our account for the money
you need. You should not
conceal your debts from him,
tell him frankly all about it
and it will be the best way.

forward mine to Mr. and Mrs. them from me. I write soon to the and the you again appear from mine
I will write to him in
your behalf, and I am sure
that, as your requests are reason-
able they will be acceded to.

I send a spec-
imen of Southern moss
as found on shore. You can
not imagine the beauty of the
scene that presents itself in
these woods. the trees are
all covered with this moss
which hangs in thick clusters
or bunches on every part of the
branches, draping them in sil-
ver tassels. You can imagine
the effect when I tell you that
the bunch from which your small
specimen was taken was three
feet long and large enough to
make an armful.

Write soon, and remember me as

Your affectionate Brother

J. D. Christie.

Blyman, Wis.

January 26th/95.

Dear Sister,

I received
your welcome missive
of Friday and Satur-
day, tonight and
hasten to answer it.

The most im-
portant news item
I have to tell you
is, that the Boys are,
or were, in Memphis
on the 17th, but

expected to embark
to join McClelland,
next day. Both were
in good health al-
though ^{very} many of the
Soldiers had fallen
sick with the inclem-
ent weather. - rain
and deep mud, and
then seven inches of
snow with a wind.

Some of the Teams were
drifted full of snow.

They were paid ~~off~~
for July and August

but they had so many
things to buy for the
coming Campaign
besides debts to clear-
off that they won't
have much to spare.

Mother sent two pairs
of woolen gloves to
them and I sent the
Pens. Tom tells us that
he has bought a Gold
pen in Memphis.

I will send his latest
with this. As to Will-
- we have not got any
letter from him as yet.

Father did not send
that letter he promised.

He has not time to
write, nor is he in
very good health just
now, but he will
write soon. He is
still working at the
inside of the house.

This open Winter is
beginning to startle
even the "Oldest Inhabitant".
Foster had a hard
time with the Dystheria
week before last.

The proposition which
you made in your
other letter, viz, to study
History &c during the
Summer, as regards
me, I am perfectly
satisfied and appre-
hend a good time
at it. I want you
to put me through
a regular examination
upon all the branches
of Study which is
within my reach
when you come down.
I don't have a great
deal of time, - only
what I can get after

at night after attending Post Office.

But I mean to be lively in Algebra and Chambers, - for there is considerable to be found even in Chambers.

I have not had much time at Algebra yet.

I came to a ^{piece} ~~stick~~ ^{where the} ~~at the Division of~~ ^{polynomial} ~~Polynomials~~ and so I have been thinking about it ever since with but little success. You see I won't go ahead of anything

I can't understand, I hope that I'll get through it before you get down, if not, you will have a chance to "Make it plain, to my dull comprehension."

Dave is getting along pretty well as regards distance in the Arithmetic, but I must say that as yet, he don't seem to understand it. The Teacher makes them get by heart all the reading-matter in Bay's so when that's in, sense is out.

Hartwig succeeded
in taking a notorious
Horse-Thief on that
rainy, cold night - Friday.
He has broken jail
in Jefferson.

We are to have a
Spelling-School next
week. The North
School was spelt down
on "Chameleon".

I will "report progress".
It is very late so ~~good~~
~~Good~~ Bye.

Your Affectionate
Brother,

A. A. C.

Paaid 3^{ts}

Miss Sarah J. Christie

244 Lake College

Wis ~

Clyman
July 29

Rural Jan 27th 1863

Dear Christie

I received your very kind long letter some time ago and at the time of receiving it thought I would answer it at once. But my excuse for not doing so — I need not tell you what it is. You are a teacher and know what their excuse always is.

I was quite surprised to find that you were teaching at home as I had expected to hear from you, from Trenton. I believe that when I last wrote you I was at Graupesa. Our school there

closed Dec. 4th. I came home and commenced teaching the 7th. I have 35 scholars enrolled and an average of 28.

I have several large boys and two large girls who are boarding at our house and going to school. I cannot imagine

how you get along with so many unless it be that they are better classified than ours.

How do you manage to keep them still. That is what troubles me the most.

I cannot teach when the school is noisy and so many boys with their great boots make a good deal of noise sometimes.

And then about whispering, that troubles me somewhat. It is such hard work for some to keep from whispering.

In fact I don't enjoy teaching this winter as I did last summer.

Mother says that the school I had last summer has spoiled me. It was such an easy school to govern, the scholars were so very kind and obliging, so willing to

learn and do every thing that I required of them, that it has ~~led~~ led me to expect too much of other schools. Perhaps it is so. The truth is our school has not been properly governed for several winters past. and some of the scholars have come to think that the teacher must teach and not govern. At least so their actions say.

But I would by no means condemn the whole, for I have some most excellent scholars, both in and out of school. Those who have ^{an} interest in their studies.

I have had no trouble to amount to any thing as yet, and still I don't think my school is what it should be.

I have come to one conclusion, Christie, that is that I will not always teach in a district school.

My aim now is to fit myself so that I may become an assistant in a higher school where I will not have all the care of the school. I think it must be much more pleasant

And so you have decided to go to
Madison next fall. I hope you will
carry out your decision. I can not
promise you that I will go with you
I can tell better next summer.

If I only could what a good time
we ~~would~~ have! Have you heard any
thing from the College during the winter
I would really like to know what they
were doing there.

I had a letter from
Pattie this week. She is teaching near
home and said also. She states that
F. B. L. - I suppose she means Frank
Lund - made them a visit Christmas and
seems quite rejoiced over it. She bade
me tell you that she was waiting patiently
for a letter from you.

Have you had any cold weather this winter
The first week in Jan. was, I think the
coldest weather we ever had. I must
close for 'tis late. Have your brothers been home
yet? If so I do rejoice with you. you must
have had a good time.
Mother sends her love. Please write soon.
With much love I remain as ever your friend
Jan.

1863
Olyman July 29th

My Dear Sarah,

I received yours
of the 19th and 20th

Gladd to hear
that you keep in good
Health, and that your
Studies are no great
Burden to you.

I write to you
Especially to Enquire
How much you owe
for Tuition, in German

Now that you have
commenced the study
you should continue
at it through the next
Term. I mean to go
into Town sometime
next week, and will
express to you what
money you may want

I am Glad to
hear of the revival
and although I fear
all excitement. I could
almost wish that the
revival would reach
me also

About the time
these things were taking
place beside you, I was
very much excited in
the very same way.

It occurred
in the early part of the
night, on awakening
I felt as if I would
go to Hot Lake or some
where else, profess
myself a believer in Christ
and get Baptized

But I have
many such times, and
they go by, and leave
me as before

I have acquired many
evil habits in the course
of my youth and manhood
and feel bound by
them, hand and foot
But I am not content
and live a continual
warfare, I suppose
it will continue,
and I must die in
battle and the war
on., Now I have learned
to think, that I can
get the victory this
side the grave.

But with Gods help
I shall fight to the end

5

Therefore my continual
anxiety that you and
the others may keep free
from bad habits, for
they become stronger
with age, Follow a strict
course, open your heart
as it were to the light
of men and angels.

The attempt to hide
anything is futile, for
it will all ultimately
be revealed in answer
to the gaze of the world
of spirits.

I believe the boys
will have reached Pick-
burg, by this time -

There will be
a Dreadful Battle
or series of them down
there, and we must
wait and be prepared
to receive what God
has allotted to us.

I believe that what-
ever occurs will be the
Best for us and them.
All things being overruled
in the providence of God
for Good.

I shall look about
school affairs soon,
although as yet, it
seems to be premature

Send me a letter
on receipt of this and
let me know exactly
how much you require
for the incoming term

Most expect
that you might have
been down before the
next term commenced
I should have liked
very much to have seen
you

But in Sarely's letter
the same that there was
to be no vacation

Please to give
my respects to the
professor, and if he
calls down this way
to examine schools
ask him to call in
and see us ~~~~~

And now my
Dear Sarah I conclude
by wishing you may
continue in
well doing
Yours
J. M. Christie

Paied 3 1/2

Colymann Wd
Jan 29th

Sarah J. Christie

711 Lake College

Wis.

Pox Lake, Jan. 30th A.D. 1863.

[James Christie]

My Dear Brother,

I received your letter and Sandy's, last night, and will proceed to answer. I am still enjoying health, and only wish that you could say the same. I was thinking of you all last night. I do wish that you would stop using Tobacco. I think if you could only once break the spell, that you would have better health. To-day is our vacation, all of the scholars wanted to have today and tomorrow, to rest and so forth, let us have them. We have just got back from Church. There was a Conference and prayer-meeting, and this evening there is prayer-meeting and sermon, as there is every night. Tomorrow is Covenant-meeting, which takes place

always once a month, the Saturday
before the Sacrament is administered,
Such a blessing it is to have a
Church to go to, and to have Christy
people to associate with. I know that
if you had good Christians to associ-
ate with that you would have better
health both Mentally and Physically,
and when I come home, I want
if possible, to have us all go into
Watertown to hear Mr Boynton, for he
is one of the best Ministers ever
was. I believe I have become acquain-
ted with him here, and will renew
it when I go home. I have had
some good talks with him, and
Mr Keet too is an excellent man, of
the Presbyterian Church. His wife was
an old School Teacher of mine Miss
Moseley. She has sent word to me
again and again to come and see
her, and I am going tomorrow I
think. Mr Keet was up to see us

last night and scolded me for
not coming before. I would have
gone before but I have so many
calls upon my time that it is
hard to satisfy them all. I would
write to you very much oftener
but it is just about impossible,
and now that there is protracted
meetings, it seems that it is my
duty as a member of the Church
to be there as often as possible,
and so I go about every night. I
find that it is very exhausting,
yet it is a pleasure that I do not
like to give up. Though I do not
think that I will go so often this
incoming week, as I did this,

Saturday morning,
Dear Father,

I did not finish
your letter last night, as there was
a message sent to the College girls,
to come if possible to the Soldiers

aid Society, as they were wanting to
send away another box of clothing soon
and they had a lot of sewing to do up.
So some of us went and the rest went
to Church as to the Lyceum, I thought
that as I had Brothers in the army
who might need some of that box yet
that I would go and do what I could.
They had two sewing machines there
and were all working like hives.
I made a pair of Cotton Drawers while
I was there every stitch myself. I thought
I did pretty well and it made me
feel so happy to think that I was
working for some poor Soldier, that
I have made, up my mind to go every
Friday evening and sew for them.
The Society meets every week, and
they send off a box every month of
clothes, and delicacies for the Soldiers.
There was two or three Ladies went
from this place week before last to go
to Nashville as Nurses with Dr. Bleck, of
Milwaukee, who took a basket with

him. You have no idea down
there in Chymen what benevolent
people, there are all everywhere
but in Chymen. The people here
are continually working for the
Soldiers besides supporting Mission
Schools, all round in the suburbs
of the place for the poor Irish and
Germans, and even so many other
benevolent Societies. Mr. German
of the bookstore keeps a Mission
Sunday School down on Mill Street
among the garages, and is
doing a good work in reforming
even some drunken Irishmen. He
wants Miss Abbott and me to each
take a Class, to teach, in his little
School, for Sunday afternoons, among
the little ragged Irish and Germans,
the most of which are Catholics, and
strange to say, they do not try to

stop him. We are going down with him on Sunday to see it anyway, and I think that we will take a class.

I will now tell you what you wanted to know of my tuition for German, it is \$3, and my German Grammar and reader cost \$2, which I got from Mr. German and owe to him as well as my Philosophy, which was \$1.25. I had thought that I would not study German this next term as I repented of it as soon as I took it up though I like it yet it is of no practical use to me, and will not be for years, and I might as well have let it alone for a year or two yet. But as you say to go on with it, I will do so. Though I told Mr. Keis that I was going to give it up, I am going into two classes in Algebra this term, one Miss Jennings and the other Prof's advanced review class. So I hope to be pretty

well posted in the Spring, and Sandy and I can go ahead like ~~dirty~~ when I get home I am making great calculations for that eventful period, "when I get home," I hope that I won't fall short in my calculations. I want to take singing lessons this term, too for I have just got to going, first-rate, and want to get finished. Prof. Hawley is going to have a Concert in the Spring and want to have me sing in it. I am just learning some splendid pieces. I will bring home some of my music sheets. Miss Watch and I are both taking the same pieces and as she plays on the Piano, we have good times, she gets me to sing with her and she plays the accompaniment. I never knew what singing or music was till it came here and now I can hear the music going every hour

in the day, someone always at either
the Melodeon or Piano, and then
some evenings Prof Reid brings over
his guitar and plays for us. He is a
splendid player on it and plays Spanish
pieces beautifully. He is awfully sentimental
and looks up at the ceiling when he
sings and imagines it is the moon
you know. Such fun we have about him.
But I must hurry and finish
so as to go to meeting. This evening
after Covenant meeting, the Lindray
Boys are coming to see us. Tommy was
down last Saturday to see us. We are
going up to one of his spelling schools
in a day or two, or at least he wants
us to, whether we will find time or not
I don't know. The next term's tuition
bill will be \$8.00 if I take German and
singing the same as this term. I need
a new pair of shoes pretty bad now and
dress too as the ones I have have been
pretty well used up wearing them round
so often, and then to Church every
Sunday. So that I really need a new

Sunday dress of some kind. The two
good ones I had I have worn so
much that they don't look very well
now, and I have been very careful
of them too. My shoes I have had mended
twice, the ones I wear every day and
they need it again, and the Sunday
gaiters are just about used up, running
up and down the long flights of stairs
is very hard on the shoes, for I guess
that I run up and down at least
twenty times every day, and there
is two flights down to the dining
room. I would like you to
speak for as well paying a school
as possible, and soon too, for if you
cannot get one near home Prof.
is going to get me one, but I
would much rather get a home
school if possible, for I want to
be with you next summer. I would
like very well to get the North School,
for if I did I think I might get it.

again next Winter, as I want to get
a good school somewhere near home
next Winter, I feel fully competent
to take a Winter term in hand now
and I do not mean to stop teaching
till I get all my debts paid off to you
and to the boys, if my health keeps
good, as I expect it will, as I intend
to tend to that, specially and that is
the reason I wish to get the full benefit
of this Winter here as I expect that it
will be my last Winter at school
for three or four years, I can study new
branches though, while I am teaching and
Mr. Salathiel will tell me what to
take up, He wants me to study Botany
while I am at home this Summer
and I am intending to put in Sandy and
Dave. Prof. sends his Compliments to
you and says that if ever he comes your
way again he will call and see you.
I will send you a letter which I had
from Willie a day or two ago, I will
try and write to Sandy Monday night
after school. I am going to write to
Dunt Jane next week I think as I prom-
ised to give my love to all. Sarah,

Clyman Feb 7 4¹/₆₃

My Dear Sarah
I Received ^[Christe]

your long letter last
night. am Glad you
stille keep in Health.

I am Generally
Gratified by your conduct
and feel thankful to
God that it was put into
my Heart to let you have
such opportunity to go
into Society where you
might learn and see
the right way.

You ought to think

also of that. But
Remember you must
not go into too much
Excitement in these
Prayer Meetings.

The Natural
Law cannot be violated
with impunity. Even
in the Service of God
there must be Moderation
Unless we are to Expect
Miracles to be Brought
in our Season.

Continual Tensions
renders the Bow useless.
Remember the ~~Instructions~~
over the door of the Temple

at Delphos, "Nothing
too Much"

You do well
in going to the Sewing
Society. Olyman seems
to be open to all good
influences, and those
of us who see these things
are pinned to our own
Idols. Unless God shall
awaken us we must
all perish together.

Have you Received
any money from the Boys
I think not. I do not
have sufficient money
now to pay all your

You need. But
I could send you
a dress by Express. If you
would just give me
a general idea of what
like a one you would
want. You can buy
shoes for yourself
better than I can.

If you have no
special desire to continue
the study of German it
would save some thing
to let it alone next term
But if you have again
said to your Teacher
that you are to continue
it, why do it

5
4 dollars for shoes
10 " for Music Lessons
6 " for German & Books
\$20 for Last term

Your tuition in
Normal Class, and Board
must be paid afterwards
or if it would be better,
which I think it might
to pay Board and Normal
Tuition say one half,
it would figure up to
12½ for Prof-

6 Last term's German and
Books,
4 for shoes

22 \$

the Remaining 22½ to be

paid at some
future time;

That is all I can
conveniently do at present
Besides lending you
a drop.

Write to me on
Receipt of this and state
to me all you think
of, in this Business.

That is, after you have
thought it carefully over.

I could lend you
5 dollars more if you
thought it would be
cheaper or better for you
to buy a drop for it.

Yoursself,

There is little
use in me repeating
to you my Parents, you
know that I do all this
in spite of my pecuniary
Conditions, in Hope and
Trust, that it will be
By the Blessing of God
for your Benefit.

I Received a letter
from your Uncle Robert
dated in December at Sea
off the Coast of Alabama
with the Banks Expedition.
He talks like a Soldier

Cheerily, The ¹Wife
that the two Berrells
had been received by his
wife, His Brother William
had joined his son in the
same company. all well -

I will make enquiries
soon in reference to a
School. I would rather
that you taught about
home this season -

Nelson sent a
letter to Tom yesterday
your Uncle Tom's children
have been sick with bad
colds all the time, only
Bob. He is recovering also

9th

We need not to expect
a letter from Tom or Willie
until the Enterprise they
have gone on has reached
its destination,

This attack
on Pickburg will be a
very severe battle -
or perhaps a series of them
and we need not wonder
if it should seriously
affect our family.

May God defend the
right -

I do not understand
you when you speak
of paying up your debts

to the Boys, what do
you owe them? You
have not received any
money from them, have you?
All that you have hitherto
received from me, has been
my own. as I could not
think for one moment
of making any charge
for you upon them.

Now as you
speak of Teaching Winter
School, I may be mistaken
But I think you are not
physically able for that

But as Ben
and President say,

"there is no use in
crossing Fox River until
we come to it"

I think well
of Mr Goldthwaits recommen-
dation of Botony to you
Let him select the proper
Book to use before you
leave school, and buy it
I always liked Botony
You can by it fill up much
 spare time in summer to
good advantage, I used to
be somewhat on the
subject, some 30 years ago
I preferred the Natural
system of Jussieu and
others, in preference to

The Classification of
Linneaus, the Professor
no doubt is acquainted
with them all and will
Guide you in your
selection of a Text Book
if your time had been given
to drawing last term
it would have suited
exactly. But you can
make an Herbarium

Now please to
write immediately
and be explicit in all
that you say -

I remain Yours
~~Affectionately~~
J Christie

Louisiana Miss River February 5th 1863

Dear Brother [Alexander] 'tis a long time since I wrote a letter to you, or any one of the family. But let me tell you if you were here, and I where you are, you would not be more likely to write any more than I do; and I would be more apt to write to you. Now let me tell you we don't feel very much encouraged down here, for there is not that energetic support of the Government in the North, that there should be, and the effect of the letters that come to the men in the various camps, are very bad, in their consequences, causing much dissatisfaction and grumbling. The Slizer, my Dear Brother is in the fence and casts his shadow over the whole land, or rather his past condition. There are thousands of men now in this army that think the President has gone too far, in doing as he has done, in giving the slaves their freedom, and the worst of it is the officers are quite free in showing their minds; and generally speaking they are against the Proclamation. I can't tell much about the outside world, for we get no papers and very little mail of any kind so we fluctuate between hope and fear, discussing the probable results of the Battle of Vicksburg — h, and the majority of the men I have heard talk we will have, the worst of it. There is diverse reports about the canal, you have heard so much about, I believe we have had one of the messenger boats through it. But as for the truth of the matter I can't say. On the second of this month, one of our ramms, ran past Vicksburg — h, and there was a very brisk cannoade kept up as she went. By, on her way down she ran into and destroyed one or two boats for the rebels; she had one or two shots struck her, we learn that the Eastern Army has gone into winter quarters, and that the rebels has been strongly reinforced. By troops from the army there. Braz, we hear has got a great accession to his army, and so has Lee, and Johnson, here. Banks we learn has been cut up badly, repulsed at Port Hudson so if these things are all true, and so much opposition north to the vigorous prosecution of the war also, is true

I ask you have we not reason: to feel as though all our sufferings were in vain, for we are surely suffering in many ways, not for want of food, or clothing. But there is a lack of good moral influences round us. The want of total (transpire) home enjoyments, and so from day to day the men grow weary of waiting. The slow movements, of our semisecret Generals. Men dwarfed in in morals. Men that would do anything that would prolong this war, or cause it to end in favor of secession. It really is no wonder that we do not succeed in our cause any better than we do, when the employees of the Government, are so full of sympathy for the traitors. It looks to me that the Nation is fast tending to the condition you spoke of in one of your letters to me, our Capt. says there is a milk and water Party rising in the north that will make the war futile in its results, But somehow I think it will rather be as you speak of, and that as trying as the ordeal may be we will come out of the fire as gold seven times tried. Truth and Justice, and Liberty triumphant, over all the Devilish machinations of the Present day. Now I am not dumfounded, neither is Tom, although the weather is none of the finest, being rather mousy at times. The River is rising and the drift wood looks very like the wreck of many vessels in a storm. Boats kelp, gliding up and down the River. But it is wonderful how soon we get used, to everything. we don't trouble ourselves to learn anything, or if we don't is very seldom we can learn the truth, so we wait and if we can get up a report, just for the fun of it. Now you must know or if you don't I will tell you that Tom and I are bound to do our whole duty by the Government, and if it is so that we fail, in gaining what we enlist for. At least, think if the Government is subverted, well, just walk over to the British mafeolies side of the line and stay there. But there is no use in thinking, the Government will be swamped, for just before day it is darkest. At least let us hope so, and so let us cheer up. Relying in the mercy as well as the Justice of God. For I think He is just serving this Nation as He would an individual that had been debauching

himself as we as a Nation have done, If it is the case that Banks has been repulsed at North Hudson, we in our company at least have come to the conclusion that Western troops are as good as the Western troops. There is a rumor in camp that it was the intention to run this Division past Vic. but only the captain would not run than crest, it was to be done in a fog. I think the plan is quite feasible as there are very heavy fogs on the river at times as heavy as the fogs of London. I guess, I for one would be willing to stand my chance among the company, in doing the run, if they could not hit the ram any more than twice in broad daylight. I think it is quite likely they would do but little damage. As to us in a fog. A Brigade of this Division has gone up stream to do guard duty, and keep the guerrillas from firing on our boats. The twentieth, regiment this vol. are down stream from us about five miles. But we can't get down, to see them and I suppose, they can't get up, to see us, so we might as well be five times five miles apart. Our Company as a general thing are in good health, and full of the Devil, or something else so having nothing more to write or rather being unable to write to you or Tom. I will quit by requesting you to write to me every long and interesting letter, give my love to all, and believe me ever your loving Brother William Christie

I have not had
a letter from Sarah
or any of you in a long
time, and I am getting
very anxious to hear
from you all. The last
letter we had was from
Sarah. I'm glad at

Memphis

February 6th 1863. Camp on Youngs
Point on the Mississippi R.

^{Dear J}

Dear Brother I Received your very welcome letter last night containing your handsome Present, of Pen. and Holder, also Mother's Present came to hand, And let me tell you that money, could not buy either of the rigs, we were the envy of all the gawking crowd, when your gift was opened to their sight, The letter I sent to yesterday was written in a way that might make you think I was in the Blues, I admit I was a little so, But in the afternoon we got some Papers, of the Herald, and although it cost a 25 cents to get a Paper yet we felt well paid, on account of the cheering news we received, in my last letter I stated to you that the 29th Nov. was down here, But I am mistaken, Tom is to blame, for that he would insist they were here But I was as certain that they were up the river at Hellenna, They were down at the taking of Arkansas Post, and I hope Tom Reid got through safe, we have no way of having any correspondence with him or I would write to him, They have projected a new Cannal, and they say it will be dug wide enough to allow a River Boat, to pass through and tis said that it could be dug in four days, You speak of hanging out, in such weather, Now I will give you a few extracts from my Journal to show what is what, On the 13th had to give up our tent to the quartermaster, and take the gun covers, fire under lock, wind in the south and

near
Black clouds in the sky, 14th commenced raining at midnight and has been raining incessantly ever since on guard to day and find it very disagreeable, wind S. E. D. E. Spongy ground and dripping sky makes mud very fast. The horses are standing up to their fetlocks in mud and are shivering with cold, wind changed to the N. W. At about noon 15th very cold weather, and a heavy fall of snow being laid down. Passed a very uncomfortable night on guard, on account having a poor place to sleep in. So you may that soldiering at times ~~is~~ not very nice. The snow fell to the depth of 8 or 10 inches and foot set in so having wet and cold to contend with. we looked for a place to sleep. I will now resume my journal that you may see another phase of our life, 15th moved about a mile from camp tonight and slept in a deserted house, the under part was used for horses, the men slept up stairs, wind North fine snow falling, The house was an elegant Building when we first saw it you may suppose what it looked like when we left it after the horses being in the various rooms for three days. 18th Roused out of bed this morning by our sergeant before daylight telling us to hurry for orders had come for us to be on board of the boat by eight o'clock. then commenced the bustle and excitement of moving, I was detailed as one of those who should stay to load the teams, every one worked lively and our Battery with all the trunks was quickly ready to move. There was a regular time of jesting among us on account of the officer in command of the 1st Mo. Battery the Brigade commandant that he could not move until his gun and harness, were thrown

out. we made our own fun out of it and our Battery was the first one ready to move, we had every thing down to town by ten o'clock all the caissons aboard and the baggage, shortly after we all came from camp and got the guns aboard, and the teams went off after for the Jennie Deans, is our Boat, the Kansas first Infantry are on the same Boat and we are crowded, made our beds on the beam of the Boat, others slept on the upper deck some under the Boilers and some on the cabin deck, early in the night it began to rain and all or most of us who were not under cover lay white. we were throughly soaked, Drunken men numerous, fighting frequent, and Black eyes common, wind South West, 19th Plush in the sheets. Plush on board. Plush everywhere, where Soldiers are allowed, the muddy river rolls on to the sea, the soaking rain falls incessantly and steamers whistle and puff from place to place on the levee, the Black gunboat lies midstream terrible to look at, and the few houses, on the Arkansas side ^{of the stream} look like specks of snow, Ice and logs, drift down the stream in great numbers and everything shows there has been a great extent of country under the storm cloud, that is dripping on us here, Drunkenness is on the increase, and the officers and men are using their fists quite freely, I think the officers are more to blame than the men, being very alvin and drawing their side arms, threatening to use them, and in some instances using them. Jim Macphister got foul of two Infantry officers, that was abusing one of them men, and he getting his scotch up hallooed them pretty well, our own officers use us well, and the Infantry officers trying to ride over us, found it would not pass so they give

Box Lake, Saturday Morning, Feb 8th/68,

My Dear Father, [James Christie]

I received yours

^{Thursday}
~~last~~ night and am sorry that I could not
get time to reply, till now, so that you must
get this, till Monday night. I hope that you
are all well. I have a little cold, and have
not felt just quite as well these last two or
three days as I could wish to, but I, of course
will be well enough as soon as I get over this
cold. Nothing serious. I don't suppose that any
one else would think I was not well, except
myself. I will now try and tell you
what has been going on this week. I am
doing well in all my studies, especially algebra,
here, you see I am now in two classes,
and both of them Prof's, not one of them
Miss Genney's as I expected. One of them
in his advance class, and the other the
advance review. The first one is in
complete Ognation, and uses "Davies Borelton" a

higher book, while the last is in Equations of the first degree, reviewing, I am studying my lesson in the higher with Dutton's now, as I have none, and as the price of the book is \$1.75 I can not think of getting it, though I would like to get one before going home, sometime in the spring. The books have awful prices up here. I gave a great deal higher than in Watertown.

In Philosophy we have for our lesson on Monday "The General Properties of Heat" 10 pages in advance and 10 in review, and we have to go and draw all the figures on the board and explain. I took up my German again on Tuesday, as you thought I had better go on with it. I will send you in this, the questions of our Normal Examination, all excepting the one on Rhetoric or Composition, the questions of which were written on the board.

I have marked the ones which I answered, and Prof. told me that I had answered on an average $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent correctly, on some I answered all the five correctly, and

others not so many. Sandy can work out the answers to them all, if he likes, I did every one in Mental Arithmetic, correctly, also Physiology, Physical Geography, Grammar, and History. I want you to keep them as I have no more of them. Let Helen see them.

I was at a funeral yesterday afternoon of one of the Soldiers of the 29th who went in the Company from here in the fall. I saw him before he went. He came to the College to school. Frank Cady, his name was, a son of Old Father Cady, a Baptist Minister, Cogswell Hayes knew him, I guess. When he left in the fall, he was a strong, healthy looking young man, full of life and vigor, he was taken with a fever south, and sent to a hospital in St. Louis. Some of his friends in the Regt. wrote home and his Brother went down for him, but did not find him for two weeks, as no one knew what hospital he was sent to, and he was delirious, so he could not write. He was so weak when found, that his brother, could

not bring him home, till he gained some more strength and then he brought him as far as Beaversdam, when his strength gave out on the road, and he died two miles this side of Beaversdam. His father said that if they had brought home his body from the south he would not have owned it as his Frank he was so changed. The funeral was largely attended there being over 600 people at it.

Last evening I went to the Sewing Society for the Soldiers, Mattie Dye and myself. It was held this week at the house of Mr. Barnes, the father-in-law of O. J. Lindberg. I remembered all the evening and brought home two pairs of drawers to make vests if I can, as they want to send the box on Monday. I have not heard from the boys since getting that letter from Sandy, of J. D's. But I suppose there is not time yet for a letter. You wish to know if I had received any money from them. I have not since I came here, but I had supposed that the money for this last term would be paid by them, for I can not see where you are to get money for it. The last letter I wrote to them, I told them that I wanted them to pay it, as I thought that you would not be able, and told them of my owing for German books and lessons and Philosophy, and wanted them instead of you to pay them. But I see by their letter to Sandy, that they do not have it. I expect a letter from them on Monday or Tuesday evening, I think, and if I get one I will send it to you and if you get any I want you to send them to me. I think that if I do not get one on Monday or Tuesday I will

soon anyway, for I have dreamed so much about them there two last nights. Last night I dreamed I saw them going down the river in boats, and Tom was steering one, and singing "Canadian Boat Song", and I called out to Van Horn to "look at the Soldiers," and she waked me up. So I did not see where they landed, so that was what I was trying to see. We ought not to look at what may happen, but trust in God. I feel that I can. He has been exceedingly merciful to us so far. There is hardly one family in six, but what has been visited by affliction, brought on by the war, here in Fox Lake, and just look at our own neighbors at home the Remmays and Dimpseys, while they had but one in the army, that one is among the killed. We have two and they are both safe as yet. I think we have very great reason to be thankful, but

how long the boys will be left to us we cannot tell, It almost seems to me sometimes that both of them cannot come unscathed out of another battle, But we must wait with patience. Sometimes when I think of it, it almost seems that I could not continue to thank God if they were taken, and then I am almost afraid that in judgment on me for my wicked and rebellious thoughts, that both of them will be killed, I wonder if anyone else ever thinks such things.

About teaching school in the winter I think that I can, for I have kept in health here and I know that I have worked harder mentally than I would need to teaching, and as to other things such as the cold, and large boys and girls to deal with, I am pretty sure I can manage all that. But I must tell you that I have had some very serious thoughts of going to be an army nurse, if the war continues another year or two, I hear such

stories of the ill usage of the poor soldier by Nurses and Doctors, that I think there is the more need of better ones, and if our boys were wounded and had to go into a hospital, do you not think that it would be my duty to go and take care of them, Now I just want you to tell me what you think about it, supposing such were the case, I think that I am now old enough to know what is right, and to take care of myself, and also I hope to do some good to others, if I try hard. Now this is no new whim for I have thought of it for the past 8 or 10 months seriously, just to think of the thousands of precious lives which are being lost daily for lack of proper care,

I am glad to hear that you have received a letter from Uncle Ned, and I suppose you have answered it, if I knew where he was, I think I would write to him. Uncle William and Robert are at Fort Royal yet I suppose

I think the way you say about the money
will do very well, only I would rather buy
the dress for myself. I was down Friday
morning at one of the stores, and found
I could get a dress of dark blue, merino
I believe it is, and it just suited me and
get trimmings and everything for \$5.00 and
then I can get the maid cut and make
for .50 more, and I would rather it was that
way, for I have not time to make it all myself.
So I would rather you send the money, and
let one get it myself, and then it would
cost something to send by Express. We also
need another gal. of Sherasene .50 cts of which
I will have to pay. I was speaking to Prof. and
he says he can wait - for the rest till near
the end of the term, along the last of March,
or first of April. I am in expectation of
a long letter from Sarah either Monday
or Tuesday night. I suppose Master David is
so taken up with the fractions or something
else that he has entirely forgotten me, you
can assure him that I am in the land of
the living yet and send him my love, give
my love to Grammother and Helen, give
the rest of the folks, not forgetting Grammother
double postage on this letter. If I string out my
letters much longer it will not pay for me
to write often. No more. At present
Your loving daughter,
Sarah

Fox Lake, Wis.

Sunday evening, Feb. 1st 1883.

Dear Brother, Alex,

I have stayed at home this evening, from Church as it is very stormy, with the rest of the girls. They are all down in the living room having a sing, and, as probably, I will not have time tomorrow, I will now give you a few lines in answer to yours which I received with H.P.'s enclosed on Friday evening I believe. This is the first Sabbath which I have broken, by writing, for many months. Bro. Prof. said that he thought that I would not be doing very wrong to write home or to a brother in the Army, for he said what was true, that if I was not writing to them I would be thinking about them anyway. I have not anything "special" to write, but it

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Sunday evening, Feb. 9th A.D. 1863.

Dear Brother, Alex,

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just does me good, to sit down and scribble of a lot of stuff, to some of you home-folks. It relieves me you know, just like an old gossip when she wants to tell something, she feels hindered, till she can confide it to some of her dear friends.

I hope that you are all in good health, and that Father has stopped using the "Need," which, I think, would soon restore him to better, if not perfect health. You don't know how anxious I have been about him lately. I keep thinking about him all the time and then at night I must dream about him. I do wish that he would take better care of himself, and try to get into a better state of health. I want you all to be particularly careful just now, as I think that this will turn out a very unhealthy season. The winter

is too open, for health, I am still enjoying good health, and eating heartily. But you ought to see how I put into bread and milk when I can get hold of it. Sometimes we get milk if we wish for it at supper time, but it is very seldom not oftener than once in three weeks. You know how I used to dislike it at home. But here, lots of times, I would give anything for a real good drink of it. I am Horn, and I have just been picturing to ourselves how good all of the home victual will taste when we get there. For though all our food is of the very best quality, yet it is "boarding out," not the real homey, famel' food we get at home. Today for dinner we had roast fowl of some kind and rich gravy to it, and I thought to myself how much sweeter it would taste if Mother had prepared it.

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decide in favor of the latter. Sometimes
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out of sight. Talking about how much
they remind us of home things, I tell you
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for of course when I get through
flattering, you will know just as
much about them as you did before.

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this term, and we have had
several new boarders come in
also a good many new gentlemen
for scholars, some excellent good
ones, and smart among them.

Abbott and I did not go down to
Mr. German's school today as we
thought we would, as it was so
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only serve to make me tired and
homesick so I stayed here.

I want you to give my love to Ellen
and Grandmother and tell me how
they are all getting along. Little Willie
too how much I would like to see
him and Jane. for when I think
if one of them the other comes up too,
always associated together in my
mind. I wonder what mischief
they have been up to today. Tell
me all about how Jane and Willie
too are getting on with their several
studies. I guess they know how to
play pins, or ball, a good deal better
than how to do an example in Arithmetic
but maybe they are better putting into

it this Winter, studying real hard
for they are such unaccountable
young gentlemen that a person
cannot tell one minute, what
they will do the next. I hope that
you have got out of your trouble
in algebra, if not tell me what
it is and very likely I can help
you. Where are you in Trigonometry;
and how do you get on in Grammar
if you are studying it? I shall have
to put you through on that when
I get home, and Jane too for he
is old enough to learn to study
it, and put it in practice too.

I tell you what Sunday I am
calculating on having a splen-
did good time with you and Jane
when I get home. You must learn
to sing to both of you. So we can
all sing together, and Mother and Willie.
Tell me how Grandmother's head is
doing. Give her my love, and the

gone down to her Uncle's to stay over Sunday, and Little Robinson went with her, he lives somewhere near Lowell. She said she would go to Uncle David's. She wanted me to go, but I thought that it would only serve to make me tired and homesick so I stayed here.

I want you to give my love to Ellen and Grandmother and tell me how they are all getting along. Little Willie too, how much I would like to see him and Jane, for when I think of one of them the other comes up too, always associated together in my mind. I wonder what mischief they have been up to today. Tell me all about how Jane and Willie too are getting on with their several studies. I guess they know how to play pins, or ball, a good deal better than how to do an example in Bracton's. Maybe they are better putting into

it this Winter, studying real hard for they are such unaccountable young gentlemen that a person cannot tell one minute, what they will do the next. I hope that you have got out of your trouble in Algebra, if not tell me what it is, and very likely I can help you. Where are you in Criticism? and how do you get on in Grammar if you are studying it? I shall have to put you through on that when I get home, and Jane too, for he is old enough to learn to study it, and put it in practice too.

I tell you what Sunday I am calculating on having a splendid good time with you and Jane when I get home. You must learn to sing to both of you. So we can all sing together, and Ellen and Willie. Tell me how Grandmother kind is being. Give her my love, and the

rest of the family. Tell me too about
the Emmons and the Suttons. How
is Sarah getting along, does she go
to school, but I suppose I need not
ask you, for I bet anything you do not
mention anything about her in your
next. Will tell Dave to tell one if
you won't and my old friend Mary
Dunn Colwell, does she still come to
school, to "Laugh and grow fat."

Now give my love to everybody in
Cheney, ~~but nothing~~ I suppose you
were astonished when you got Father's letter
with so many one cent stamps stuck
on but that was what O. J. Lindsay
did just for mischief. I sent it down
with three on it, and as it overweighed
he put on three more, for to have something
original he told me. Now I want you
to write and give me all the news
you can think of and more if possible.

I wait Right from your loving sister

Sarah White

Many thanks for the pen. Be sure they will never be complaining of want of short. Clayton is cleared out and expects his contribution at our Post-attempt required.
Dec. Done to write, and King William also, Kinross & that also may be "our" cases come of any of them and some of them have been sent to the printer for the pen.

Near Lake Providence La.
February 12th 1863.

My Dear Sandy,

Having again changed camp I will take time to post you up in our affairs, as I know you like to hear from us at regular periods, even if you do not write once a month.

We left our last camp on the 9th and embarking on the Steamer Edward Walsh came up the river to this point which we reached early in the morning of the 10th. Disembarked immediately and proceeded out to our present camping ground, some four miles S.W. of the town of Lake Providence and on the bank of the fine sheet of water of that name.

This lake is not down on the maps that I have seen, although it is quite large, and has communication with Red River, some 200 miles south.

We are working at the head of it to turn the

water of the Mississippi into
an ~~old~~ channel that once connected
the river and the lake, all that is
to be done is to cut the two levees, and
there will be a fall of about 20 ft. in
the mile that divides the river from
the lake. By this method you
see, our gunboats can get in their
rear, and do a great deal of good on
the bayous and lakes of the interior.

There is quite a force of rebel cavalry
near us, and the First Kansas had a
sharp skirmish with them on the
day we came in here, taking about
30 prisoners, and losing 2 killed and
several wounded.

Details of our
Infantry are mounted every short mile
in a while and scout the country for
miles, and they are as good as twice
the number of Cavalry, ~~and~~ ^{for} mounted
on their mules and supernumerary
horses drive the Rebs wherever they find
them. Many an amusing story is
told in camp, of the way some con-
terprising Doughboy (as we call them) moun-
ted on an old mule without saddle, and

armed only with his rifle, has run
down, fought with, and captured a
Guerrilla, shot gun, revolver, fine horse
and all. They make splendid
troopers, although a column of them
travelling by is the most laughable sight
in the world, with their rope bridles
and stirrups, and their bad horsemanship
or rather mulemanship.

I had an adventure the other
day in coming up to camp from the boat
with the battery, that considerably ad-
ded to my reputation. We were march-
ing in column up the side of the Lake,
when irregular firing was heard in front,
and we could see our coming up that
it was caused by the tempting target
of a couple of large Brent Ducks who
were out in the water, about 200 yds
from shore, swimming around and
not seeming to heed the showers of balls
that fell all around them.

This was too much for me, so I begged
Wiltse, who was in the caisson, and
has a Whitney rifle that he jayhawked
from the Kansas boys, to jump off and

It will be in receiving a letter, signed with this afternoon and so if your con-
science is easy with the thought of having done your duty to your country,
that is by answering its demands better, and may expect more soon.

have a crack at them, as it was a disgrace to our men to make such shooting. This he refused to do, as the Officer of the Day was near by, and had ordered the firing to cease.

I then borrowed the rifle of him, and pumped off the Cannon, with many aspirations from the boys to sustain the honor of the Battery. Resting the heavy piece in the crotch of a China tree, and aiming immovably at the remembrance of the time when I was a 'sharpshooter,' and

used to crack away at squirrels, I took care full sight at the duck, aiming low, and steadily pulled trigger. Immediately a great shout arose from our column, and looking through the smoke I could see the old snake killed over on his side and floating dead. The Infantry who lined the shore looked astonished and somewhat crestfallen at the idea of the "little artillery company" beating them at their own weapon, and our men were proportionately delighted.

I had a pretty good reputation with the revolver, and am now fully acknowledged as the crack shot of the company. I was glad myself that I had not forgotten my skill with the rifle, for this is the first shot gun I have fired at a live mark since leaving the Chickens of Abim.

We have a great many boats here and I sail and bathe every day. Of course you may know that I am well and in excellent spirits. No paper for half I could write.
Tomme.

We were with us receiving a letter, expect more this afternoon and so if your country-
men is every with the thought of having done your duty to your country,
that is by answering it. Defenders letters, you may expect more soon.

have a crack at them, as it was a disgrace to our men to make such shooting. This he refused to do, as the Officer of the Day was near by, and had ordered the firing to cease.

I then borrowed the rifle of him, and jumped off the Caisson, with many aspirations from the boys to sustain the honor of the Battery. Reaching the heavy piece in the crotch of a China tree, and aiming immovably at the remembrance of the time when I was a 'sharpshooter,' and used to crack away at squirrels; I took careful sight at the duck, aiming low, and steadily pulled trigger. Immediately a great shout arose from our column, and looking through the smoke I could see the old snake keeled over on his side and floating dead. The Infantry who lined the shore looked astonished and somewhat crestfallen at the idea of the "little artillery corporeal" beating them at their own weapon, and our men were proportionately delighted.

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I was glad myself that I had not forgotten my skill with the rifle, for this is the first shot gun I have fired at a live mark since leaving the Chickens of Him. We have a great many boats here and I sail and bathe every day. Of course you may know that I am well and in excellent spirits. No paper for half I could write.
Thomas.

Near Lake Providence La.
February 13th 1863.

My Dear Sister, [Sarah J. Christie,

Clyman, W. Va.]

Your sermon is read with much interest, it being your first effort ^{in that line}, I was anxious, and rather doubtful of your abilities in exhorting.

But now I am admonished that you do not turn your talents for the pulpit to account by turning itinerant preacher, or even army chaplain, and thus equipping hundreds as you have me.

Seriously; my Dear Sarah, I am distressed at your anxiety for my moral welfare, I did not think you considered me such a sinner as I appear to be by your homily; always congratulating myself on being rather a good fellow, who stood a pretty good chance for promotion in the ascending ranks of moral progression,

Now I know this to have been

New Lake Providence La.
February 18th 1863.

My Dear Sister, [Sarah, Charlotte,
Clyman, Wm.] Your sermon is
read with much interest, it be-
ing your first effort, ^{in that line} I was anx-
ious, and rather doubtful of your
abilities in exhorting.

But now I am admonished that
you do not turn your talents for
the pulpit to account by touring
itinerant preacher, or even army
chaplain, and thus edifying
hundreds as you have me.

Seriously; my Dear Sarah, I am
distressed at your anxiety for my
moral welfare, I did not think
you considered me such a sin-
ner as I appear to be by your homi-
ly, always congratulating my-
self on being rather a good fel-
low, who stood a pretty good chance
for promotion in the ascending
rank of moral progression,
How I know this to have been

all self-righteousness in itself
is a deadly sin.

No, no, sister mine, when I am
convinced it will be through sound
and philosophical reasoning, and
not by mere appeals to my affec-
tions or propensities; that is, I
must be reached through the in-
tellect, and not the heart.

Whenever I can be convinced by
a good logical argument of the
truth of the Christian plan of
Redemption, I stand ready to
adopt the Christian life, knowing
as I do, the happiness that there
is in it, and the advantage there
is in having a sure and consis-
tent guide to conduct through the
physical existence.

To tell the truth, our
mode of life is not favorable to mor-
al development, and there is a
decided antagonism between the
feelings that prompt us to direct
our shot and shell where they

will tear off the most ~~that~~ ^{stealing} head
and limb, and those ~~that~~ ^{stealing}
that tell us all men are brothers,
and should be treated with Christian
charity and kindness.

I am very much pleased that you
are living religiously, for after
all, I believe you are right, although
I can't see through some things
in your system.

Our Division has
moved camp from the Bayou to
this point, where we are in
position on the shore of this
beautiful lake, and about 4 miles
back from the little French town
of Lake Providence where our men
are opening an old channel con-
necting the river and the lake,
which will allow our boats to
pass down to Red River by way of
the lakes and bayous of the interior.
Camp here is very pleasant, overlook-
ing a fine sheet of water, with
opportunities to boat, fish, and

all self-righteousness in itself
is deadly sin.

No, No, sister mine, when I am
converted it will be through sound
and philosophical reasoning, and
not by vague appeals to my affec-
tional propensities; that is, I
must be reached through the in-
tellect, and not the heart.

Whenever I can be convinced by
a good logical argument of the
truth of the Christian plan of
Redemption, I stand ready to
adopt the Christian life, knowing
as I do, the happiness that there
is in it, and the advantage there
is in having a sure and con-
fident guide to conduct through the
physical existence.

To tell the truth, our
mode of life is not favorable to moral
development, and there is a
decided antagonism between the
feelings that prompt us to direct
our shot and shell where they

will tear off the most ~~that~~ head
and limbs, and those ~~teaching~~
that tell us all men are brothers,
and should be treated with Christian
charity and kindness.

I am very much pleased that you
are living religiously, for after
all, I believe you are right, although
I cast all through some things
in your system.

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moved camp from the Bayou to
this point, where we are in
position on the shore of this
beautiful lake, and about 4 miles
back from the little French town
of Lake Providence where our men
are opening an old channel con-
necting the river and the lake,
which will allow our boats to
pass down to Red River by way of
the lakes and bayous of the interior.
Camp here is very pleasant, overlook-
ing a fine sheet of water, with
opportunities to boat, fish, and

I have
laughed
a watch
from a
forward
and so
your case
use my
other shoe
I am
compelled
to have
a time-
keeper to
post the
reliefs by
when on
guard.

battle, and the men enjoy
themselves first-rate.

All are in good health except
our Lieut. Allen, poor fellow,
who is not expected to live long.
He was a private 6 months ago,
then a corporal, and during the
battle at Corinth directed his
piece with skill and effect until
severely wounded through the shoul-
der. For bravery there we made
him orderly Sergeant, and af-
terwards 2^d Lieutenant, but a
chronic Diarrhea has afflicted him
all the campaign and now he is
lying very low in the hospital boat.

I am in receipt of a
letter from Helen tonight that de-
lighted me. She is a good writer,
and her style is easy and pleasant,
but she is second to you in affection-
ate gossip.

To speak fairly, I
prize your epistles for gossip mostly,
and the more piquant the better,
Tattoo has blown and I must bid, Yours,

I want
to have
a time-
keeper to
post the
reliefs by
when on
guard.

battle, and the men enjoy
themselves first-rate.

All are in good health except
our Lieut. Allen, poor fellow,
who is not expected to live long.
He was a private 6 months ago,
then a corporal, and during the
battle at Corinth directed his
piece with skill and effect until
severely wounded through the shoul-
der. For bravery there we made
him orderly Sergeant, and af-
terwards a lieutenant, but a
chronic Diarrhea has afflicted him
all the campaign and now he is
lying very low in the hospital boat.

I am in receipt of a
letter from Helen tonight that de-
lighted me. She is a good writer,
and her style is easy and pleasant,
but she is second to you in affection-
ate gossip. To speak fairly, I
prize your epistles for gossip mostly,
and the more piquant the better.
Patton has blown and I must to bed. Yours,



[Miss S. J. Christie]

Feb 14 1863

Chas. Dodge & Co W.B.

Dear Sister I write to let you
know that we are all in good
health hoping you the same
Sandy received letter from
William Dated February 6
The boys are still at the
same place yet the
Drafted men has gone
South though a great
many of them have
Deserted David the house
among The rest I have
been going ^{to} school
and I am getting

new



Long first rate
I am nearly through
Compound numbers
we had a spelling
School Thursday night
From Henry Hayes and
James Walsh felt well his family on Wednesday
both great and small and they went home on
down and they spoke
Pieces to we had a good
time Willie Reid was
over he is a pretty good
scholar Robert Reid has
been very sick.
Father and mother

Went into Watertown
yesterday and the cars
it has rained most
all day we had a visit
from Henry Hayes and
James Walsh felt well his family on Wednesday
both great and small and they went home on
Thursday I was over there
on Christmas and stayed
3 days shooting I had
a first ^{rate} time Henry
likes bob and brite
first rate they are so
handy I had my
steers yoked up



The other day and
hitched them into my
Sleigh and went
over as far ^{as} the big hill
and met Father who
at The Station and
he rode home on The little
Sleigh and I tell you
what went first rate:
now thinge must
be after. Excusing
yer friend but bedad
I must be goin to bed
This bive lovin I remain
your loving brother David Christie

[James Christie]

Lake Providence, La; February 16th 1863.

Dear Father. I have not written a letter ~~from~~ you in a long time, and I think it must be equally long since, you wrote to me, every mail that comes, I look for a letter. But my looking is all in vain, We are having a spell of wet, weather just now, and very warm, The Peach trees are in bloom, and the grass has commenced to make its self into a beautiful green carpet, The weather has been so warm since the gloves Mother sent her Boys, came, ^{that} we have had no use for them, But nevertheless, It would be as much as any one could do, to get the Gloves from us, I am sometimes very dubious, about the Final of this war, on account of the rumors that are current in camp, For instance we hear that the Governor of your State, has refused to send any more troops into the Field, and has also agreed to attend a certain, convention to be held, at Louisville, Kentucky, or Nashville Tennessee, Ill. is in the same creed, and we are always hearing of discontent among the People, on account of the Presidents Proclamation, giving the Blacks there Liberty, We learned yesterday, also that there was a mutiny among the Officers and men, at New Orleans, on account of there being Black troops raised there and being put into the field, I know it is grievous among ourselves, down here, to see men, forget everything but there Prejudices, on the slavery question And as a general thing our officers are worse than the Privates; often sending away the damned niggers, when the men would keep them, It really looks as though the People of the North, would forgive everything rather than be just to themselves, or the Negro, Assuredly slavery has been, a greater evil to this Country, than the Snake, the foolish Blacksmith, in the Fable, took into his house, to warm, but the Smith had no compunction, to kill the Perky, thing when it commenced, biting at him, But some how this accursed thing slavery has got such a hold of the People, that they seem to be willing, to sacrifice every thing to its insatiable maw, Can it be possible that such things are so, in this age of the world, a whole Nation willing to give up every thing, that would enable it, for the sake of slavery, it would seem so, for soldiers of every rank, are either Deserters, or traitors, and the men brag that a Deserter cant be brought back, and we see, that men who have been high in command, go unchanged, when they richly, Deserve, the rope. It seems to me, that our government, is taking too much heed to that small sentence found in the Bible Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord, I will pay, ^{venge to your motto} The Powers that be, seem to forget that God does use men to administer his vengeance, at times, and it certainly, seems that He should give them a thorough taste of his Power

By saunging down on them in regular reel, ^{skitting}
as a lictor, of the Most High. If you could only see ^{Tasbyin,} the Corruption that
that Prevails among every grade of Commissioned Officers, the Villanies that are
Praticed, Darkies Cheated out of there Pay By there ^{who are commissioned officers,} Masters, Companies funds embezz-
eled By the same hands, Whiskey gouged, from the Pirates, and used to drunk
up By the Officers over there cards and what is still worse, these things
are Praticed in the Hospitals, by the Surgeon, and Stewards, and it is in a
very few Instances that the many Delicacies provided By the Soldiers Friends
North, ever reach the Poor sick Soldier, and in the words of my Partner
and Bedfellow. I exclaim "The whole thing, is so corrupt, it ought to be
Dummed," I am ashamed to tell you what is done By Portions of our troops
in the way of Stealing, and Mawracking, for you would scarcely believe
that such men could be in our army, there is one thing that to a certain
extent palliates the worst cases, I know of, they are Perpetrated By
Kansas and Missouri Troops, Now I have given you a slight view behind
the scenes, a Peek into the Green Room, I need not tell you how
why our Division is here, for it is likely the Papers have told you all
about it, if not it aint Best for me to say for Perhaps I dont know, we
never see any Papers now, I should judge By the monstrous Prices of
raw cotton, that you would have to Pay very high Prices, for cloth of that
material. Now dont you think it would Pay you to have more Wheat
than you have and some less, grain and more grass, But Perhaps you have
been thinking of these things, and I have not the least doubt you know
Best, I would like you or Alexander to write a long letter to me or Jim
giving a lucid statement of things just as either of you see them from
your stand point, in fact give us a digest of the movements
of the People, as regards the war, for I assure you it is very discourag-
ing, to us Poor Devils in the field to think of more enemies North,
than we have South at least more hurtfull ones, But let us hope that
that God will Bring us out of this trial conquerors, although it
looks as though the West and the South, would combine against the
East and Barter off Truth and Justice, for Slavery and the Dollars
it makes, I Believe in your last letter to us you stated, that you had
made up your mind, to let Sarah go to School, and we or rather
son, got a letter from her, she seem very happy, One of our Boys just
told us that our Pickets has Brought in a gurrellies Neger, he was taken
at home by information given By a Negro, or Negroes, they gave our
knowledge of his whereabouts, so he was captured within five miles of
our Pickets at home, yet after all the help the Darkies give us
they are damned and abused, more By the Sons of Erin, than By any other
Class, But I suppose you are tired or Perhaps you wont have time
to read any more, if I should write it, so hoping this will find you
in as good health, as we are, I sign myself your loving son
write soon,
William L. Christie

Clyman, Dodge Co. Wis.

Feb. 17th 1863.

My Dear Sister, [Miss Sarah J. Christie]

I take pen in hand again, to answer yours of Saturday which duly came to hand last night.

Now, what am I to write? that's the first question, - for there is a dearth of news and miscellany. First then, I will answer the questions which you put to me in your other letter.

As to Willie and Dave (taken in conjunction) they are getting along first-rate, - but to be minute I must particularize their progress separately.

Not only has Willie "turned over a new leaf" this winter, but he has turned over so many that I find him near the end of Ray's Arithmetic, and trying to "pose" me with Arithmetical Progression. He has turned out ^{to be} the best chap in his class without exception.

Dave is getting on pretty well, but the Teacher don't take the right way of teaching him. He is in the second class, and at the beginning of Fractions having gone through Compound Numbers. Now, they have to get all the Rules and receding-matter by heart, whether

they understand the Principle or not and by the time they get a rule or two, they have forgotten as many more. I show him at night some, and by that means he is making considerable progress.

He has been very industrious, and had he been taught in the right manner he would have been half-way through the book.

As to "Sandy's" progress in the Exact Sciences, I will say for him, that he has been looking over the Arithmetics and considers himself "crack" in that Department. He got through with Algebraic Division and the "Greatest Common Divisor."

He hasn't been to School any, and don't no anything about Grammar and such like.

We had a Spelling-School some time ago, and a first-rate one it was. Willie spoke ~~at~~ ^{of} Andy Jackson's famous Proclamation. "Big Jim" spelt it all down. There is going to be another next week.

Mary Ann Colivel don't come to School this winter, but she was at the S. School, and looks to be in good health. All the Buttons are well - at least John said so, and of course that includes Sarah.

John Dermody was down on furlough last week, from Fort Ridgely. He is in good health, and looks just as he used to. He was at the Battle of Birch Coulee. Says after the first rounds and war-whoops, he didn't think any more of it than if he had been hoeing taters. He helped to bury great numbers of the poor Settlers.

Bill Derven was severely wounded in the leg at Newfreestown.

He expects to come home shortly as the limb is rendered almost useless. He says that the Surgeons wanted to amputate as it was six days before they got to him.

Perhaps I have never told you that there is another family in St. Ramsay's house.

He has gone to live with his father and let the farm to a man named Newcome who used to live near John Ford in Watertown. He comes from Maine. Some of the children come to School.

James Emerson has been down at his son's Jim's all winter. He recently got a letter from William Stewart, and part of it written by Susanna. They are living

at Placerville. Says he is getting along well, and has written several times, directing to Ennet: this one he sent to Clyman. Susanna is going to the High School, and has got as far as Algebra and Book-Keeping.

Dave Waterhouse was one of the poltroons who deserted on the occasion of the Drafts exit from the State. I'll honor to Ed that he did not when he might have. They have gone to the vicinity of Pickburg under the title of 34th Wis.

I received a letter from William on the 14th dated the 5th: no additional news.

Now Sarah, wait this letter long enough for one? I can not think of anything more. I will tell Helen to write to you when I see her - that is, if she wants to.

I have looked over them questions and consider them "hard cases"

You haven't been to College for no purpose if you can answer them.

I sign myself
your Affectionate Brother,
Samdy.

Saturday, Feb. 11th 1862.

My Dear Brother, [Alexander]

I received your long and welcome letter, with Dave's yesterday morning, and now sit down to answer, yours anyway, if I can. I will write to Father and Dave on Monday. I am glad to hear that you are all in usual health as I am, (of course) I hope you are long continue so. I have not any news of consequence to tell except that I went down to the Barber's shop last evening after school, and had my "head shingled," as my hair cut. (I meant to say) I feel so much better without it that I am not at all sorry, and the way it is cut, becomes me too, and you know, that is one great consideration. They all tell me that I look better, than I did before, and Prof. calls me "Sonny Johnny." Last evening a lot of us went down to see Mr and Mrs Prof. and he made me sit on Jimmy's little chair beside him, and stroked my head and called me "Johnny, Sonny." They all have lots of fun over it, but the most of the girls have their the same, and one here a good many of them named Jimmy's Jimmy's and Harry's. But the

Saturday Feb. 21st A. D. 1863,

My Dear Brother, [Alexander]

I received your long and welcome letter, with Dave's yesterday morning, and now sit down to answer, yours anyway, if I can. I will write to Father and Dave on Monday. I am glad to hear that you are all in usual health as I am, (of course) I hope you may long continue so. I have not any news of consequence to tell except that I went down to the Barber's shop last evening after school, and had my "head shingled," or my hair cut. (I meant to say) I feel so much better without it that I am not at all sorry, and the way it is cut, becomes me too, and you know, that is one great consideration. They all tell me that I look better, than I did before, and Prof. calls me "Sonny Johnny." Last evening a lot of us went down to see Mr and Mrs Prof. and he made me sit on Jimmy's little chair beside him, and stroked my head and called me "Johnny, Sonny." They all have lots of fun over it, but the most of the girls have theirs the same, and we have a good many of them named Jimmy's Jimmy's and Harry's. But the

girls say that my name shall be Willie, and told Prof. so. So some call me that, and some Johnny, I don't believe you would know me if you saw me. A prof. said this morning, "I bet he wouldn't know me, if he met me on a dark night." I wonder what Father will say to it, but I like it so well that I have made up my mind to keep it so, till I get through studying.

You can tell Father that I received his note and the money on Monday last - I will write to him, the first of the week, and Dave too. I had, and Dan Steam, lots of fun over his letter, and one she got the same day, from her little brother George, 10 years of age. Dave's letters always do me more good than any I get.

I was quite happy to hear of him and Willie turning over so many new leaves, and if that will but continue, what they do go over, it will be first-rate. I suppose that Robert is taking the method of teaching he learned up at Beversdam, and the way they do here, but I guess he will find out as I have often heard Prof. say, that I won't work in a District School, among young children. Why their undisciplined minds, cannot get hold of so much at once. I should think he might know better, than to think that Dave for instance, can understand principles or learn anything by making him commit to memory so much. It is practice and

illustration that such pupils want. They cannot learn anything from mere abstract ideas. It is only cultivating the memory, instead of the reasoning powers, as should be done in the teaching of Arithmetic. Mental Arithmetic is the thing for Dave. Learn him to analyze for himself, and he will do well. He should be in such a class, instead of the one he is in. Even if both Willie and him can do all the examples and problems by rule, it does not amount to much if they are not taught the principles of the thing. As for you, of course you will know just what is right for yourself. You have done well in Algebra to be alone, if I had not had a teacher I never could have gone through that. I wonder if you can explain, about changing the signs in Subtraction. That puzzled me for a long time. I would like to have been at the Spelling School with you. So "Big Jim," is taking my place, and Gorn's. I thought he would if you or Willie did not stop him. That is strange to hear of Susanna Stewart studying Algebra and bookkeeping, what a little thing she was when she went away, but of course we were little too, and I expect that there has been as great a change wrought in us, as in her. I want you to be careful of those "hard cases" as you call them, as I don't have another set. I wonder if School will be out by then I get home, I should so

much like to see it - This winter, I am so glad, that I will
be home so soon, only 1 more week, and then I am
free, Dan and I count every day, till the time comes.
Such a nice time a lot of us will have going home,
there is "Dan," "Perry," the two Dye girls, "Humphrey" and
"Doddle" - and "Liesring," and myself all going to Winona
together, and then Mrs Humphrey, and Liesring, and myself go
south together, the last two live in Monroe, in Green Co. They
both take Singing Lessons, and are great friends of mine, both
real smart, and both married about a year ago. Mrs Liesring's
husband is an "Aide" to Gen. Seigel, and Humphrey's is Capt.
of the 6th Battery. Liesring's husband is a German, so she is
in our German Class studying the Language. ~~She~~ ~~are~~
But I was just thinking of going into a long story about
them and others of the girls, but I can tell you all the wonder
when I get home and save paper. But "Liesring" and I get together
half an hour every evening for the express purpose of stringing
out a story, as "Castle in the air," which we are building, and
I can tell you, we have lots of fun over it, the rest of our "Clubs"
come in and listen to us, and it just reminds one of the
"left off." I suppose you will think we are very silly, but we
derive lots of comfort from it. Now I have filled a sheet
of paper and not said anything after all, but you must remem-
ber that I write lots of letters, and get out of material, sometimes
as I cannot get facts and news to fill up, of course I
must just talk the rest. We are going to have the Dime
Society at the College on Friday evening, and expect to
have a good time. Faremore from your loving Sister, Sarah

[Feb 26, 1780]

My dear Mother
[unclear]

I received your letter of the 19th and was
glad with great pleasure you are improving
in your handwriting for, and so far in com-
position as your letter shows.

I think you must be studying well, there is
no sign you do not go to school as your letters
are of considerable improvement.

The weather since we arrived is very interesting
and I am glad to see that you still con-
tinue the observations. Here we have
just passed through the greatest rain storm
that I ever saw, lasting since yesterday noon
to nearly noon today, and as a consequence,
we were more flooded with water this forenoon
to the depth of some 6 inches or more.

We are all in usual good health,
withstanding the weather, and expect to con-
tinue so at least as long as the snow holds
and other things require our attention; when
the snow melts it is a dangerous sign, and
a measure of fitness for Dea is judged by the ex-
tent of his achievements at the skis.

Now will observe that we have now reversed
the old rule that prevailed while before Corinto
where it was expected that a well man would
eat two rations and a well ^{man}, one.

It would amuse you to see six eat our din-
ner in a camp, it is so different from the civil
life and of that nature, both in material and
adjustment.

As a preliminary observation, I
must tell you that the Company is divided
into four squads, each of which messes by it-
self, having a cook and cooking utensils.

Each of the cooks has a particular call to meals
so that the men know by it whose dinner is ready.
One has a small bell, another blows a bugle
a third has a kind of song, and all contribute
themselves with shouting, Perchance.

[Feb 26, 1863]

Wm. B. Brown
[address]
[address]

Dear Brother,
I received yours of the 19th in time and with great pleasure. You are improving in your handwriting fast, and no less in composition, as your letter shows.

I think you must be studying well this winter if you do not go to school, as your letter evinces considerable improvement.

The thermometer record is very interesting, and I am glad to see that you still continue the observations. Here, we have just passed through the greatest rain storm that I ever saw, lasting since yesterday noon to nearly noon to-day, and as a consequence, our tents were flooded with water this forenoon to the depth of some 6 inches or more.

We are all in usual good health notwithstanding the weather, and expect to continue at least as long as the sweet potatoes and other things require our attention; when we lose appetite it is a dangerous sign, and a man's fitness for duty is gauged by the extent of his achievements at the kitchen.

Now will observe that we have now reversed the old rule that prevailed while before Corinto where it was expected that a sick man would eat two nations and a well, one.

It would amuse you to see us eat our dinner in camp, it is so different from the civil life meal of that name, both in material and adjuncts.

As a preliminary observation, I must tell you that the Company is divided into four squads, each of which messes by itself, having a cook and cooking utensils.

Each of the cooks has a particular call to meals so that the men know by it whose dinner is ready. One has a small bell, another blows a bugle, a third has a kind of rattle, and will content himself with shouting, Grub pile.

When this glad sound is heard among the
tents, there is a general rush from them to the
cook tent in the rear, every man with tin plate
and cup, knife, fork, and spoon brandishing in the
air. At the cook fire we find a black messkettle
full of as black coffee, another messkettle of sweet
potatoes, (splendid), a bake kettle of fried meat, and
two messpans, full of sliced bread, and sugar for
the coffee. Sometimes, when we have been out
foraging successfully, our diet is varied with chicken
soup or roast, and great is the rejoicing on such
occasions.

Having got what we think
we can dispose of safely, we return to the tent
with the "grub" in our hands, and sitting
down on our rolled up blankets, take the plate
on our knees, set the coffee or water on the floor,
and fall to with a will, generally, (as is the case with
me and my bed mate) two eating out of the same
plate, on account of the scarcity of that article
of aliment supports. When the meal is over
the plate is scraped clean with the knife, and
both are laid at the head of the bunk in
readiness for next meal. I would have
been quite destitute of anything to eat off if
I had not picked up a battered plate on the
march between Holy Springs and Moscow,
where (I suppose the greasy paper)

On the whole, we are not badly
off for food, although its want of variety
sometimes makes it distasteful.

We would have had inspection
today if it had not rained so hard, and will
probably have it tomorrow. The inspection
will be of everything, men, horses, guns, ammu-
nition and tents, and is the first we have
had since we were at Corinth. Gen. Hagan
Drumson has come across the river lately from
Memphis, and is now camped near us.

Work is going on at all the camps brisk-
ly, and it is likely that we stay here for some
time. Hoping to hear from you soon.
I subscribe myself, Y^{rs} O. Christie

When this glad sound is heard among the
troops, there is a general rush from them to the
cooking tent in the rear, every man with tin plate
and cup, knife, fork, and spoon brandishing in the
air. At the cooking fire we find a black messkettle
full of black coffee, another messkettle of sweet
potatoes, a splender a bake kettle of fried meat, and
two messpans, full of sliced bread, and sugar for
the coffee. Sometimes, when we have been out
foraging successfully, our diet is varied with chicken
soup or roast, and great is the rejoicing on such
an occasion.

Having got what we think
we can dispose of safely, we return to the tent
with the "grub" in our hands, and sitting
down on our rolled up blankets, take the plate
out of our knapsack, set the coffee or water on the floor,
and fall to with a will, generally, (as is the case with
me and my bedmate) two eating out of the same
plate, on account of the scarcity of that article
of aliment supports. When the meal is over
the plate is scraped clean with the knife, and
both are laid at the head of the bunk in
readiness for next meal. I would have
been quite destitute of anything to eat off if
I had not picked up a battered plate on the
march between Holy Springs and Moscow,
where (I regret the greasy paper)

Over the whole, we are not badly
off for food, although its want of variety
sometimes makes it distasteful.

We would have had inspection
today if it had not rained so hard, and will
probably have it tomorrow. The inspection
will be of everything, men, horses, guns, arms,
ammunition and tents, and is the first we have
had since we were at Corinth. Gen. Hagan
Dimeson has come down the river lately from
Memphis, and is now camped near us.

Work is going on at all the camps brisk-
ly, and it is likely that we stay here for some
time. Hoping to hear from you soon.
I subscribe myself Y^{rs} D^y Christie

Wake River

Feb. 27th 1863

My Dear Sister,

Yours of the 15th
was received a short
time ago, and I would
have answered sooner
but for a tremendous
rain storm that has
raged almost two days,
and precluded either
reading or writing, on
account of the heavy
character of the tent.
To keep dry ourselves was
a hard enough matter,
as we had to keep our

rubbers on all the time
to defend us from the
wet. It would have
made you laugh yes-
terday, to see us all
standing upon our
benches, which are raised
some 6 inches from the
ground, to avoid the
water that dashed a-
bout in the center of the
tent like a miniature
lake, swashing its lit-
tle waves up against the
stone and the saber bay-
onet stuck in the ground
for a candlestick.

Thinking some obstruc-
tion had got into
the ditch outside, and
that this was the cause
of our deluge, I seized
a spade, donned my
cap cover, opened the
tent door, and dashed
out into the storm only
to find myself foot deep
in a tremendous lake,
that filled the whole of
our camp; the drainage
being utterly unable
to carry off the vast
volume of water that
dashed by buckets full
from the clouds.

you may imagine
that this prospect soon
dampened my ardor,
and I was only too
happy to make my
retreat to the caribuss
in as quick time as
possible, while the storm
raging with redoubled
fury outside, seemed
to laugh at my timor-
ity. Fortunately, this
was its last effort, and
it soon after subsided,
or we would have
been swamped.

We thought of the old

adage, and comforted
our hearts with the
assurance, that if it was
our fate to be living, we
should at least escape
a watery grave, as we
stepped forth to "view
the face of nature" after
the rain.

We are having
some good times now
vocally, and all we
lack to complete the
harmony of our notes,
is a female voice or
two to vary our too mas-
culine base.

"Kingdom coming" is

a great favorite with us, having learned it from the sheet you sent us, and all the singers wish me to request you to send down anything more of the kind you may have, if you cannot send the originals, let us have copies, of anything, Sacred, or Mirthful, for our singing, about equally divided between the two, with a specimen of the Sentimental thrown in once in a while.

Send the notes for "Our Captain's last words";

if you have them, and anything else in the Patriotic style or martial vein.

If you can find them, send the lines "Annie Lisle," for which we have the tune but have forgotten the words since we used to sing them at the annual last winter; it is a beautiful tune, and you should learn it, if you can find it.

I am afraid that I am giving you too many commissions to execute, and will

prisoners in hostage
stamps, but we have
so much time to dis-
pose of here in camp
that a new song is a
perfect Godsend, it is
sung in full chorus by
a dozen deep base
voices at ~~at~~ a time, and
is whistled and hum-
med in solo at all
times of the day.

Among our favorites
I can commend to
your notice a few
choice tunes, such as
"Oh! sing to me of Heaven

em," "Coronation," and
another hymn begin-
ning "Forever with the
Lord, Amen, so let
it be, life over the Dead,
is in that word,
"Is immortality."

The tune is splendid,
and if you are not ac-
quainted with it, I will
take down the notes, and
send them to you,
I assure you, it will
repay you for hearing
it.

Among the sentiment-
als in favor with us,

may be counted, "My Willie
on the Dark Blue Sea,"
"Lilly Dale," and some
others whose names I
forget. These, with "Gay
and happy," "Kingdom
coming," "John Brown,"
and the old patriotic
songs, "Red, White and
Blue," and "The Star-Span-
gled Banner, comprise
our list of favorites.

So you see, anything
at all will be accept-
able, and if you have
any air that you like
especially, be sure and

let me have it.
I will send any of the
tunes I have mentioned,
that you are not acquain-
ted with, if I have to
jot the notes down from
the voice of the singers.

Oh; I was about to forget
telling you to forward
"Hail round the flag boys"
words and music, if
you can. I heard the
52d. Ill. sing it one night
on the march from
Grand Junction to Hol-
ly Springs, as our Divi-
sion waited for theirs to

pass by, and I thought
it sounded grand.

Part of the Chorus here
rung in my ears some
times since then, and
I could fancy I heard
again the swelling
notes, as the whole Reg-
iment joined in, and
kept step to their song.

"Hally round the flag
boy, Hally once again!"

These words sound
all the more inspiring
to me, after hearing
them shouted amid the
din and smoke of

a terrible battle, as at
Shiloh where I saw a
boy of about 16 grasping
the colors of the 18th
Wisconsin (I think) and
shouting, as the tide of
panic struck men swept
by him, "They will never
get this while there's
life in my body."

And again at Corinth
after we had fallen back
from the hills by the
Rail Road, where the
15th Wisconsin was cut
up so dreadfully, I
saw a mounted

officer of that Regt.
with their colors in
his hand, dashing a-
bout and calling on the
men to rally again to
support our two guns
which were blazing
away again in the road.

The 14th respon-
ded nobly, and falling
in in the rear of the
guns they supported
us well until the ar-
rival of reinforcements.
Of all the Regiments
in the 2d Brigade, we
would rather be backed

by the little 16th for
they are men whom we
have seen tried.

They are camped close
by us, and many of the
boys are known to us, com-
ing from Minnesota as
many of them do.

The 17th is camped
close on the other side of
us, so you see we have
plenty of company.
Lieut. Jackson of the
18th comes occasionally to
see one of our squads, and
then we have glorious
singing, for he has a

beautiful voice and understands the science well.

I have just read over your letter again with much pleasure. I can see almost the life you lead, and its routine, just by these letters of yours. Continue to write naturally, and you will write well.

Tell the Professor that I would like to join your dinner party sometimes, especially when we are on

the march, and ^{have to} dine off an adamantine cracker, with perhaps a little sugar for seasoning.

But when in camp, just after a successful foraging of the country by our baggage teams, I would not exchange one of our dinners for an average one of yours. Then we will have sweet potatoes, chicken roast, vegetable soup, ~~or~~ bread, molasses, and honey.

I must confess though that these lucky days

are like angels visits
fear and far between,
and if the choice were
left to me, I think I
should be greatly temp-
ed, to say the least, to
give your eating accom-
modations the preference.

I cannot
make out what
you mean by say-
ing in your letter,
~~that~~ I would
doubtless rather get
a letter from some
one else, for I am

sure I value your letters
as much as I do any-
body's, and have nev-
er signified anything
else; you must
not think, because
I sometimes told
you for some things,
that my affection for
you is diminished,
or that I do not care
to hear from you,
It is true, I have found
fault with you on
some accounts, but
not through any loss

of regard for you,
and if I have hurt
your feelings in this
way, I am sorry for
it, and beg your for-
giveness.

Perhaps ^a Father has
been telling you of
my correspondent in
Connecticut - Miss
Minnie B. Southwick
the young sister of my
friend and cousin,
Charley Southwick.
I informed Father
of the correspondence

(which has now contin-
ued some 6 months)
a long time ago, and
desired him not to
let you or Helen know
of it, but I suppose
he has blabbed on
me, so you shall
know all about it.
In the camp at
Corinth I had often
had an opportunity
of reading her letters
to Charley, and fis-
nally got him to in-
troduce me to her by
letter, since which

time we have corresponded regularly.
She is a splendid writer, and her letters are well composed and entertaining.

As a specimen of her style sometimes I may mention her description in a late letter of the hard times in Connecticut.

She says, "Times are so hard here, and money is so scarce, that the people have

to use jack-knives, pocket-combs &c for small change, and a flourishing woolen-milling manufactory has had to suspend operations, as the people are too poor to indulge in such luxuries!"

I have seen her portrait that she sent to Charley, and she is a regular Puritan, high forehead, and well chiselled face,

Having now writ-
ten you quite a
respectable book,
on a variety of
subjects, I will
close by assu-
ring you of my
unchanged affec-
tion.
D.D.C.

Presented to the Library of the
University of the Pacific
at San Francisco
by the
Library of the University of the Pacific

General Pleasant
the Editor.

Box Lake, Saturday, Feb. 24th A.D. 1868.

My Dear Brother, [David Christie]

Having now some spare time, I sit down to give you a letter, in answer to yours of 15th. It gave me a great deal of pleasure to get another from you, and I can tell you it gave me and Ben. a good laugh. She got one the same time from her little brother George. I see you have not forgotten your old trick of talking 'Paddy', and also that you are still trying to improve yourself in the drawing line. So you and Sandford and Willie let Jim Walsh spell you all down, it's really too bad! You ought to have kept any place and some. But I suppose that you three made it up in speaking pieces. I am glad to see how far on you are in the *Britannica*, and you must try hard to understand it. For if you don't it is no use going over it, that I know well by experience.

I hope that Father, Mother, and the rest of you are in good health, as, I am thankful to say, I am myself. I had a letter from G.D. the other day, and they were then near Lake Providence, in Louisiana, encamped. They were both well, but said that their Lieut. Allen, was not expected

to live but a few days. I suppose that you at home have had letter though, as well as myself. He mentioned in his letter to me that he had just then received a good letter from Ellen.

I don't have much of any news to write, as everything goes on here the same old way, nothing new. But the regular routine from day to day and from week to week, I declare I am getting tired of it, almost, and if it were not for my studies and singing lessons, I could not be kept here another day. We generally have some kind of a gathering on Sociable at the College, once a week, which does for greens for us. But then we are about tired of them, and if it were not for the amusements here, I wouldn't give a snap for them.

We had a gathering of about 500 people here last evening, and a free supper with coffee, given by the members of the Baptist Church. It was really the most splendid affair of the kind I ever saw. It beat all the pic-nics. Van Horn, Lillie Robinson Perry and I were the reception committee, for answering the bell, and showing the company to the dressings rooms, and from there to the parlor, and I can tell you we had enough to do till late in the evening. There was sentiment as toasts given and responded to, also speeches delivered, and singing or chanting by the choir, of some splendid pieces, and Prof. Hawley and several of his music scholars sang

some pieces. I sang with them, and Prof. Hawley played the accompaniment while Mrs. Learing and I sang two other pieces. The company separated about two o'clock. A great many of the Institute girls were here, James girls, and Nettie McElroy, besides what were here teaching school, so we had a first rate time together. The Lindsay boys brought down Mary Watson too, you know she was here last spring, and Emma Whiting also was here. Eliza Sawyer teaches school this winter in Mary Hubbard's District, and I am going home with ^{Mary} her to see her school, next Friday, I think. At least they wanted me to and if I can, I will.

I am glad the time is so near out here, for I am home-sick to see you all, and won't be content now till school is out. There ^{are} ~~is~~ six more weeks yet, but that will slip by quickly, and then - and then "but I won't anticipate," as the Novels have it.

I wish you would tell Cousin Ellen to write to me. I just long to get one from her, a good long one, give Grandma and her my love, also Grandma Dick and Uncle Sam's folks, Brother Bette and the rest of you. What do you think of that likeness I sent. The only trouble was I was taken too black looking, it is not a very good likeness. I expect a letter from Sarah or Father tonight, two times and sleep to write more. Good by, Sarah,