



James C. Christie and Family Papers

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Ogden March 4th
1863

My Dear Sarah—

I have not
written to you until I
could say something to
you about a school.

I am glad that
you State Rep. Greenwell
this leaves us about as
usual. We received letter
from Tom L. Bile last
week, dated at same place
as yours from them,
in good health and spirits
we have reason to be

Thankful that
they do so far enjoy
themselves in the midst
of their duties.

I have this
Morning Received an
Opportunity from Godfrey
that you will get our
School. The Contract
will be drawn, after
you have received your
Certificate of Qualifications
you will have to come
to Lowell to get that
on the 2^d day of April

Now my Opinion
is that you should

150
is the
pay I
layained
for you
to have
in our
School
I do not
think to
much has
been paid
they
before

Arrange with the Prof.
to take only $3/4$ of this
Term, and come home
then and have a little
time before you begin
your school.

You lie to this
and let me know
what you think of it
the money you would
save would pay for
many little things. and
also pay for your little
home - see if it can
be arranged if possible

I am going into Town
to morrow to Express
35 dollars to you.

and do you know
that this makes nearly
150 which counters
everything. Your 3 terms
has cost me in

When you pay
the Professor, Give him
My Respects. Your Uncle
Thomas lost his Oldest
daughter, Ann, last week,
by a putrid sore Throat,
or something like Croup.
She was Buried beside
Mrs Corrott.

and all the Children
look sickly, and have
had Colds. But are
recovering,

I think that
your Portrait is the
best I have seen of you
and if it is truthfull
which I suppose it must
be, you look better than
ever you did before.

I am fully
satisfied that the
Money has been Well
Laid out,

and hope
you will be more

able to judge of the
company you should
keep, and not fall
into the old ways,
in Plymouth.

There is no
school opened here
that you would be
better in than our
own. Tulliver told
me he would like you
into their school, but not, and failing in that
the Teacher this Winter
received only 15 \$, and
had 70 scholars, so
I did not say anything
in Reply.

Emmelie's Damp. With
to teach in their District
so the Clerk told me
and Miss Attwater had
also applied for it
Mr. Randall from
Minnesota taught
in the South District
this Winter, and the
badly influence did
all it could to get her
to make her miserable
You will have good
Wages here, and besides
Board so that it is equal
to 4 months in Cash

if you had to pay out
for Board.

I told Helen
to write to you this
morning, they are all
just as anxious to
see you as you can
be to see us,

Try and get
some arrangement
made with Prof to let
you away before this
month is out, and
thereby have a little time
and a little money.

Write when you have
done this -

Your Father. Christie

107
To Wm Stephens Treasurer of Joint School
District no (12) of the town of Berlin & Vt
Please pay to C. I Fuller & John & Seymour
Potter the Sum Four dollars out of any
money in your hands not appropriated
belonging to said district
Dated this 8 day of march 1863
(Signed) Oren I Fuller } District Clerk
H. Spencer } Director

there is one dollar coming to me on order for
them window curtains C. I Fuller
the balance to the boys for building files

For Lake Mar. 10. 1883

Mr. Christie

Dear Sir

I am happy to inform you that your daughter has made very commendable progress in all her studies since she has been here - In Conduct and deportment - I have never seen anything that required reproof but very much to commend

She has maintained the Character of a Christian Young lady, a faithful pupil, an earnest and zealous student, and we shall all be happy to see her with us again - I regret, much, her absence before the close of the Term - Yours Very Truly
N. C. Galt Thwait



Lake Providence La. March 11th/63,

My Dear Sister,

Number of the 26th
Feb. is just received by me, and I
am charmed with it, in-
imation, example, poetry, and all.

I am truly thankful that my
ears were not at hand when
you so amiably thought of pul-
ling them, for, heaven knows;
they are long enough now in
all conscience.

Henceforth we will drop relig-
ious discussion in our letters, and
there we can agree, and this is
not the first quarrel produced by
that cause, you know.



Lake Providence La. March 11th/63,

My Dear Sister,

Number of the 26th
Feb. is just received by me, and I
am charmed with it; indig-
nation, example, poetry, and all.

I am truly thankful that my
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ling them, for, heaven knows;
they are long enough now in
all conscience.

Henceforth we will drop relig-
ious discussion in our letters, and
then we can agree, and this is
not the first quarrel produced by
that cause, you know.

Appropos of Religion, you must know that I attended a prayer meeting a few evenings ago, in the camp of the 12th Wisconsin, conducted by their Chaplain.

Rev. Mr. Crane of Ashkosh, I think,

We sat on boards, outdoors, in the moonlight, and while the Evening Star shone brilliantly to its rest behind the moorhanging woods in the west, our hymns filled the mellow air with harmony, and prayer and exhortation arose when the singing ceased. It was so romantic and heartsoftening, this meeting of Christians in the Louisiana swamp, far, far, from all the advantages of the home worship, that I really enjoyed it much, and will go again tomorrow evening.

Mr. Crane officiated a few days ago on a mournful occasion to us - the funeral of our late Lieut. Allen.

We all attended, mounted, and dressed in full Artillery uniform and escorted the chaplain from camp down to town, where there is an old French graveyard, all full of old, crumbling, unique headstones; and in this old graveyard poor Allen was buried with military honors, the minister making a short prayer and address appropriate to the occasion.

Would you not like to take a peep at us just at this time? Let me see if I cannot give you an idea of how we pass an evening here in camp, and you can compare it with your life.

Appropos of Religion, you must know that I attended a prayer meeting a few evenings ago, in the camp of the 18th Wisconsin, conducted by their Chaplain.

Rev. Mr. Crane of AshKosh, I think.

We sat on boards, outdoors, in the moonlight, and while the Evening Star shone brilliantly to its rest behind the marching woods in the west, our hymns filled the mellow air with harmony, and prayer and exhortation arose when the singing ceased. It was so romantic and heartsoftening, this meeting of Christians in the Louisiana swamp, far, far, from all the advantages of the home worship, that I really enjoyed it much, and will go again tomorrow evening.

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Would you not like to take a peep at us just at this time? Let me see if I cannot give you an idea of how we pass an evening here in camp, and you can compare it with your life.

in College.

In the first place then, you must know, that we are now living in tents of the wedge pattern, each made to hold four men, and the name will give you a very good idea of their appearance.

Imagine a canvas wedge whose sides incline to each other at an angle of about 80 degrees set on its head.

Expand its proportions till it will measure about 7 feet across the base, the sides 7 feet wide and $7\frac{1}{2}$ high. To support it;

imagine a perpendicular pole at the middle of each end, connected at top by a horizontal, over which the canvas is stretched, and secured at the bottom by pegs driven into the ground



through rope loops fastened to the cloth. At the middle of one end the canvas is slit vertically for a door, and strings are fastened to each side that it may be tied up at night or in bad weather.

Now that you see my habitation and understand how it is built, I will ask you to step inside while I introduce you to my tentmates and the internal arrangements.

The tent, as I said before, is intended to accommodate four, but we have only three

in ours, which gives us more
room and comfort.

I feel tempted to give you
an elaborate description of
my two comrades, as they
sit now ^{viewed} on opposite benches,
a knapsack between them,
and all their faculties en-
gaged in an exciting game
of euchre.

But this would
weary you I know, and so,
without giving you a lot of
talk about complexions, hair,
style of nose, color of eyes, shape
of mouth, and the facial
angle; à la approved novelists,
I will merely say that they
are both good fellows, con-
scientious, affectionate, young,
and good singers, with their
share of good looks, and hearty
love of that soldier's converse,
Fur.

Now look up as you enter,
and see, hanging from the
ridgepole, in threatening sym-
etry, our three sabres, and my
revolver and spur. They hang
over the back end of the
tent so as not to be in the
way, and immediately under
them is a shelf supported at
each end by a stake driven
into the ground, and in this
shelf are a dozen books, a for-
aging cap, a razor case, a sol-
dier's pocket looking glass, and a
burning candle stuck in a
round match box for candlestick.

Among the books you may
notice, Bishop's Horae volub.,
Brewster's Legendre's Geometry,
The Household of Bannier, a
Southern Romance, two ^{music} ~~note~~
books, a hymn book or two, and
my Diary.

in ours, which gives us more room and comfort.

I feel tempted to give you an elaborate description of my two comrades, as they sit now ^{viewed} on opposite benches, a knapsack between them, and all their faculties engaged in an exciting game of euche.

But this would weary you I know, and so, without giving you a lot of talk about complexions, hair, style of nose, color of eyes, shape of mouth, and the facial angles; a la approved novelists, I will merely say that they are both good fellows, conscientious, affectionate, young, and good singers, with their share of good looks, and hearty love of that soldier's consolator, Funk.

You look up as you enter, and see, hanging from the ridgepole, in threatening symmetry, our three sabres, and my revolver and spur. They hang over the back end of the tent so as not to be in the way, and immediately under them is a shelf supported at each end by a stake driven into the ground, and in this shelf are a dozen books, a foraging cap, a razor case, a soldier's pocket looking glass, and a burning candle stuck in a round matchbox for candlestick.

Among the books you may notice, Bishop's Hornes works, Brewster's Legendre's Geometry, The Household of Boumerie, a Southern Romance, two ^{music} ~~note~~ books, a hymn book or two, and my Diary.

Wonder this is there is
another one, near the ground,
on which are our tin plates
and cups, and our knapsacks.
You will understand that
these shelves occupy the whole
width of the tent at the back
end, opposite the door.
Looking down to the right and
left of you as you stand in the
entrance, you see two benches
stretching along the side of
the tent, the feet towards the
door, and leaving between
them a narrow passage way.
One of these benches, which are
built of boards laid on blocks
to keep them from the ground,
is wide enough for two, and
the other for one.

On them are the blankets,
made down ready for bed-
time, with the rubbers on top
to guard against the rain,
which may come at any time of
the night - and which pour through
our tent very badly, the canvas



being of an inferior quality,
about the same texture as
cotton sheeting at home.

I should have told you
before, that you could see before
entering, the name of the tent
done in black paint on the
front, at one side of the door,
"Winona." Almost every tent
in the Company has its name,
invented and put on by its
inmates, and some of them
are characteristic and amusing.
Thus, William's tent has painted
on it, "The Three Kings," which
assumption of superiority is

Wonder this if there is another one, near the ground, on which are our tin plates and cups, and our knap sacks. You will understand that these shelves occupy the whole width of the tent at the back end, opposite the door, looking down to the right and left of you as you stand in the entrance, you see two benches stretching along the sides of the tent, the feet towards the door, and leaving between them a narrow passage way. One of these benches, which are built of boards laid on blocks to keep them from the ground, is wide enough for two, and the other for one.

On them are the blankets, made down nicely for bed time, with the rubbers on top to guard against the rain, which may come at any time of the night and which pour through our tent very badly, the canvas



being of an inferior quality, about the same texture as cotton sheeting at home.

I should have told you before, that you could see before entering, the name of the tent done in black paint on the front, at one side of the door, "Winona!" Almost every tent in the company has its name, invented and put on by its inmates, and some of them are characteristic and amusing. Thus, William's tent has painted on it, "The Three Kings," which assumption of superiority is

due to the fact of there being
three Williams residents in it.
"St. Paul," "St. Croix Rangers,"
"Lady Ward," "Tiger Den," such
are some of the names.

The German Platoon; from New Ulm, have some unique ones. "Beatus Höhle," named after a famous Robber of the Schwartz Wold. "Wasserdichtes Loch;" "water tight-hole, &c.

After this digression, let ~~me~~^{us} return to "Winnona;" and see what its inmates are doing this evening. you find us sitting on our beds, Kelly-my bunk mate-, and O'Hara turning over the leaves of a music book, and singing sacred hymns to well known tunes, while I am busy writing to you my Dear Sister, using my diary for a portfolio, and my

spread knees for a desk,
Ah! sister mine, when you
sit down at your Desk to answer
this poor epistle, ^{when you} ~~if~~ bury your
portfolio with its stores of everything
needed to make a well finished
letter; when you lean your ^{arm} ~~head~~
on the Desk, and indite at
your ease the words that are so
precious to me; think, think, of
the difficulties that surround the
literary and epistolary duties
of your poor soldier's correspondent.

'Without desk,' setting his ink on the ground, and his sheet on his knee; the blanket his seat, and the noisy mirth or songs of ~~his~~ comrades his prompters; you must acknowledge that the adjuncts of my literary labors are not as favorable as yours. However, I still make out to laugh instead of crying, at vexations.

and I still preserve my appetite
and sound sleep by living
up to my motto "Beyond mel-
ancholy, Care, and want."

When it is time to
go to bed, we take all the books
from the upper shelf, and put
them below, covering them and
the knapsacks with an old rubber
sheet I picked up on the battle-
field. With our pantaloons
for pillows, and the soft side of
a cypress board for feathers, we
sleep sound and dreamless,
fatigued by our exertions at Bear
Belie through the Day.

I received some time ago
the Sentinel and Temperance
Advocate you sent, and you can-
not imagine how much pleased we
were by the little piece of music in
one of the latter. Continue to
send them, especially if there is
music in any of them.

There are some things in your
letter, which I have not noticed, as
I know you did not mean what you
wrote, so all that nonsense about
not writing any more is not believed
by your affectionate Brother J. D. Christie,

Box Lake March 16th/63

Dear Christie [Sarah]

As you expect a letter tomorrow night, of course I must write one and post it in the morning so that you can get it at the expected time. Having had some experience with "Christie" I know how she feels when she expects a letter and is disappointed.

Therefore for my own good I think it best to have one ready to post in the morning.

I will begin by answering some of the numerous questions you asked. First I am quite well and getting along finely in my several studies. In my opinion the Book Keeping class is improving

Prof. instead of scolding us as usual today, gave us a good deal of praise, by saying as he always does when praising a class, that ^{it} is the best class he ever had. As for Plymate I can not say as he was not in school today. But the last time I saw him he was as straight as usual.

Now the next question I believe was in regard to your classes.

First of course is Philosophy as that is first and foremost in our minds at present. Lesson passed off finely today. The lesson for tomorrow is from the 380 to 390 page.

Are you marked 10 in your lessons every Monday morning?

Perhaps you are even as high as

11. Our Arithmetic lesson tomorrow is Endowments, & Taxes.

I hope you will have a perfect lesson and if you have not be sure to get your excuse before going into the class." Your Algebra class are reviewing. Tomorrow's lesson is fractions.

In regard to the songs I have spoken to Prof. Hawley and he is to bring them up to night.

I will send them in the morning with this.

The words to Anna Lisle are in my Day School Bell. I will copy them and send them to some day this week.

Now I believe that I have answered about all your questions.

I will proceed to state some of the general ~~meas~~.

First I will tell

you something about my visit with
Carpenter. I went home with her
Friday night as I expected. I enjoyed
myself finely. They are real good
old fashioned farmers. I went to
meeting with them to their school
house. That too, really seemed
quite old fashioned and homelike
as we often attend church in the
school house at home.

Carpenter is just the same at
home as here. "Odd as Dick's hat
band", but nevertheless good at heart.

Your handsome blackeyed
friend Bennett is not in school now.
Our friend Artemus too, has left
on account of pressing duties on the
farm.

Cook's Aunt, whom she has been
expecting for this long time, has at
length arrived and she has gone home

Your much loved
Prof. Reid is in good health.

I looked through your letter
the second time to find some
love for him; but all in vain.

Now Christie I think that you
are ready to bed. Please send a
double portion next time.

His Cousin (a very fine looking
young lady) is making up a visit.

Quite different from him
in regard to size, as she is larger
than Jennie Webster. She is
a music teacher. I should judge
a very fine young lady.

I am quite glad that
you are coming to examination.

I think you had better come
on Monday, and spend the remain^{der}

of the week with us. One evening of the last week is to be devoted to music of which Prof. Hawley will of course, have charge. That you will surely ~~be~~ want to attend.

Then one evening is to be set apart for our grand exhibition, which I am sure you will want to attend, especially after hearing that 'Pan' is to have a part in one of the pieces.

You see that notwithstanding all you have said to me in regard to ladies speaking, I have broken over all, and I suppose have made my self appear very unlady like in the eyes of my old chum. I shall stand prepared for a good scolding when you return. But one favor I ask of

you; and that is that you will not look at me and laugh and make me forget my piece, as you once did in school.

You did not state whether you hugged your little brother to death or not; so I conclude that you did not.

Does your present teacher require you to write compositions?

I have only one more to write while I am here. Isn't that good?

But now I must close for 'tis nearly nine o'clock.

Every body sends their love and respects, I can't stop to write all the names. My respects to your father & mother, and a large share of love to yourself. Please write very soon. Yours Affectionately
Pan

P.S. You know Mattie says that
a letter is not finished without a P.S.
Therefore I will add that we have
had a beautiful spring day.

S. E. Y. H.

[Gomes Christie]

Lake Providence, La. March 19th 1863

Dear Father, I write to you, to give my hands and mind something to do, and at the same time gratify you with the news that we are both in excellent health. The levee at this point was opening, two days ago and the work of drowning an area of 25 x 200 mile in extent. That is from this one opening alone. There is another opening some thirty-five miles up river, on this same side. That will help augment the waters in several places and overflow a great portion of country. This opening would not have had any effect on, on account of the Washitah hills that come within twelve miles of this town, to give you a slight idea of the quantity of water coming ⁱⁿ there just think of the Riverbourne on a slight bend and you see the stream that is running past our camp, and within six or eight rods of us. The weather we are having is very warm, and the trees are just putting forth their foliage, and every thing looks beautiful. March 20th Father you see by the heading of this letter I was going to punish you with one of dull scribbles. But my longing sin laziness, Phlegm and and every other way such a term may be applied to a man stopped me, just where you read the last word; Beautiful. Now you flourish on too the New dates your letter came today. No love or a sense of duty has overcome the evil, and here goes: ~~rather~~ you will or not to punish you by a letter or mass of scribbling that will make you cry. Pardon for a long time. Now I will give you a sketch of our camping ground, and then you will see I have reasons to think with me. Beautiful to the south and east of our camp we see away down the River some twelve or fourteen miles, the distant timber looking diminutive and hazy. While the River looks like a Broad Ribbon of silver; as far as it can be traced with the eye. Right in our front is a large cotton field with the old crop ungathered, and our camp occupying the east edge of it. The west side of it being skirted with timber. Our guns as well as the other ^{the} Batteries are exactly in a line. ~~fronted~~ ^{the} the extreme front next comes the limbers of the guns, at a distance of three or four yards. Next come the caissons. Then the horses. Then the tents of the men. Then on the flanks of the Battery are our fires for cooking. Two on each flank. In the rear are the officers tents, and the commissary tent. I must go. Adieu. C. T. is going on hunting out the men. Drill over I resume my writing, and a number of our regiments are going to have a game of cricket as soon as they can find the ball. The once great lake lies in our rear, now turned into a River of surging roaring water. On our right the second Brigade is camped, and on the opposite side of the lake the third, or as it is called the Iowa Brigade is camped. On our left is the town and the tent of the

[James Christie]

Lake Providence, La. March 14th 1863

Dear Father, I write to you, to give my hands and mind something to do, and at the same time gratify you with the news that we are both in excellent health. The levee at this point was opening two days ago and the work of drowning an area of 25 x 200 mile in extent. That is from this one opening alone, there is another opening some thirty-five miles up river, on this same side. That will help augment the waters in several places and over a great portion of country. This opening would not have had any effect on, on account of the Washita hills that come within twelve miles of this town, to give you a slight idea of the quantity of water coming in, just think of the Riverbourne on a slight bend and you see the stream that is running past our camp, and within six or eight rods of us. The weather we are having is very warm, and the trees are just putting forth their foliage, and every thing looks beautiful. March 20th Father you see by the heading of this letter I was going to punish you with one of our scribbles. But my besting in Lafayette, Phineas, and every other way such a term may be applied to a man who has just where you read the last word; Beautiful. Now you flourish on too the New date, your letter came today. No love or a sense of duty has overcome the evil, and here goes, whether you will or not to punish you by a letter or mess of scribbling that will make you cry. Please for a long time. Now I will give you a sketch of our camping ground and then you will see I have reasons to think with me. Beautiful to the south and east of our camp we see along down the River some twelve or fourteen miles. The distant timber looking dim and hazy, while the River looks like a broad ribbon of silver; as far as it can be traced with the eye right in our front is a large cotton field with the old crop ungathered, and our camp occupying the east edge of it, the west side of it being skirted with timber. Our guns as well as the other ^{the 10th Division} Batteries are exactly in a line standing broad on the extreme front next comes the limbers of the guns, at a distance of some or four yards next come the caissons then the horses then the tents of the men, then on the flanks of the Battery are our fires for cooking, two on each flank, in the rear are the officers tents, and the commissary tent. I must go drive. C. Tom is going on hunting but the men, Dr. Over I presume my writing, and a number of our officers are going to have a game of ricksh as soon as they can find the River. The once great lake has in our rear, now turned into a river of swirling, boiling water, on our right the second Brigade is camped, and on the opposite side of the lake the Third, or as it is called the Iowa Brigade is camped, on our left is the town and the tents of the

first Brigade and one of our Batteries are gliding in the Bright Sunlight,
the boats are lying at the landing, and none of their Great Chimneys are
rising out vast lines of black smoke, the merry shout of the men voices
are heard, and the heavy smooth chug, click of the working of the en-
gine the torn axles are heard, as a Battery is out drilling the horses and

There are a great number of white fleecy clouds in the sky.
The murmur of the rushing water in its new channel through the
cave falls on our ear just like the sound of ^{the} mourn over the Carrié at
Dion. and we look over the field; and the trees in blossom and the
green of their young dress, and there is the songs of birds and everything
rather in a faint blue summer hazeiness. dreaming and quite like
Blanc it is beautiful. Now to Business you ask me if I have sent
my money. No neither have I sent it. To give a clear look,
I will just give the account of everything and be very glad to think you
interested to know so much about. For I am but a Boy yet, to
look in many ways. In the first Place I was indebted to govern^{ent}
sum of eight^{95 cts.} Dollars and a half for clothing
so it stands like this. So if you deduct a fraction of a

Government allowance for one year, \$ 4.2
 Another out of a C. Throat Pay
 Total amount drawn 50.. 95. add a fraction you can make the
 after deducting song for wear, I was
 allowed Amount out at school 25.. 50. change, All I am indebted to
 leaving 55.. 45. Government now for clothing is
 bringing me Twelve Dollars and ten cents
 after paying for fourteen months clothing
 What I get on the 2nd of Feb.

[illegible]

first Brigade and one of our Batteries, are gliding in the bright sunlight. The boats are lying at the landing, and none of their Great Chimneys are rising out vast lines of black smoke, the merry shout of the men voices are heard, and the heavy smooth chug, click of the working of the engine. The torn axles are heard as a Battery is out drilling the horses and

There are a great number of white fleecy clouds, in the sky. The murmur of the rushing water in its new channel through the rocks, falls on our ear just like the sound of ^{the} mourn over the ~~char~~rie at Zion. and we look over the field, and the trees in blossom and the green of their young dress, and there is the song of birds and everything. Rather in a ~~pink~~ blue summer hazeiness. dreaming and quiet like I believe it is beautiful. Now to business you ask me if I have sent my money. No neither have I sent it. It give a clear look, I just give the account of everything and be very glad to think you interested to know so much about. For I am but a boy yet, to look in many ways. In the first place I was indebted to ^{ent} give a sum of ~~eighty~~ ⁹⁵ ^{cents} Dollars and ~~a~~ ^{trifle} for clothing. It stands like this. So if you deduct a fraction of a

Government allowance for one year, \$ 1,2
 Total amount drawn 50.. 95, add a fraction you can make the
 after deducting some for wear, I was 25.. 50, changes, All I am indebted to
 Amount left at which 55.. 45, Government now a clothing is
~~amount overdrawn~~ leaving
 bringing me Twelve Dollars and ten cents
 after paying for fourteen months clothing
 What I got on the 2nd of Feb.

which is as follows,

one Rubber Bkks	\$ 2.55	and if there is no accidents takes place I think I will not
one Pen & Ink	80	need a great Deal of Clothing before next fall. So
one pair of socks	32	I Bought at Memphis Shirts, Boots, Hat. to the
	\$ 3.67	amount of Shirts \$ 6.00 After all debts were

The reason Hat. 2.50. Paid and I had what was
I Bought these things was Boots 5.00 the one I had \$12.00
this. There was no clothing like this 3.00. and I was going to send
the one I had and it looked like our father's master's hands. Bread. 1.00. home to you. But our
For the Lickens sent Paid in addit¹ 2.00. Dargant, Thomas Jordan
to Sarah. ~~Bought~~ Express on same 1.00. had great need of some money
Cutler. Onions. Papers. ^{these shoes be socks} 2.00. to our son, and myself
Total 24.00.
Sent two Dollars to one of our Bop. talked the matter over with
and the Ballance was not needed. We came to the conclusion I should
let him have twenty Dollars for six months. Then giving me a
kind of five Dollars. So you have the reason. I have sent you any money
I have \$5 cents on hand, and am 150. cents in debt. Then and
I have sent a Box of Books to your address. Waterloo. But
it had not left this landing last night before dark. So you may
even get this letter before the Express agent charged us two
Dollars for the Box. and the Prov Marshal a Permit so
it is likely you will get it before a great deal of time passes
by. The Books are well bound and are worth twenty
Dollars.



Dear Sister Providence La.
March 25th 1863

My Dear Sister [SARAH CHRISTIE, CLYMAN,
Dodge Co., Wisc.] Yours of the 14th

with the Sentinel and music, came to
hand our hour ago, with two Indepen-
dents, and after reading the letter, looking
at the libretto, (which I must say is the
best one I have yet seen of yours) trying the
music, and sending the Sentinel and In-
dependents to eager chorists, after doing all
this I say, it occurred to me to remember
my debt to you for your favor.

Your promise to furnish us with music,
sets us wild with delight, and if you could be-
lieve how quickly we have mastered the two pieces
you sent, and what pleasure they afford us,
you would allow that the musical talent of
the Battery is not to be despised.

We have "Rosalie the Prairie flower," but you can
send the others you spoke of, and they will be
welcome. I will note down the hymn "a
with the Lord," and send it in this, and I am much
disappointed if you do not consider it a gem.
March 25th.

Your likeness is first-rate, much better I think, than
the one sent to William, and my intimate,
Kelly, says that you should be called Fanny
instead of Johnny. All who look at you say
"Ah! that is John's sister."



Dear Lake Providence La.
March 25th 1863

My Dear Sister, [SARAH CHESTNUT, CLYMAN]
[Dodge Co., Wis.] Yours of the 14th

with the Sentinel and music came to hand our hour ago, with two Independent, and, after reading the letter, looking at the libretto, (which I must say is the best one I have yet seen of yours) trying the music; and sending the Sentinel and Independent to eager chorists, after doing all this I say, it occurred to me to remember my debt to you for your favor.

Your promise to furnish us with music, sets us wild with delight, and if you could see how quickly we have mastered the two pieces you sent and what pleasure they afford us, you would allow that the musical talent of the Battery is not to be despised.

We have "Rosalie the Prairie flower," but you can send the others you spoke of, and they will be welcome. I will note down the hymn "A sword with the Lord," and send it in this, and I am much disappointed if you do not consider it a gem.
March 25th

Your promise is firmer, much better I think, than the one sent to William, and my tentmate, Kelly, says that you should be called Tommy instead of Johnny. All who look at you say "Ah! that is Tommy's sister."

This is the worst hole we have been in yet, the water is a foot deep where and guns are parked, and the whole camp is better suited for the abode of reptiles than any class species of the Mammalia; let alone civilized men, used to the high prairies of Minnesota.

This country is not worth fighting for, ^{unless for} place to breed frogs in for a French market. Low cotton and corn fields, the furrows between the rows lying full of stagnant water, and cypress swamps, with here and there a belt of cottonwood; this is the general appearance of the face of the country.

To be sure, there are many farm houses to be seen here also, and some beautiful gardens, but now the houses are deserted, perhaps burned, and the gardens are trampled ~~into~~ into mud by the horses picketed in them. All the rare and beautiful shrubs and flowers broken down and destroyed.

The sight of this desolation always makes me melancholy, although I know that it is nothing more than a just punishment on these wealthy people, who, in their insolent pride, set justice at defiance, and in their

supposed strength thought to substitute their will for Right and equity. Thus they have called down upon themselves the merited vengeance of the soldiers of the North, soldiers of a people who read, and think, and work, and whom they in their fancied superiority, despised. The retribution is well deserved.

I am glad that you have left college, and I attribute the superiority of your last letter to the fact that your mind is not so much occupied and oppressed now by your studies as when at school. I forewarn you, that I shall now expect more lively letters than you have been in the habit of sending to me, and when you open your school, you will surely have material for correspondence, such as I need to get least in summer. Your insinuations in regard to my correspondent in Connecticut are unfounded. I take no more pains with my letters to Minnie than with those to you, indeed I take pains with none of my letters, but just rattle them out of my brains in the shortest time possible, and send them off without revising, as Pope would say to make us believe. I wish they were like this poetry.

This is the worst hole we have been in yet, the water is a foot deep where our guns are parked, and the whole camp is better suited for the abode of reptiles than any class species of the Mammalia; let alone civilized men, used to the high prairies of Minnesota.

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The sight of this desolation always makes me melancholy, although I know that it is nothing more than a just punishment on these wealthy people, who, in their insolent pride, set justice at defiance, and in their

supposed strength thought to substitute their will for Right and equity. Thus they have called down upon themselves the merited vengeance of the soldiers of the North, soldiers of a people who read, and think, and work, and whom they in their fancied superiority, despised.

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Sand
a rose
and by
leaf from
the same
category

Sell
of
the same
are a
letter,
and I
must the
sell
paid.

The weather is pretty hot just now, and the drying up of so much water as is on the ground from late rains, will not be the best thing for the health of the troops. I do not fear anything for myself, but there are constitutions in the company that will be affected by the malarial miasma to be generated. And I hope we will leave, as is the rumor to go to the other side of the river before long.

We have rumors from Vicksburg, of heavy cannonading by the gunboats of the advance of our Infantry towards the enemy's works, and of the failure of our attempt to land some of our Field Artillery, on account of the water. It is said that our batteries of the service will have no chance to do anything there on this account, and that cavalry art is as useless. The Generals have to go afoot with the rest.

~~Mr~~ Mr. Allen, the brother of our late 3^d Lieutenant has been down here a day or two. He came too late though to see poor Joe, and goes home today.

Awaiting your next installment of music.
I remain your affectionate Brother, J. D. Christie

The weather is pretty hot just now, and
the drying up of so much water as is on
the ground from late rains, will not
be the best thing for the health of the troops.
I do not fear anything for myself, but there
are constitutions in the company that will be
affected by the malarial miasma to be generated.
And I hope we will leave, as is the rumor
to go to the other side of the river before long.

We have rumors from Tiptonburg, of heavy
manoeuvring by the Germans of the
advance of our Infantry towards the enemy's
works, and of the failure of our attempt to
land some of our Field Artillery, on account
of the water. It is said that our prospects of
the success will have no chance to do
anything there on this account, and that cav-
alry art is as useless. The Generals have to
go afoot with the rest.

~~Mr~~ Mr. Allen, the brother of our late
Lieutenant has been down here a day or two.
He came too late though to see poor Joe, and
goes home today.

Awaiting your next installment of music.
I remain your affectionate Brother, J. D. Christie

New Lake Providence La., Nov. 26th

1863

[cont.]

Dear Brother, I have not written to you in a month. I should be ashamed to shame^{all} to trouble you now, I have so little to write about, having no desire to be egotistical any further than as let you know that health and happiness as much as generally, fall to me, as mine. So far as I am concerned is little. There is much moving about among the troops on all the points on this River as far as I know, and rumors are as high as New Orleans in a room about the success of these movements. But rumors are not worth Parisian talk, as I will not give you but you of them are there just as far as the route to the arm of the service. There is each that will stilling am also concerned will be excluded from the fight at Vicksburg. But that I don't believe. Neither do I wish it so for we cannot be of use in the immediate neighborhood of the city. We could and I think will be in place somewhere in rear of that stronghold so that we will entirely cut off the enemy's retreat for it is certain that the fall of Vicksburg is quite inevitable and

[23]
[unclear] ~~that~~ happily spoken of throughout the whole
country in our part of the country. As for the
ultimate ~~power~~ of the war even in the face
of the news of discontent among traitors at
home. There seems to be not the least doubt
like of cotton and we could only hear
how anxious some of the old abolitionists
are to see him. He would be surprised to hear them tell him that
people were to take a hand in him he would
think it best to hide his tongue if he did not
want to be shot. There are thousands of our
troops now would rather shoot at their
traitors than southern rebels and if they
could they would make them trust themselves
or shoot every one of them and if ever we get
home I am half inclined to think that the
Williams will have to give a reckoning
then. A large boat full of troops passed
by here yesterday and there are some more just
passing. I cannot say where they have come from
but it seems to me we are going to have men
enough to do the thing handsomely. But
enough if there is not lack of management
to a waste of time. Now Garrison it would
be if he could only take the greater part
of the medals at Rich. his prisoners
and captures there are a few being given
I think it would be a sure sign of the
end. Let us all pray for this to be a
very loyal man would win it. The

[33] undiminished Victory. Big with great hope
of war. Thurbz Bringing us a speedy Race
from a thoroughly conquered foe.

We are crossed here on the river having
more camp three days ago expecting large
boats where down river. But there was not
Boats enough to carry us, and so we have
to wait one night and next day. But that
night we had a very heavy wind that came
and broke the ice from there in spring,
and fell down stream. I have learned just
now that we will have to stay here for a few
days more on account of the boats at Bo
villence getting jammed up so that they
cannot run until repaired. Also I have
just learned that a Major Gen. Macpherson
and Division Gen. MacArthur have just
gone down the river to Gen. Grant's Headquarters
and it is likely that he may have some
meeting of importance and it would not surprise
me very much if the 6th and 8th of this
April would be as famous in History as
some date of 1862, for it seems to me that
there is every reason to believe that the coming
contest is high and if we do not soon reach
we will have greater trouble than there is
now on account of higher waters. Also the
Heads are very soon expect here, and

[34] a greater enemy than I could for the blacks
all say that fever and ague, all much to be
feared for it is very common and troubles the
black ones a great deal. There are other fevers
that are likely to be brought down here.
They say that the Border Counties are very un
healthy in comparison with the Buckeye
Do taking all these things into consideration
to be presumed, our leaders will hurry
up things so that there will be no need for
our troops along the river in great bodies.
I have not in all my writing to you ever
said much about the state of Property that
under slavery takes place, to have large tracts
are or have been or perhaps shall never
again be purchased it before now. I have
many hundreds of thousands of Buckets are taking
in horses and some feed besides what is really
wanted would surprise you. The number of
large Buildings that have been destroyed since
we came down the river here would amount
to two or three hundred thousand dollars
each Building containing one Cotton gin
one run of mill stones for cracking Corn and
many of them having a circular room for cutting
wool, fences and outhouses are used for firewood
and there have been some very fine dwelling houses
run down to make floors for our tents. Oh if
the Rebels up North were so, it
would be good for them.

For it is just what they ought to have,
as I write there is a number of the
Boys sitting round the Cooks fire
and singing Kingdom coming,
Take your Gun and go to War,
as a whole we are very happy
and cheery, and you would
think there was no such thing
as war in the land, as far
as the Present is concerned there
one of them has struck up the
Little Major, Kelley is his
name I accompany him as
I write, and the Melodious music
and words are the dearest I think
I ever heard, and I believe

They are true. Now do give me
one of your healthy vigorous letters
and be sure it will be highly
appreciated. Give us all your
know of our netross Dan
happy to hear that the Putters
are on the right side of the
fence; give them all our respects
and tell them if they will
only do their duty in Clyden
if need be with the gun he
will do ours down here.

in every way he possibly can,
Sarah I am happy to see
By the likeness she sends
to Fernie's that one

healthy although she seems
to be slightly ashamed to
own it. Oh Bird how hard
to conquer, just as if it was
a sin to have a good digestion
and rosy cheeks. I am half
inclined to think she is trying
to think your contraband^{or}
in account of you being a mud
sill. But I say nothing for
all. But me for you and Fernie
and Sarah; and I am well
very well educated, mudsills
and will be able to do well
and you working to make
your mark in the world

for good, write soon,
give my love to all, and
don't forget to give me a
big 3 Cents worth, we are
getting the Independent again
and it has the true ring,

Good Bye for the Present

William G. Christie,

PS enclosed is Tom's account
to Father, I hope you have
got the Box of Books

We sent, they cost us two
Dollars for other charges

Gutter Market, Minn. Prindle



First grade next fall will be 1863

No. 1

COMMON SCHOOLS OF *West Dist. 2nd County.* WISCONSIN.

TEACHERS' SECOND GRADE CERTIFICATE.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, *That Miss Sarah J. Christie*
has passed a satisfactory Examination upon all points required by
Law, for a Second Grade Certificate, and *she* is licensed to teach
in any Town in this County for one year from this date, unless
this Certificate be sooner annulled.

The following is *her* standing in the several branches, upon a scale of 10:

Orthography, <i>9</i>	Written Arithmetic, <i>8</i>	Physical Geography, <i>8</i>	Theory and Practice, <i>9</i>
Reading, <i>8</i>	English Grammar, <i>10</i>	Elementary Algebra, <i>9</i>	U. S. History, <i>8</i>
Mental Arithmetic, <i>9</i>	Geography, <i>9</i>	Physiology, <i>10</i>	

April 3

1863

H. B. Phelps Co. Sup't of Schools.

1863
Clymer April 4th

My Dear Sarah

I feel anxious
to know how you came
through the Examination
and what kind of
Certificate you Received

Tell me all about
it and send it down
by Dave.

Also when you
are to be Home

Give my Respect
to Uncle David and
Aunt - I have

Sarah J Christie
Lowell

Near Lake Providence La.

April 11th 1862

My Dear Sister, [Sarah Christie]

In penitence I take up my pen to answer your last letter, received some time ago. I do not think I ever passed so long a period before in which I felt so disinclined to all literary pursuits as during the past fortnight, and I can't write anything that will satisfy myself when I don't feel like thinking steadily. My last poor attempt that I sent to Helen is sufficient proof of this axiom, and I don't think I can do any better this time. My habits of playing cricket, quoits, and base ball, and the fine weather we are enjoying, which tempts me to be in the open air as much as possible in preference to the hot close tents, must be my apology.

Your music is all received, and the whole singing population of the company is greatly obliged to you for the fine new songs, especially "Rally round the Flag Boys," with which we have re-

new thoughts of serenading Gen. McArthur
when we get it all learned.
I have copied some of the music at
the request of comrades who wished to
send it north to singing friends, and
everybody unites with me, in asking you
to continue favors of the kind.

I made my tentmated
laugh when I read to them your
inquiry as to their religion, and I have
to inform you that they are as sound
"Protestants" as any of the Christians.

Still more, we have now for a fourth
innate of the tent, a man with as
Irish a name as the others, and who
is also free from suspicion of Catholicism.
I refer to Sergt. Conner who was
dreadfully wounded at Shiloh, and
has just returned to the Battery from
the hospitals where he has been during
an entire year.

Now, don't you be-
gin to distrust the power of your faculty
for discovering nationality and religion
by names!

I have been greatly tempted, and
so has William, to apply for a com-
mission in one of the Negro Regiments
organizing here, but my reasons

for not doing so are these: In the
first place, I do not like the Infantry branch
of the Service, secondly, there were so
many applicants (from Infantry Regts.
about ten for each office) that I thought
an Artillery man who knew only the
rudiments of Infantry tactics would
stand very little chance. Lastly, I do
not approve of the way they are doing in
commissioning men who are, and al-
ways have been, enemies to the negro
and to his just rights, and who now
take command of him solely for the
sake of the high pay and office.

Here we have one of our privates select-
ed for an officer in the 9th Louisiana.
Col. Hunt. He has been in the Regular
service, in the Dragoons, and probably
knows something of drill, but morally,
he is a worthless scamp, and has
always been a bitter opposer of the Abolition-
ists, as most of the Regulars are.

This disgusts me with the plan, for
there are any amount of good men
in the Division who would have their
hearts in the work, and these are the
ones who should get the offices, even
if they are not so proficient in drill as

new thoughts of serenading Gen. McArthur
when we get it all learned.
I have copied some of the music at
the request of comrades who wished to
send it north to singing friends, and
everybody unites with me in asking you
to continue favors of the kind.

I made my tentmated
laugh when I read to them your
inquiry as to their religion, and I have
to inform you that they are as sound
"Protestants" as any of the Christians.

Still more, we have now for a fourth
innate of the tent, a man with as
Irish a name as the others, and who
is also free from suspicion of Catholicism.
I refer to Sergt. Conner ~~as~~ who was
dreadfully wounded at Shiloh, and
has just returned to the Battery from
the hospitals where he has been during
an entire year.

Now, don't you be-
gin to distrust the power of your faculty
for discovering nationality and religion
by names!

I have been greatly tempted, and
so has William, to apply for a com-
mission in one of the negro Regiments
organizing here, but my reasons

for not doing so are these: In the
first place, I do not like the Infantry branch
of the Service, secondly, there were so
many applicants from Infantry Regts.
(about ten for each office) that I thought
an Artillery man who knew only the
rudiments of Infantry tactics would
stand very little chance. Lastly, I do
not approve of the way they are doing in
commissioning men who are, and al-
ways have been, enemies to the negro
and to his just rights, and who now
take command of him solely for the
sake of the high pay and office.

Here we have one of our privates select-
ed for an officer in the 9th Louisiana,
Col. Hunt. He has been in the Regular
service, in the Dragoons, and probably
knows something of drill, but morally,
he is a worthless scamp, and has
always been a bitter opposer of the Abolition-
ists, as most of the Regulars are.

This disgusts me with the plan, for
there are any amount of good men
in the Division who would have their
hearts in the work, and these are the
ones who should get the offices, even
if they are not so proficient in drill as

these other unprincipled men.

It may be different in other Divisions however, and I hope so, for this plan of enlisting the blacks is excellent, and by it we could raise one hundred Regiments on the banks of this great River, and they would be very serviceable in holding the country conquered by us. The negroes who were swarming in our camps a week ago, are enlisting now with the greatest alacrity, and soon they will pour in from the country by hundreds when they hear of the chance we offer, to fight for their own Liberty.

If they would only authorize here the raising of Artillery or Cavalry, I would apply at once for a commission, and I would get it too.

I received some time ago a letter from Cousin Robert at Fernandina, Florida. He wants me to tell you to write to him, as he says you have not answered the last one he sent.

Sister Clayton started for Minnesota on the 8th and I sent 1 & 2 Dollars home by him, to be expressed to Watertown.

No more until you write, Love,
Give my love to Friends there Reid and Bertie,

Lake Providence La: April the 12th 1863.

Dear Brother. ^[Alex] This is Sunday night: and seeing I've ^{been} victimized Father By writing to him last night I will do the same By you tonight. For do you see I have got the very curious idea into my head. (Therefore it must out) that if I only knew enough about how to 'shell properly' and put in the Pauses in their right Place. In fact if I only knew the rules of Grammar. I would then be able to write an Excellent letter. So seeing the A flatness: or rather the A flat me. Divine or Diabolic: is on me I must write. write. write or bust. And Being very egotistical I must say a very little about others and a good Deal about myself. Now I will begin By asking a question. Have you ever Noticed That there are great numbers of People that are shoved up and on. By circumstances, instead of Outgrowing them. Now I Believe I am just such a one. Probably you will ask how. Well just By not Being as strong in the Battle of life: as I should have been. letting my lack of energy: or rather ⁱⁿ not using the Powers God gave me I have often gone under. when I could have been on the top. I am not so much afraid for you in that respect as I am for David: I am inclined to think he is more apt to take the mere skimmings of his Present advantages: and think he has the solid. Now my advice to him would be for him to take all the insight into Arithmetic. that you and Sarah can give him: also to listen. (this for all three) very earnestly to what Father and Mother may say to you in the way of advice. Both of them having seen much of life from Different Standpoints: I know now when I look back. its very seldom I have ever known Father to advise in a wrong Direction. Now I think that a man knowing how to climb over or on circumstances must have a strong will properly governed By Reason. And Reason must be Backed By a full Passional Nature: Both of these Being under the correct control of your Moral faculties. Now I have but a very uneven. Moral and Mental Development. then rather a small Combativeness: so I have been ^{one of the} shoved. By circumstances instead of having a good healthy natural growth: And knowing some little about your Build I have a desire to caution you against the liabilities: you are very likely to fall into: if you do not try to mend up the low Places in the wall. The fact of the matter is this: you may read History: and study Arithmetic in all its various Branches. you may study Physiology: and all the other Physical sciences and be very wise in a way. you may know the Best Points about a horse and a Cow: also how to take the Best end of a Bargain. acquire riches: and all such things: and still if you do not know when to say yes: or No. it will be as nothing. And the way to be able to make circumstances be your servants: is to have a good moral Development and I know you can make yours Better than it is. Not By going to Protracted Revival Prayer meetings: or getting into an undue ^{time} condition of excitement. The ^{time} spent in such Places: are nearly if not quite wasted. But let your judgment look closely into the works of Nature and see the adaptation of means to an end and that end happiness to all. unbounded happiness. Watch how the actions of Individuals: react upon themselves. or others to produce: or ~~abstract~~ ^{abstract}

from that happiness, look and see. Beauty, and use, in every thing in the Universe
and, then you will feel a curious sensation, ^{giving you, prompting you to ask how these}
are just as you see them, you Reason on this matter, think it over in your own
mind. Come to this conclusion By saying I am a Reasoning Being, ~~that~~ ^{that}
~~created me~~ every thing round about ^{me} subject to laws just in all these parts, and

and Beneficial in there results. Therefore whatever Power created me, and
all other things, must be Wise, Just, and Good. So if I am Wise, Good
and Just, I will be in accord with this Power, therefore happy,

so you see, you must be Charitable. For this Power is Charitable.
You can draw the inferences, for I must prepare to go on guard soon, Good
night, for the Present, This morning its Rains. Did you ever notice
how ants, would run hither and thither, when there Roof was disturbed,

I remember the first time I ever saw such a sight: was many years
ago. Father had taken me out to Will's Barren, where we could see
the Sea, ~~was~~ ^{was} on a steep Part of the Slope where the grass was
very green, under the trees, that Father saw a flat Stone lying on
the ground, he took me to it and turning it up, opened Part of the
mysteries of an ant hill, how quickly they took alarm, at the condition
of affairs, each one picking up and carrying away, whatever came nearest
them in the shape of Larvae, into the deep Chambers of there colony

How like an ant hill is a nation in its every day life, God lifts
off Part of the Cover we heap over ourselves, to keep out the Bright light
of Heaven, and then what a rushing, and running to and fro, there is
among us, and a trying to save our old Ideas, at every expense, There is to be

another ~~new~~ ^{new} Regiments of Black ants, raised, here they say, If that is
so, I have a mind to apply for a Commission among them, For let me tell
you for as well as the President may intend to do by the Black, there
some very Poor Samples, of Man kind that has got Posts as Captains, and

Serjeants, Men totally unfit for such Places, who have gone in for what they
will be able to make, in money, and other such things, By selling
the Blacks of there Nation, I am now I have heard some such men swear at
the Damned Nigger, While there Breath was redolent of Rotgut and Tobacco

We are so used now to the Boats passing up and down the River that we
hardly ever look at them, But sometimes when a regular Mud turtle
goes past we climb the Levee, to get a sight at it one such, went past
yesterday afternoon, having twelve Guns mounted, and there is no
doubt of it But they are hard things to take, if the Crew are only of the

light Stamp, I say ~~say~~ ^{say} take care your minds dont get to be like an
old Band Box full of all kinds of trumpery, mixed up in very confused
manner, For I find mine is just such a, concern, with after glass
Beads at the Bottom, which I want to make myself and others believe

to be Diamonds, of the first Water, so you see I begin my letter
about myself, and it about the same interesting Subjects, And I verily
believe if my ears were only a few inches longer, I would make
a splendid Ass, Write soon, Give my Affectionate Respects

to all, I suppose they would get them from the heels W. J. Christie

Dear Lake Providence, La.

April 15th 1863.

My Dear Brother, [Alexander]

I have apologized so much of late for my negligence and not answering your letters. I am about it as much as my other affairs are, ^{also} and so I shall not let you wait any longer.

Spring is in full operation here with us, and everything is quickened & blossoming. The few birds that inhabit these bottoms and all but their nest creation, and large flocks of Robins, Blackbirds, Ducks, pond geese, and many others, are busy in your ground holes and at their nests. I often fancy them looking down in full view as their fellow countrymen, who have not the same freedom in the choice of their abode.

Surely, the little robin that chirps in your cherry tree, should have a double interest to you this Spring, if you ever imagine what he has seen in his flight from the Antilles or the banks of the Amazon and Orinoco.

Perhaps he has followed the Mississippi in his pilgrimage, and rested in the cottonwoods or dead mangroves of Louisiana. He has looked down on the high encampments of the Confederates behind their works at Vicksburg; on the fleet of gunboats and steamers that swarm in the mouth of the Bayou and along the shore at George's point, and on our white camps scattered along the River hemmed in by the great levee on one

Chickadee Lake Providence La

April 15th 1863

My Dear Brother, [address]

I have apologized so much of late for my negligence in not answering you by that letter about the birds and what they are, ^{also} and so I shall not let you hear any more.

Spring is in full operation here with us, and everything is green and blossoming. The few birds that inhabit these bottoms get all but their nest material, and large flocks of Robins, Blackbirds, Ducks, and geese, first come. They come to your ground and at these places I can fancy them looking down on you as their fellow earthworms and have a bit the same freedom in the choice of their dwellings.

Surely, the little robin that chirps in your cherry tree should have a double interest to you this Spring, if you only imagine what he has seen in his flight from the Antilles or the banks of the Amazon and Orinoco.

Perhaps he has followed the Mississippi in his pilgrimage, and rested in the cottonwoods or dead mangroves of Louisiana. He has looked down on the high green mounds of the Confederates behind their works at Vicksburg;

on the fleet of gunboats and steamers that swarm in the mouth of the Bayou and along the shore at Houma point, and on our white camps scattered along the River hemmed in by the great levee on one

rice, and by the dark cypress swamps
are the other. Speaking of birds
reminds me of phenomena connected
there, which I never observed at home.

For instance, when we were camped on
the bank of the lake, about a month ago,
we used to see every morning a column
of Blackbirds, a dozen rods wide, and
which would occupy a half hour in
passing, flying over camp towards the
south, and at evening the same
column passed in the same track towards
the north. They always flew close to-
gether, and at every place where a curve
had been made by the leaders the whole
line swooped the same way.

We used to call them the Black Brigade,
and the column must have been 10 miles
long, for when one end the advance was
out of sight in the north, the rear was
still invisible. The Darkeys told us
that the birds went south to some old
rice fields to feed, and returned at night
to the shelter of the cottonwood groves.

When we were at the next camp
down near town, we used to see robins

flying over us which would rest in the
air as if drunk, and if they were watched
they would be seen to fall violently to
the ground. Several of them were picked
up by our men, and after resting a while
they would fly again, only to reel and
fall again. This was caused by
poisonous berries that the birds ate on the
opposite shore.

While I remember it, I must request
you to send me by Adams Express, the
Spanish Method by Yngut I think, you
know the book I used to study the Spanish
language in. It can be done up re-
cubely, and expressed at Watertown to my
address, Lake Providence.

A comrade and friend was speaking of
sending to New York for a Spanish grammar
yesterday, in order to begin the study of
the language, and I thought if I sent
for yours it would save the price of it at
least, and then I can complete my edu-
cation in that respect. Of course, Father
will let you have the half dollar required by
the Express, and you will greatly oblige me
by attending to it.

Address the box to no particular place, chance, Co. 9th Corps.

Have you got the box we expressed on the 16th Ult? I am afraid that the rumor which we hear in town is true, that all the boxes sent up the river by the express have been opened at Cairo, and nothing allowed to go further except Blankets and Overcoats. If you have not received the box by this time, you may give it up as lost, for all such articles as books are considered contraband of war, and they are not allowed to leave the army.

I also sent on the 8th 97 Dollars, and William sent 66. I hope Father has got it.

The weather is very pleasant, the spring rains being about over, and the days not being very hot yet. We hope to be out of these unhealthy hollows soon, for the men even now begin to show symptoms of debility, and it would not take very long, were the sickly season fairly commenced, to prostrate one third of the Company with fevers and Diarrheas. Our business will now be settled shortly, I think, our corps is under marching orders, Logan's Division goes down the River today, and ours will probably march as soon as we get transports.

Winby, from the Payo Pass, went down yesterday, and everything seems to indicate a concentration ~~at~~ the doomed city. No more. T. D. Christie.

Address the box to no particular place, change, Co. Div. corps.

Have you got the box we expressed on the 16th ult? I am afraid that the rumor which we hear in town is true, that all the boxes sent up the river by the express have been opened at Cairo, and nothing allowed to go further except Blankets and Overcoats. If you have not received the box by this time, you may give it up as lost, for all such articles as these are considered contraband of war, and they are not allowed to leave the army.

I also sent on the 8th \$7 Dollars, and William sent 66. I hope Father has got it.

The weather is very pleasant, the spring rains being about over, and the damps not being very hot yet. We hope to be out of these unhealthy hollows soon, for the men here now begin to show symptoms of debility, and it would not take very long, when the sickly season fairly commenced, to prostrate one third of the company with fevers and diarrheas. Our business will now be settled shortly I think, our corps is under marching orders, Logan's Division goes down the River today, and ours will probably march as soon as we get transports.

Quincy, from the Yazoo Pass, went down yesterday, and everything seems to indicate a concentration near the downriver city. No more. T. D. Christie.

Wausal April 21st 1863

Dear Christie, [Sara]

Now that I am safe at home and have about recovered from the fatigue of the last week of school, and my journey home, I suppose that it is my duty to write and inform you that such is the case.

I got to Wicon at half past ten, the day you left me at the junction. I was obliged to remain there untill half past six in the evening. I found it very tiresome and unpleasant waiting so long. It was so stormy and unpleasant that I could not leave the refreshment room.

At last the cars came, and with a joyful heart I started toward Berlin, where I arrived about ten o'clock. I found father and

and George waiting for me. We stayed there over night and the next day started for home. O, such roads we had for about ten miles. And then it was very cold and unpleasant riding.

It rained so that we were obliged to stop about two hours, so that it was quite late when we arrived at home. However mother was anxiously looking for us, and supper was soon ready.

I need not tell you how good the sweet, white bread and good fresh butter, as well as every thing else, tasted, for you have gone through with the same and of course know all about it.

What time did you get home and did you get your pitcher and bowl home without breaking it?

Have you heard from any of the girls since we parted, and did Farewell to each other, and the dear old college? Have you heard from your brothers

Lately and are they still well?

I suppose you would like to hear something about our examination, but I would rather not tell you any thing about it, but as I promised to I suppose of course I must.

You may have already guessed why I wish to say nothing about it.

It is because I received only a third grade. Now I know you will say, "Pan" ought to be ashamed and so she is. After attending the Wisconsin Female College seven months ~~and~~ to receive only a third grade certificate.

But I tell you, Christie, we have no Mr. Phelps or even a Mr. G. for a superintendent. Mr. Wernli is far more strict and thorough than either. He is much harder this spring than he was last and I believe he intends to raise his

standard every year. I am sure I don't know what we shall do next spring.

My failure was on History. O Dear such questions as he asked. I wish I could send you a copy of them. But that is impossible as he did not have them printed. We wrote the questions on each branch on the board and then erased them. The examination was all oral for the second grade except Algebra.

Now, Christie, I do not envy you your second grade but I do wish you would go through an examination under Mr. Merzli. It was even worse than the normal examination. The questions on Algebra were much harder.

I am going to study History this summer in earnest, and try again in the fall. Although I am ashamed I am not discouraged. Please write soon. With much love I remain your friend
P. C. Van Horn

On the march, April 29th 1863,

[Carpenter]

[Sawyer]

Dear Brother and Sister, not forgetting the
Other loved ones, I take this opportunity as we are
camped on Smith's Plantation. On Roundabout Bazon
~~large~~ lying over the rest after traveling ten days and
a half to get here. Our teams and men being pretty
well tired out on account of the roughness of the road.
We had as many as four of our teams fast in the mud
at once, and we had to lift and pull a great deal, we
getting drenched all over with the sticky mud, and for a
full half day better, with a heavy rain storm. John and
Dong, kept us busy and hunger made us enjoy our
hard task, with great gusto. So if you could see us now
you would find us rough, healthy, and dirty. There is as
near as I can learn some ~~three~~ ^{five} Divisions ahead of us
between here and the Mississippi River, some 8 miles
distant South and East of this Point. We are about ~~twenty~~ ^{twenty}
miles from Millittins Bend, and twentifine west of Bucke's
and when we get to Carthage we will be some twenty or
thirty miles below Bucke's, and rumor says we will have
to contend for the Passage of the River with the Rebels. We have
Received St Louis Papers up to the twentyfourth day, and we
cannot see ^{or hear} much that is going on, I Believe Tom sent a
letter to some of you before we left the Bend, and all I
have to speak of since is that through mud thick and thin
we are here, in the mud, waiting for our turn to cross the
River, I suppose it will take us another day to get through.
So you see we do not move very fast, for the roads are just
as bad as any you ever saw in Wisconsin. The most of the road
has been thrown up by our engineer corp, and they have fairly
stripped the fields of their fenceings and we have have been follow-
ing a Bazon called roundabout, and I think it is very well
named. A Boat followed us up the Bazon, and I believe that
this is the same Bazon I spoke of in one of my letters to
Father,

On the march, April 29th 1863,

[Answer]

[Savah]

Dear Brother and Sister, not forgetting the
other loved ones. I take this opportunity as we are
camped on Smith's Plantation. On Roundabout Bay
Lago. Lying over the rest after traveling two days and
a half to get here. Our teams and men being pretty
well worn out on account of the roughness of the road.
We had as many as four of our teams fast in the mud
at once, and we had to lift and pull a great deal, we
getting drenched all over with the sticky mud, and for a
full half day battled with a heavy rain storm, jokes and
songs kept us merry and hunger made us enjoy our
hard tasks with great gusto. So if you could see us now
you would find us rough, healthy, and dirty. There is as
near as I can learn some ~~five~~ ^{five} Divisions ahead of us
between here and the Mississippi River, some 8 miles
distant South and East of this Point. We are about ~~twenty~~ ^{twenty}
miles from Millikin's Bend, and twentyfive West of Rockport
, and when we get to Carthage we will be some twenty or
thirty miles below Rockport, and rumor says we will have
to contend for the passage of the River with the Rebels. We have
received St Louis papers up to the twentieth today, and we
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So you see we do not move very fast, for the roads are just
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ing a Bazon called roundabout, and I think it is very well
named, a boat followed us up the Bazon and I believe that
this is the same Bazon I spoke of in one of my letters to
Father,

The twentieth Miss. Col. Hospital is here, and we will have a good opportunity to see the twentieth. As we may soon see Tom Reed. But we may not see him all things so near for we can't go just where we please, as you folks up there can do when you wish to see a Friend that is near you. Tom sent a letter to Father's address, with ten Dollars enclosed to Sarah, he sent it to Watertown and I hope you will get it. I can't write as I would like to for the very reason. I do not know what to say. As you may think it will be easily said, but that is just the worst possible fix to be in you can think of. You just sit down to write a letter, and you having nothing to say, and you will soon see I am stating a fact. If I were writing such letters as my last to Father and Sarah, why you would have every reason to think I was a fool, or an Ass, or both. It surprises me very much you have not got the books yet, all the rest of the boys that sent home boxes, have heard from them. But you don't say the box is in town, in your next letter to us we expect to hear from the money we sent north with Clayton, enclosed 66 Dollars, and Tom over fifty. A Father must make good use of it. The fire I sent with Tom to Sarah, I borrowed from W. H. Wilton one of the Kings. The other King is an Irish man from County Derry, from Killrea; on the Danu, we have had an accession of another King, John Torrey, an American, from Michigan, to Minnesota. He gets along very well, and have no trouble and there is more good feeling among such a mixed up set of men, than you would possibly think there could be. Don't you have a mixed up mess of a letter to read every time I write. You would think a regular shop o' my thumb had written it, I am very happy to think Sarah passed her examination so well, and I am very happy to think Doc

Benson, has not forgotten us, Remember us to him, when you see him, and really Sarah I would like you to be kind enough to write another letter to Janet Clarkson, and learn the news from that quarter. When you write give the Clarksons our best respects, and ask them when they last heard from James Strickland. 'Tis a very long time since we heard from him. Now a word to you all before I stop this letter of many nothings. Do not be in the least uneasy about either of us, if you should not hear from us for a long time. There may be a great battle before a great many days or weeks pass by. But if you all trust as much in the goodness of God, as I do you have nothing to fear for either of us, and if anything should happen to us, there is a way. Father or Mother will hear of it quicker than by letter. 'Tis growing dark, I will have to stop. There is word of us moving on tomorrow. Tom rides on the march, so he gets along easily. The nearest I have come to seeing an Alligator was the skin of one, about eight feet long, makes are numerous, and they haven't hurt any or yet that I have heard of. Tom is going to write a little so I will stop.

Your loving Mother Wm & Christie

Smith's plantation,

Near Carthage, La. April 29th.

We have had a terrible march
from the Bend, and men and horses
today are completely ^{run} down.

^{of the men} We are all in good health notwithstanding
our difficulties, and the health
never would more ragged. He ^{very} ^{laughed} ^{heartily} ^{when} ^a ^{caisson} ^{or} ^{gun}
stuck in the mud, and applied ^{their}
seabags ^{enthusiastically} to the wheels
and ^{prolong} ^{rape}. No ^{dainty} ^{scruples}
as to mud were allowed to ^{david}
us from ^{reigning} the wheels, and as a
consequence my jacket and pantaloons
are now in a ^{scarcely} ^{presentable} ^{con-}
^{dition}. I ^{fare} ^{rather} ^{better} ^{though},
than the ^{most} ^{of} ^{the} ^{other} ^{carriages}
for I had a horse to ride while they
went ^{afast}. The Infantry had the
most ^{time} ^{of} ^{it}, ^{packing} ^{their} ^{knapsacks}
and ^{rations} and ^{guns} through the awful
mud.

We will not stay here long. I think
in fact it is ^{rumored} that we have to
morrow for Carthage, where our Divisions
are ^{concentrating}. An old darkey with
whom I had a talk on the road yester-
day said there had enough ^{Wagons}
passed during the past two weeks to cov-
er ^{Richburg} ^{over} ^{two} ^{deep}, and the ^{present}
conditions of the roads partly ^{verify} ^{the} ^{statement}.
Yours Respectfully T.D.C.

Smith's plantation

Near Carthage, La. April 29th

We have had a terrible march from the Bend, and men and horses today are completely fagged out.

We are all in good spirits notwithstanding our out difficulties, and the health of the men ^{of the men} never more ragged. He ^{we} ^{laughed} ^{heavily} ^{when} ^a ^{caisson} ^{or} ^{gun} ^{stuck} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{mud}, and applied ^{our} ^{shoulders} ^{enthusiastically} ^{to} ^{the} ^{wheels} ^{and} ^{prolong} ^{rope}, etc. ^{to} ^{save} ^{us} ^{from} ^{sinking} ^{the} ^{wheels}, and as a consequence my jacket and pantaloons are now in a scarcely presentable condition, ^{but} ^I ^{found} ^{rather} ^{better} ^{though}, than the rest of the other ^{carriage} ^{men} ^{for} ^I ^{had} ^a ^{horse} ^{to} ^{ride} ^{while} ^{they} ^{went} ^{afloat}. The Infantry had the worst time of it, packing their knapsacks and rations and guns through the awful mud.

We will not stay here long. I think in fact it is rumored that we have to move for Carthage, where our Divisions are concentrating. An old darkey with whom I had a talk on the road yesterday said there had enough Yankees passed during the past two weeks to cover Hickburg over two deep, and the present condition of the roads partly verified that statement.

Yours Respectfully T.D.C.

Rural May 16th 1863

Dear Christie, [Sarah]

I received yours
of the 6th inst. one week ago last night
and assure you that it was read and
reread with much pleasure.

Glad to hear that you are in
such very good spirits. I suppose
you are getting along finely with your
school. Now I do wish that I could
just step in some after noon and
see you. Doubtless I might learn
something that would be very beneficial
to me; for I do think one of the best
ways a teacher can improve herself is
to visit other schools.

I can heartily second your wish
that we were teaching near each other.
How much ^{should} we enjoy to meet and

Talk over our troubles and trials, as well as pleasures, experienced in the school room.

I have commenced my school. Have had but twenty five scholars yet. I think it will prove to be a very pleasant school. Mostly small scholars.

I think I never felt the responsibility of a teacher so much as I have since I commenced this school. I do wish I knew the very best method of teaching each branch to be taught in a common school.

Please give me your method of teaching spelling, also how you avoid communication in school.

I attended our Co. Teachers' association two weeks ago today.

I think they are both interesting and profitable.

But enough on teaching for the

present. I received a letter from Mattie Dye yesterday morning.

Neither she nor Ada are going to teach this summer. Their cousin

Henry lived only a week after they reached home. Poor Adalaid must feel very badly.

I received a letter from Harrington a few weeks ago. She was well and I should judge enjoying herself very much. She was still keeping house for her father.

Poor girl! I guess that much of her thoughts are ^{still} placed on the other sep.

Are you not thankful, Christa, that our heads are not troubled with the thoughts of them?

By the way will it be improper for me to inquire if you have heard from your little favorite Georgie?

The piece which he wrote in

my Album has attracted the attention of several since I came home.

How much I enjoy looking over those pieces written by dear school mates many of whom I may never see again.

I suppose some of the girls are preparing to return at the summer term, I believe, begins next week.

Have you decided yet where you will attend school the coming fall and winter.

I wonder who will occupy our old room this summer.

I often imagine myself there again and take an imaginary look at every thing from our hall to the kitchen.

How familiar every object had become. Do you remember the company that used to drill in our hall, the last half hour in the evening?

But I will close for 'tis nearly dark.
Please write very soon.

With much love I remain your
Friend Jane

For Lake Wisconsin
May 17th 1863.

My Beloved Christie [Sarah]

Your kind interesting letter of the 13th was duly received, and welcomed, and appropriately appreciated by me, your unworthy friend. You wished me to answer it immediately and I hasten to comply, for I want you to know how glad I am to hear from you. I remember well that you promised to write me, but I certainly thought you would soon forget both the promise and myself, when you got home with your friends, and became engaged in the active duties of life. Little did I think that, when your mind would be occupied by other, and more important concerns, I should still have a place in your memory. I must tell you, Christie, that I never could forget you. Do you remember the Sabbath day that Elder Fish gave us both the hand of fellowship together, and welcomed us within the pales of Christ's Church? Well, that day I mentally called you my sister — my spiritual sister — my sister in Christ, & I have loved you ever since, and always shall forever. And I am glad, very glad, to know that you think of me. May you not forget your humble friend, until we meet again inside the gates of the celestial city and the blessed Saviour himself shall extend to us the hand of fellowship in the Church Triumphant above.

May 20th — You will readily believe that I commenced this some days ago but have not finished it yet. I have been rather busy since then so I know you will excuse me. I joined the good Templars last night, and feel somewhat ill and exhausted this morning. I don't know whether it was "riding the goat", or "climbing the greased pole", or the effects of the "hot grid irons," that makes me have such a dreadful headache this morning. It must be, for I haven't had such a headache for a long time.

It is a wonder to me that I ever endured such an "Ordeal".

You are a school ma'am, are you — Searching the "young ideas how to shoot" and take root. I am very glad indeed that you love the occupation, for I know you will make an excellent teacher.

You have the brain and talent and the will; and these are the prerequisites of success. Dear Christie I hope you will have an ample opportunity for obtaining yourself an education, and improving the talents of your excellent and well balanced mind. I know that even if you should never go to school another day, you could and would become a well educated woman notwithstanding. For you know well that book learning forms but a small part of education.

Education consists in the training and perfecting of the moral, intellectual, and physical, powers. A person who cultivates the head and neglects the heart is not educated. In order to be well educated, we must not neglect the least faculty that the All-father hath given us — we must improve them all, for they are all capable of being improved. But, with all the

advantages of the present time, it is painful to notice how very few really educated people there are, comparatively. How often we see young men and women, graduating from colleges, with broken shattered constitutions, and sometimes devoid of all moral perceptions and feelings whatever. Some times the whole sam total of the so called "educated" people's education, is crammed and jammed into a single faculty of the mind, that is — Memory. Oh, my dear Christie, we ought to study nature herself and people, things, more than we do, and books a good deal less. I can learn more of Agricultural Chemistry by conversing on the subject with a good wise homespun old farmer for a little while, than I can learn in a long time out of all the books I ever saw on the subject. And so it is with almost every branch of education; we can learn more by communing with our own species, than we can learn out of books. — Dear girl: it is now over a week ago since I commenced this letter, but I have been visiting and excur- sioning around so much, that I really can scarcely do any thing else. But I am settled down now, I will not be so dissipated any more. And I will never be so long writing you a letter again. Of course you have heard that Miss Jenny is gone off and got married. I teach in the College three hours a day. Mr. Lathrop says the school this summer is as large as it usually is in the summer times. He is going to leave here next fall and three lady teachers from Rockford Illinois are to take charge of the school. I presume they intend to convert it into a Sam mary as no gentlemen will be admitted. Lillie Robinson & Douglass & the Smith girls

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& Land, & Damshee, & Armes, are back here this terms. The girls declare they will not patronize the school after those "High falutin" ladies come. I don't blame them. Who wants to be a Mum? I am sure I don't. The College school is about to be conducted on the same plan that it was before, when it ran down to absolutely nothing. When at one time there were four or five Teachers and only about sixteen scholars in the whole institution for them to teach. That's doing business on a "big scale", isn't it. - Well, there's no use in talking. - Give my love to Van Horn when you write her again. She is a dear fine girl. I love her very much. Oh, I must not forget to tell you that we went out boat riding and fishing on the lake yesterday and had a magnificent time. Went in the morning, took our dinner along, caught fish and fried them, and had a very nice dinner - a sumptuous dinner - and a splendid appetite. The party consisted of Lillie, "Doodle", Goodwin, Ella Kellogg, Miss Brown, the Principal of the Academy, Loney Merwin, Cinder Smith, "Pop" Reed - as Lillie calls him - Mr. Gallon, Mr. Parker, Mr. Germain, and myself Esq. Oh yes, & a Mr. Hughes too. Our fleet consisted of three boats. I wish you could have been along, so I do. I suppose you heard of the great numbers of the 29th Regt which were killed and wounded in the late battles. The Co. that went from here lost a good many, in killed and wounded. Mr. Spring was killed, or he died of his wounds, which is the same thing. I can't say any more now. Write soon to your affectionate and sincere friend
Ellen

Wicksburg Miss. May 26th 1863

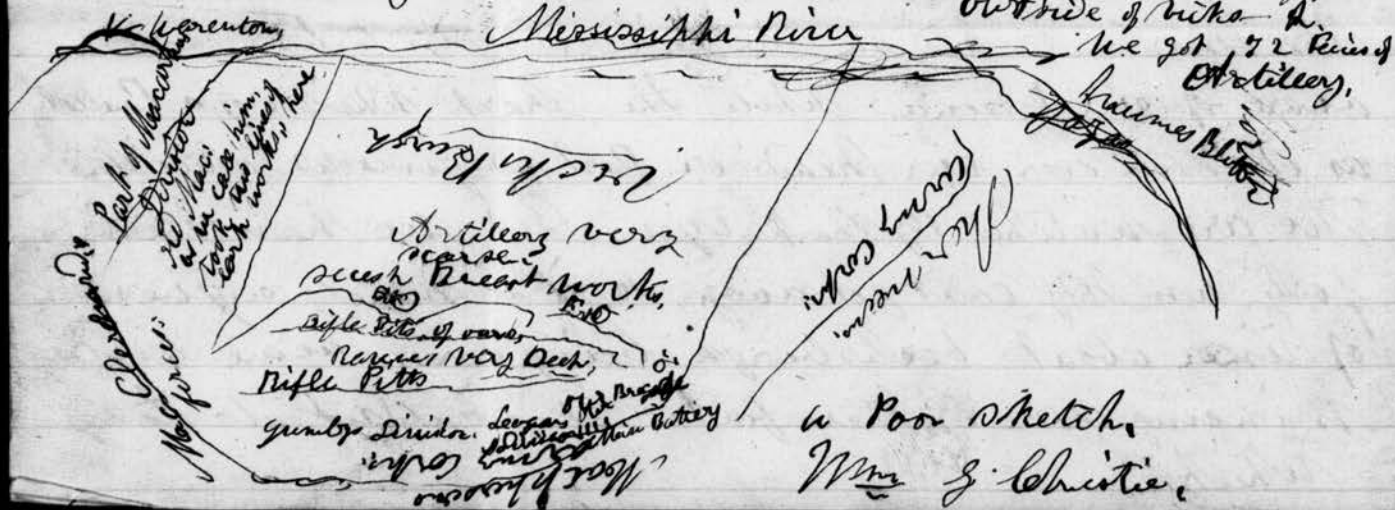
Dear Brother, ^[Alex] I Received your letter yesterday and am very happy to learn you are all well. So I now take my Pen in hand. (as some say just as though it was customary to take a Pen in foot to write a letter). To let you know what we have been doing and where we have been doing it for the last sixteen days. On Sunday the 10th ult. Our Brigade ^{of Major Arthur's Division} consisting of five regiments under Brigadier Gen. Canine, left Smiths Plantation for Grand Gulf, some 40 miles down the River. We followed the Bank of the Mississippi, traveling on the levee the whole distance. making the place of embarkation on the 4th day. where we got on board the boats and were ferried over the River. to the forts that had been but a few days before in the hands of the enemy. While on the Louisiana side of the River we travelled over a flat rich soil, abounding in Bayous and lakes. These being literally full of fish, and also birds; numerous. we did not see any of these gentry alive. But there were numbers of dead ones lying along the route of travel. They had been killed by the troops that had passed before us, and the sight and stench. together, was far from pleasant. I assure you, they are ugly looking Brutes dead or alive, and do a great deal to take from the beauties of the country. The difference between the Miss. and La. sides of the River are decidedly striking and look as though you might have crossed a sea instead of a river. We staid one night at Grand Gulf. next morning starting a few o'clock for

to join our Army corps. ahead of us as we heard at a Place
called Bolton, our road lay over a very Broken Bluffy
country, covered with a very good crop of thirty Corn where
it was under Cultivation, and various kinds of hard wood where
the forest covered the ground. There was very little of note took
Place on the road, until we reached Raymond, a small
town about eight miles from Edward's Depot, where
we heard cannonading, and we went off in that ^{direction} to
help if necessary. we were pushed up to the front, and
got within hearing of the Musketry, But we did not need
to come into action, we had busy times of it from that
time until such times as we drove the Rebs over Black River
on a grand Skedaddle, leaving behind them a great number
of field Pieces, and a large number of Prisoners. The Papers will give
you all the Particulars, if not I will tell you a great deal more
when I see you, than I can possibly write, after waiting
to Build Bridges, to get the stuff for which we pulled down
some buildings, we crossed the Big Black River and
reached this Point, ^{meeting} But very little resistance, and stopped
for the very reason that we can't go any further at Present
, not so much on account of Reckless, But because the
natural Protections of Vicksburg are very efficient. to
bring a large army to a stop, even if there was no opposing
force, to kick us in the chest. To give you some Idea of the country
just think of all the odds and ends of such ridges as the
Hogback thrown together, in a jumble with deep gulches
between, and the bottoms of them cut up into great gulches
by the heavy rains of Winter.

Now the earth works of the Rebels are built on the crest
of a ridge that skirts the Bluffs on the opposite side
from us. The Ravines are full of felled trees, and the sides
of them the same, so it makes it impossible to take the Place
By storm, for our Men has tried it twice, and failed, on
account of utter exhaustion, when they got only over half
the intervening Space. Our Guns are in Position and has
done good execution among the Rebs, we have been very
busy, and played on the enemy's works, for three days, in
a regular steady manner, But for the last two or three
days we have been very quiet. The sound of Bullets from
Reckless, as they passed over us or by us made us feel rather
uncomfortable. But we lay by our guns and listen to
fire of the skirmishers on both sides, with indifference, and
there is nothing in the world to hinder you from thinking
as the report of the muskets. Reach your ears ~~that~~ there is
a large force of men in the woods clearing up timber,
the occasional boom of a Thirtytwo, or ten, or six
Pounder, and the like sound of a twelve Pound
Howitzer, mixed up with the dull roar from
the mortar Boats on the River, helps to keep Rebels
aware of our presence, while the sharp whistle of a Bullet
as it passes over our heads or past us gives us notice that
we are watched by sharp eyes. But we have them
fast, and they can't get away, so it is merely a question
of time, about Vicksburg being ours, we are under
mining some of their forts, it would not do to say
which,

There has been some conversation between our Boys and the Secesh. for instance one of the Rascals asked our Boys, if they were Blue Bellies. The answer went Back. ^{you} were Blue Bellies enough for ~~them~~ ^{you}. The estimates of how long Secesh can hold out is simply amusing. Some say they can live six months on what food they have, others than it as many weeks. Some so many days. But there is not a man on our side yet. That I have seen but say, it will come, and so we are hopeful, and confident. Yesterday a flag of truce came out to the Breast works, and hostilities ceased for four hours and a half. The dead were Buried, and the Union Boys had a good look at Secesh. That is what showed, them selves. Our men appeared in great numbers, and looked well in comparison to the rebels.

Major Gen. Logan. has a little Sprung, so he told a Secesh Officer, that when they saw a man on a white horse ^{with a mustache} riding along, then line they must not shoot him for he was a Damned good man, meaning himself, for he has been in the habit of riding along the line, the mustache being on him, and not on the horse. In all the fights outside of Vicksburg we got 72 Pieces of Artillery.



a Poor sketch.
Wm. Christie.

May 31st [1863] Camp close by Vicksburg

[James Christie]

Dear Father I will try in this letter, to describe one of the grandest sights, I ever saw. This morning at three o'clock, the Batteries of Genl Grants Army at this Place, opened at once on the doomed City of Vicksburg. And the effects of such a sight almost defies description. The line extends some eight miles round the Besieged town. There is Artillery enough on this line to shoot from one to the other. Now just stand with me on the Point where our Battery is placed, and see the vivid flashes of the Guns, like lightning, and the showers of shell, as they make their quick curves through the air, hissing and hurtling, and finally exploding, with a report almost as loud as the Gun. The air waved like the sea, and vibrated with a hoarse murmuring sound. While the valleys were filled with the loud thundering sound of the detonation of the firing of the mortar boats, on the river and the flash of their shots, were seen on the background exactly like lightning. But still there is one phase of the scene I have not spoken of and that is the burning of the fuses, in each shell, while they are going through the air. The fuse burns, with a blue light, and looks to say the least very Devilish. and I have no doubt the soldiers thought so. We kept up the Cannonading for over an hour, and made some excellent shots. Tom and I worked on the gun together he as powder. And I as three 20 pounders. When there is anything going on we are generally close together and we were volunteers at that. There was not much danger in the dark, from the Rebel sharpshooters. But we have to stand our ground in the daytime, and then we have to dodge the bullets frequently. I have been doing the duties of Driver, No. 3. ditto also on the gun, and I don't see as there as much danger at the gun as there is driving. Now you may think me a coward but I will try to give

and the Boys an insight in my feelings, on the occasion
of my first ride, full in sight of the Rebel fortifications,
within rifle range. On the first day of the siege, we were
ordered to a Point on the left of the main Road, from Jackson
to Vicksburg, and in front of the largest fort on the north
side. Now I had stood my ground on the open field, and ^{did not} feel very
shaky on the legs. But to be mounted on the back of a horse
and know that there was not only hundreds of men that
would shoot at you, like they were shooting at a Turkey,
with a cool deliberate aim. But at the same time just
such a thing as you were drawing after you, only larger,
if anything, made me feel very nervous. I assure you
but still there was not a man near me would have thought
that I really would have liked to have run away. I threw
my own team with precision, and even directed the
other drivers. Now I thought we could get along over some parts
of the ground, (it being very rough), to the best advantage.
We had got our guns in position, and got our horses and limbers
under shelter of the hill, and beginning to feel that we had
not so much to fear, when we found out that our Officers
in command had not got our Howitzers in the right
place, so we had to take the same ride over again, and
ride up to within five or six hundred yards of the enemy's
works, in the open range of his Batteries and Sharpshooters.
Father I was desperate, desperately afraid. (But thank God)
only of myself. You know my bump of firmness is large
and it is well for the Christies it is so, or I really am
sure I would have run away. Could you have seen my
inner self, you would have seen a very strange trial
of strength. How I reasoned with myself, about my
duties as a soldier. How a deep trust in the goodness
and mercy of God, would speak up in me to keep
me true to myself and Country. I can only give
you a faint idea, of what I felt and really suffered
in that ride. But the battle was fought, and praise

be to God he gained the victory. Over me and I am considered
good coin any where, as far as soldier is concerned and realize now
I do not think I will ever feel so again. So now you see the
confessions, not of a great man. But of a poor weak fellow
that scarcely knows how to live after trying it now for nearly
thirty three years. In my letter to A. D. Christie, I gave
you an account of the appearance of the country, and so I have
nothing new to say about that. Therefore I will have to file up the
balance of this sheet the best way I know how. Lately I have
been in the habit of digging crazy down into myself, to see
what I was, what I thought and how or why I generally
thought just as I did. I often ask myself, are all men like
me, in any one respect, as far as thinking ~~it~~ is concerned
or the methods of thinking, is every one as erratic, in their
modes. Not that am in the least eccentric ^{that is} to be
noticeable. But at the same time, I am so well aware of my
weaknesses, and yet it seems I do so little in the way of
mastering them. There must be some thing fundamentally
wrong in a character, such as mine, or at least in my
surroundings. When I have ^{more} been impressed with greater or
lesser, good, than I am now. Not that I can say any
one is to blame, for me being just as I am. So much
as I am myself. For in looking over the past, I see
nothing but a great many shortcomings, in every respect
on my own part, in all circumstances, and a wonderful
patience, on the part of all with whom I have come in contact.
It is true I have been often misjudged through mistakes
of others, and my own. And it must be that there ^{must} have
must have been some reason on account of my own action
if they would not have not judged just as they did, and
acting accordingly. Now about that money, I am
really sorry that I have caused you to feel just as
it seems to me you must have done when you wrote
that letter to Tom in which you abuse me so

so unmercifully, and talked so foolishly about me and
poor Cousin Jessie. It surely can't be Mother saw that
letter before you mailed it. Now you may not relish this
little bit of advice much. But still it is about all the scolding
I will give you. Whenever you feel again. (which I hope won't
be very soon, for your own sake) just as you did when you
wrote that letter, just ask Mother what she thinks you had
best do, and I'll be bound you will do well to take her
advice. Do with the money just as seems best to you
don't lose a cent on your wheat if you can help it on
my account, and if you do make your self whole
out of my funds. I regretted having asked you the question
about David Bertie, in connection with anything of
mine. therefore. The sunbet on the day it was written

Not that I thought of the Past, or what he has been to both
of us. But I saw the folly of it in another way altogether.

Now when you write to me give me Bread, even if you
have to think to do it for I am very hungry. I will certainly
write to Mother soon. Father give me some clue to my
self if you can for as sure as you live, I am at fault
or must give way to the solution. Write soon give my
love to all, and believe me your affectionate
son
Wm. J. Christ.

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out of my funds. I regretted having asked you the question
about David Bertie, in connection with anything of
mine. therefore. The saddest or the day it has written

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of us. But I saw the folly of it in another way altogether.

Now when you write to me give me Bread. even if you
have to think to do it for I am very hungry. I will certainly
write to Mother soon. Either give me some clue to my
self if you can for as pure as you live. I am at fault
or must give way to the solution. Write soon give my
love to all and believe me your affectionate
son
Wm. G. Christ.



Before Vicksburg June 5th 1863,
My Dear Brother, [Dependent]

A mail, which had been chasing us, and following us around for the past 3 weeks, gave to Grand Gulf, came to Mr. Arthur at Warrenton and went out with him and the Third Brigade nearly to Yazoo city; finally ceased its wandering yesterday by falling into the hands of the Orderly Sergeant, from whence you may well believe, it was quickly distributed! I cannot well complain of being slighted, for 6 St. Paul Presses, the Independent, and a letter from you of the 3^d May containing a sheet of postage stamps almost large enough to make a blanket, fell to my lot, besides 2 letters for William which I read of course, and Harpers monthly and Weekly and New York and Chicago Tribune which come to the Club of which I am an honored member. (note: pass this last sentence if you can; if not, give it to the School master, whom you may remind at the same time, that she is neglecting her epistolary duties, and may be convicted by Gen. Pope of aiding and abetting traitors by refusing to deliver the hearts of the Defenders of the Republic with cheerfulness, or any other kind of letters.) You shall have the full benefit of the stamps, and when they are gone I shall know to whom an appeal will

be most effective. It is odd is it not, that while I am penning these lines, which you will soon be reading in your quiet Wisconsin home, the bullets of the Rebel sharpshooters are hissing by me and crushing through the green bushes in our rear; and now I am watching two of our fellows who are leisurely walking over the crown of the hill behind us, where they are just as sure of being shot at, as they are of anything in the world. There is the crack of the rifle; "ping!" "whack!" that was a close shot, struck the ground within a rod of them, raising a cloud of dust. Not in the least disconcerted, our chaps turn round to look at where the bullet hit, and while one shakes his fist at the rebel breastworks, and gives vent to his outraged feelings in epithets not choice enough to be copied here, the other coolly goes up to the bullet hole in the hill, big enough, sticks your hand into, and digging a while soon exhibits the Minnie to his wrathful companion, and the two pass on over the hill. There is no fancy in this description; it is sober fact, and its parallel may be seen here every hour in the day. Our boys seem to derive as much pleasure in seeing how near the balls will come without hitting, as the Rebels do in trying to hit them. I shall not risk securing a reputation for "gasconade" by telling you how often I have been shot at, or how near to me the messengers have struck, but I tell you there is a certain exciting pleasure in being made a target of, and alas, that

they have not yet succeeded in their oft-expressed design of making a pepper box of my posterior, is but a trifle. The Rebels with all their practice have as yet succeeded in wounding only one of us, and in killing some half dozen horses. But when they get too audacious we throw over a few shells behind the works, and then you should see them make tracks, the cowardly bushwhackers. We are still in the works that we occupied when I wrote to Father, but there is a new position being made within spitting distance almost of the enemy, and we expect to occupy it; then we can rake the camps lengthwise, and they will have to abandon their rifle pits.

Do not despair of our success here; Grant and his Boys are determined to go into Vicksburg if we have to stay before it all summer; Every morning see our rifle pits and batteries nearer to the Rebels, and we have artillery enough to knock them to smash when we get ready to open the whole line and keep up a continual fire. Our partial cannonades have already done them a great deal of damage, and it would not take long to destroy them altogether when we can cover all the ground they occupy with bursting shell and case.

Speaking of Grant reminds me that he and Gen. Salomon of Wisconsin came to see our fort a day or two ago with Gen. Ransom, commanding the 2^d Brigade

As they came into the works, the guard who
was on the guns at the time, belonging to the 12th
Wis. Battery, who are with us, advanced to the guns,
and said sharply, "no smoking allowed in the
Battery." Grant who had two thirds of a Hanemann
stuck between his teeth, instantly flung it through
an embrasure, to the great delight of a crowd of
high privates who, like myself, witnessed the in-
cident. When the General went among the guns
and got the cigar, and said he should send
it home in a letter, and tell the folks that he
ordered it out of General Grant's mouth.

That is one thing we like our Generals
for, they are as plain as farmers with us, and
indeed, to see old Grant as we see him almost
every day around among us, without staff or
shoulder straps, and wearing an old hat that
looks as if he had slept on it all night, you would
take him to be no more than a lieutenant at
most, and Mr. Pherson, although the most refined
looking of gentlemen, is just as unassuming in man-
ner.

I can give you a very good idea of how
Mr. Sherman looks. He is as like what Uncle Sam
used to be as you can imagine, and his voice
put me in mind of North's brother very forcibly.

You get no good likeness of our General in the pictorial
Grant's portrait in the Harper's which we got yesterday is not
worth a cent. I like the mathematical part of your letter
very much, and I would have given you something
off the sort in this, but that I have crumpled myself out of reason.
There is some fatigue duty to do, and I must close. J. P. Christy.

Have you got the money we sent to Sarah?

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As they came into the work, the guard who was on the guns at the time, belonging to the 12th Wis. Battery, who are with us, advanced to the guns, and scolded sharply, "no smoking allowed in the Battery." Grant, who had two thirds of a Hanemann stuck between his teeth, instantly flung it through an embrasure, to the great delight of a crowd of high privates who, like myself, witnessed the incident. When the General went among the guard went and got the cigar, and said he should send it home in a letter, and tell the folks that he ordered it out of General Grant's mouth.

That is one thing we like our Generals for, they are as plain as farmers with us, and indeed, to see old Grant as we see him almost every day around among us, without staff or shoulder straps, and wearing an old hat that looks as if he had slept on it all night, you would take him to be no more than a lieutenant at most, and Mr. Pherson, although the most refined looking of gentlemen, is just as unassuming in manner.

I can give you a very good idea of how Mr. Sherman looks. He is as like what Uncle Samuell Hayes used to be as you can imagine, and his voice put me in mind of North's brother very forcibly.

You get no good likeness of our General in the pictorial Grant's portrait in the Harpy which we got yesterday is not worth a cent.

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J. P. Christy.

Before Vicksburgh. June the 6th 1863.

Dear

Dear Brother, I have not any letter from you to answer. But nevertheless I will ^{now} write to you just as the Spirit moves me. By the way what do you think of my Punctuation mark. Telling I cannot Propound such wise Problems as the Sage Thomas, can I will just ask you to Criticise my method. (Which I fear consists of a total lack of method) of writing. But be that as it may. Pens must be kept scribbling or there is no telling how many idiotic thoughts would be left just where they ought to be in oblivion. Do you think that there is not as much Prospects of the War closing as there might be.

That is just my fix But still I do not feel in the least ^{discouraged} or dismayed for it is almost impossible that the thing should be finished so soon after we as a Nation have been nursing the cause of this eruption so long. 'Tis Curious aint it to see the People of these States doing just now. What John Brown done a few years ago standing with the Negs to do away with his bondage hundreds of thousands that helped to strangle the old man for lighting the torch of Freedom for the oppressed throughout the land. we this day Praying God to give us the Victory. They were so much afraid John Brown would get in fifty acres. When down at the Yazoo. the other day after hard tack for the Rebels. There were a great many curious thoughts Presented themselves to me. When I saw a Son or Sons of the Emerald Isle: and the damned Nagurs. Sweltering together under a scorching Sun. and the weight of Ammunition Boxes. of shot and shells and laying all Prejudice aside. the Nagurs were the best ^{looking} part of the Gang.

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That is just my fix But still I do not feel in the least ^{Courage} ~~discouraged~~ or dismayed for it is almost impossible that the thing should be finished so soon after we as a Nation have been nursing the cause of this Upright so long. 'Tis Curious aint it to see the People of these States doing just now. What John Brown done a few years ago standing with the Negro to do away with his bondage hundreds of thousands that helped to strangle the old man for lighting the torch of Freedom for the Oppressed throughout the land. are this day Praying God to give us the Victory. They were so much afraid John Brown would get in fifty seven. When down at the Yazoo. the other day after hard tack for the Rebels. There were a great many curious thoughts Presented themselves to me. When I saw a Son or Sons of the Emerald Isle: and the damned Nagurs. Sweltering together under a Boiling Sun. and the weight of Ammunition Boxes. of shot and shells and laying all Prejudice aside. the Nagurs were the best ^{looking} part of the Gang.

So we north the People at large let the serpent grow
grow and pitted it. Others looked on with indifference, and
did not care. Untill the thing grew untill it thought it
could swallow up the Nation just for a snack before breakfast
like. The Serpent as usual thought everything was ready for a
Break, and spoke as if old through the serpents and Liberty
doing a little better than Eve. Wouldnt take the apple and
commenced to scotch the Brute, thinking to put him down
with a rap or two over the candle appendage. But it was no go.
so we are getting up towards the head and it may be we will
crush the life out of the Pesky Varmint in a year or so.

The Law of Compensation, and you might say of desperation
make things about even in the long run. The Negro workman
the master reaped. Building fine houses, and laying out
Beautiful gardens, making granaries, riding round in fine
Carriages, and in short enjoying themselves in every sensual
way you can possibly think of untill they waxed, proud, and
fat and so they brought on their own Punishment and tis fall?
assure you. There are large numbers of these fine houses gone
in smoke. These fields are lying idle or are in the hands of the
government, worked by and for the Negro. These fine Carriages
are used for ambulances, and these people are slain. Sons
and Brothers. Fathers and Children are mangled on the same
field of Death, and now since we have invested this city
even these women and Children are slain. for let me tell you
Spherical case, and they dont discriminate between combatants
and those that are not. Let every one of you be thankful you are
not in a Besieged city Night and Day. Night and day

There is that loud roar from the Minter Boats, on the River
up goes sixty or a hundred Pounds of Iron into the air, some seven
hundred feet, making what a man of science would call a Parabolic
curve. But I think if you could see it you would say Diabolic.
Down, Down, it falls, and finally bursts and scatters Death to
all. We hear some that dont burst go crashing through a house,
or with a bang in the ground. The Batteries on the land side
are never idle, all at once some of them are shooting, night and day
Do you see that there is but little rest for the wicked. There are
a number of new Forts being Built within one hundred and
fifty yards of Secesh lines. There is some talk of us going
into one of them, it would just suit us. There are large
numbers of new Rifle Pits being dug also. Within a few
Rods, of the enemys works, and it looks as though we were
getting very close round them. There has been some men trying
to get into Vicksburg with caps for Secesh. One of them
that was taken had three thousand of them sewed into
his clothes, there were ten taken in all I believe and
one got away. The Pickets keep talking to each other at
times. This incident is told as occurring last night. Some
of our Boys, and a Secesh got a talking. When there was a
proposition they should meet each other and have a talk.
so they met, talked and our man gave him a late paper
he was one of the seventeenth Viri. however Secesh went back
and as he got onto the top of his own works, he called out
all right, and he felt shot by some of our Pickets. soon after
another Secesh told our Pickets that man ~~was~~ they
that was severely wounded, that is all in a piece with

seventeenth, Now while there is room I must ask if
Sarah got that letter with the money we sent to her,
five Dollars from each of us. We want her to let us know
some thing about it. We would like her to make a ~~box~~
box for us to ~~make~~ needles: Thread and Pins and send it
along, with a supply of such things. Father has been very
rash with his accusations on me all for asking a foolish
question. But I suppose he has repented, before this time.
if he has not I pity him. and feel all right myself
give my love to all enquiring Friends I saw some
Reid a few days ago he said he had a letter from
you and Sarah, he looked hardy and dirty he stayed
with seventeenth all night. Now let me tell you
you do not write us often as you should, none of you,
we should have a letter once a week at least,
and now we dont get more than once a month
We are very much oblige to you for sending the stamps
and so after telling you so much I will have to
quitte you tis so infernal hot I can hardly sit up.

Good By. Write soon Believe me your
loving Brother William G Christie

And get - some Prof Reed this year and shut it -
and cut - by his manufacture of

his monarchs Ch. Lee and is now
dwelling in the College. Don't shut-
out! See me 1-1

boarding in the College. Don't shut-
up! See you! -

argued! Are you strictly German
Dear Mary this summer I and the

Dear
are you still enjoying summer
any this summer. I would like

Prof. Caldwell third - and you
his presence yet - and have
you heard from Mrs. Caldwell?

his picture yet - and leave
you I heard from Mrs. Thompson

Received from Mrs. Humphreys

Dear you

same house. All of yours.

that will do for your questions

for this time

Christie - and you came over

we have here the same

early with you tonight.

at - I want - close for this

we haven't, so hear from

re charged to
roadman & Grammer
J. J. J. J. J.

1. *Quercus* 1. *Quercus*

June 7th - 1863

Dear Christine [Sarah]

Discoideum gamsi

I welcome letter over a week ago
 but have had no time to
 answer
 finish it - until now.

but have had no time to answer

finish it - until - now.

The weather is very pleasant

The weather is very pleasant to-
day for which I am very thank-
ful. I attend Sabbath-school
every Sunday in the afternoon
we do not have any preaching
in Danville this summer.

day for which I am very thank-
ful, I attended Sabbath-school

very Sunday in the afternoon

we do not have any presence
in Danville this summer.

I was very sorry to hear that
Charles Comins was dead, the
poor girl used to feel badly
enough when he was sick.

I heard the other day that that
had been several deaths in
Randolph lately caused by the
small pox. Poor - it is so bad.

I am sorry for Rebecca.

I have received a letter from
Lillian and Julia since I wrote
to you last. Julia is not attending primary, and
school this summer but takes

her cousin Emma's girl of Academy
Do you have any Copperheads in
Ogden? We have a few here
but they keep pretty slack.

There is a Union League in Danvers
the one in Columbus they are
getting up quite an excitement in
just now an account of a
meeting to be held at - Wednesday

next Tuesday, I believe they
all talk of going "en masse".

I am glad that you like your
school, for I should not think
it would be very pleasant
and if you did not like it,

Oh! Christie I have got some news
to tell you if you have not heard
it before, Miss Jennie has changed

and came it, and left the state of
single themselves for that of
school this summer but takes

her cousin Emma's girl of Academy
Do you have any Copperheads in
Ogden? We have a few here
but they keep pretty slack.

There is a Union League in Danvers
the one in Columbus they are
getting up quite an excitement in
just now an account of a
meeting to be held at - Wednesday

I was very sorry to hear that
Leicester Bonin was dead, the
poor girl used to feel badly
enough when he was sick.

I heard the other day that that it would be very pleasant
had been several deaths in
Randolph lately caused by the
small-pox. I wish it so best.

I am sorry for Rebecca.

I have received a letter from
Lillian and Julia since I wrote
to you last. Julia is not attending primary, and that Butterfield of
School this summer but takes her occasional her, but the joke
her cousin becomes a god of Anarchy if it is, she was to start from the

Do you have any Copperheads in College and Mrs. B. from Columbus
Olyman? We have a few here and write as to come where the are
but they keep pretty dark.

There is a Union League in Danvers
He and one in Columbus they are
getting up quite an excitement in sea-bath time and then had to
just now an account of a new note to find out what had been
Meeting to be held at Waterville

next Sunday, I believe they
all talk of going "en masse".

I am glad that you like your
school, for I should not think
it would be very pleasant
and if you don't like it,

Oh! Christie I have got some news
to tell you if you have not heard
it before, Miss Jennie has changed

and gave it, and left the state of
single themselves for that of her

and gave it, and left the state of
single themselves for that of her

and gave it, and left the state of
single themselves for that of her

and gave it, and left the state of
single themselves for that of her

and gave it, and left the state of
single themselves for that of her

Before Vicksburg, June 7th 1863.

In my letter to Seindorf

The description of the wedding and your feelings on that occasion are very interesting, ~~and~~ and I hope you will continue to employ your descriptive talent in writing to me, for heretofore you have given us but few specimens of your skill in that line. I wish I could present to you

line. I wish I could present to your
mind's eye a picture of our situation here,
for I think it would be interesting to you
although so commonplace with us, but
the most I have room for is a rough
draught, which you can fill up from imagin-
ation.

First, as to our position,

Our fort is built on the crest of a hill, and between it and the rebel breastworks, which are in plain view, - a long line of yellow earth with white cotton bolls and sandbags on top - is a very rough succession of narrow steep ridges, with trenches to match, and all covered

Before Vicksburg, June 7th 1863.

My Dear Sister, [Miss Sarah J. Christie]
In your letter to Sara

In my letter to Seneca I gave vent to feelings of impatience at your long silence, which I would now gladly recall since receiving your doubly addressed letter of the 27th Mch.

The description of the wedding and your feelings on that occasion are very interesting, ~~the~~ and I hope you will continue to employ your descriptive talent in writing to me, for heretofore you have given us but few specimens of your skill in that line. I wish I could present to you

line. I wish I could present to your
mind's eye a picture of our situation here,
for I think it would be interesting to you
although so commonplace with us, but
the most I have room for is a rough
draught, which you can fill up from imagin-
ation.

Our fort is built on the crest of a hill, and between it and the rebel breastworks, which are in plain view, - a long line of yellow earth with white cotton bales and sandbags on top - is a very rough succession of narrow steep ridges, with precipices to match, and all covered

Send a supply of good Black threads in the worst-weight and some assorted
Dinner a supply of good Black threads in the worst-weight and some assorted
Dinner a supply of good Black threads in the worst-weight and some assorted

Remember that I write no private letters, that is, to be conveyed from any one of the family

with a tremendous abuttis, which you must know, is made by felling forest trees in such manner as to make an advance over the ground extremely difficult.

To accomplish this, the trees are felled with the tops toward the enemy, and a very formidable obstruction it makes. Our fort is built of earth, faced on the inside with fascines, or bundles of canes 15 feet long and 2 feet through, and tied around with wire from the Rebel telegraph line. These fascines are laid, one on top of the other, and each one is fastened down securely with stakes driven through it and through the wire below into the ground. The fascines are to prevent the earth from falling down into the fort, which the concussion of the guns would soon make it do if unsupported.

The embrasures, through which we fire, are made by setting up gabions on each side of the space left for the embrasure, where they are staked down and filled with earth. A gabion is made of stakes, with ~~grapevines~~ young cane or flexible bushes ~~run~~ woven through them, so as to form a hollow cylinder something like a large willow basket without the bottom, only much longer. The stakes are left projecting at one end some distance beyond the outer work, and when the gabion is put in

its place these projecting portions are driven into the ground and the gabion is filled with dirt. When we first came into the work the embrasures were not lined with gabions, and the consequence was that in ~~an~~ day's firing we blew out the embrasures so wide that a two-horse wagon could have been driven through one of them.

When I tell you that the fort has 8 guns in it, (4 of the 2^d Ills. 2 of 12th Mis. and 2 of 9s), and that we have a deep ditch running from it to the magazine behind the hill, by which the ammunition is carried to the guns without exposure; you will be able to form a very good idea of its appearance.

If you could be in our fort during action and could command composure enough, amidst the continual explosion of the guns on each side of you, the sulphurous smell of the burnt powder, and the fierce "whiz," "whiz" of the enemy's bullets, to observe the working of our howitzer, you would see something interesting.

There is No. 1: his hands, face, and clothes blackened with the wet powder from the sponge, on his knees receiving home the charge, (if he stood up opposite the embrasure he would get a ball in an instant) There is No. 3, (William) with his thumb on the vent to prevent a premature explosion when the

I send a piece of such very capstan by our Battery in a hotel at Richmond Va. It is pretty perfect, but you can see where the red men.

Be very sure to give my love to Mother, and my 2 German soldiers.

piece is hot, ^{the gun is loaded and} now the gun is loaded and
nos. 1 and 3 step back, the latter to the trail
handslike to traverse the trail at the Gunner's
bidding, "By hand to the front," and the piece is
run up close to the embrasure. The Gunner sets
his pendulum horse on its seat, sights carefully
and gives the right elevation, perhaps 2 degrees.

Then, "Ready!" "Fire," Now, if you are standing to
one side where you can see, you will observe
the shell flying through the air like a great black
bird, make a graceful curve, and fall behind
the Rebel works, then you see a white smoke where
it fell, and pretty soon comes the report of its bursting.

Through all the din and tumult and smoke,
No. 4 sits coolly cutting the fuse to the proper time and
the proper cos. of the Detachment carry the shell from
him to the gun.

According to tactics, I have
nothing to do at the guns, but I have been there
ever since we first opened; sometimes acting
as Gunner, and sometimes changing with one
of the cannoniers. We are to move into a
fort tonight much further to the front, within 200
yards of the enemy, and then we may expect
some warm work.

I saw Tom Reid some time ago, and found him
in good health but horribly dirty. The Regiment left
all their clothes at Helena except what the men
are wearing, and you may imagine to what a
condition their late rough campaigning has
reduced them. Nevertheless, the boys are all in
good spirits and tough as beads. I will go down
on the left again soon and see them.

I want you Sarah to make a fixing to carry our needles,
thru' it is I forget the name of it - that's Mrs. Mourner says
"you know what I mean" your loving Brother J. P. Christie.

[photocopy]

Box Lockn, (June)
June 12th A. D. 1868,

My dear Louisa,

I received on Friday evening your letter of the same day and your New Years gift for which I thank you. It is something which I have needed this long time, and as you said is the most acceptable present you could have given to me, for I have a great deal of writing to do, for the way of letters and compositions, and exercises on our lessons and all that will account for my hurried looking scribbles, and must also be my excuse to you for not writing to you before. I even have to take one of my study hours to write this letter and another I have not received any news from the boys yet, but hope to see you have not mentioned any of you, & getting a volume of my prof. which I sent on Christmas, &

[photocopy]

Box Lockn, ^(June) Jan 12th A. S. 1868,

My dear Mr. Lockn,

I received on Friday evening your letter of the same day and your New Years gift for which I thank you. It is something which I have needed the long time, and as you said is the most acceptable present you could have given to me, for I have a great deal of writing to do, for the way of letters and compositions, and exercises on our lessons and all that will account for any hurried looking scribbling, and must also be my excuse to you for not writing to you before. I even have to take one of my study hours to write this letter and another I have not received any news from the boys yet, but hope to soon. You have not mentioned any of your getting a likeness of myself, which I sent on Christmas, I

should think that you have received it
ere this. I sent one to the boys also.
I had a letter from Jennette Clarkson
this morning. She tells me that sickness
of all kind, such as scarlet fever, diphtheria
and typhoid fever is very prevalent up there
also that James Strachen has been very
sick down south with fever, and ague, but
is now getting better, also that Bob Strachen
has enlisted. There is a good deal of sick-
ness here now. Lung fever and diphtheria being
the principal ones. It must be on account
of the open winter which we have had. But
all our college girls are still enjoying
the blessing of health. as for me I do
not think I ever enjoyed better health than
I now am. We are going ahead first-rate
in our Nat Phil class. There are five of
us in it now. Hubbard Van Horn, Cook,
Carpenter, and Christie. We have for our
lesson tomorrow, ten pages, "The principles
dependent on the attraction of Gravitation" and
"The kinds of Equilibrium." Oh, I tell

you Sandy, how you won't glory in studying
it, and then our Algebra goes on nicely.
We have got to the extraction of the roots.
I am sure you must delight in algebra,
I do. It is ten times better than that
barren old Arithmetic with its multiplicity
of rules. My other studies, Grammar, Latin,
Singing lessons, History, all go on lick!
Tell you what Dear Knott, I am anticipating
a glorious old time. I come next summer
with Jane and you, studying and reviewing
all my books, and I am thinking that we
must go through a regular course of reading
History, some of which we can get in our
School Library. We all have to here, as
well as in Cyren. Speak for us ever other week
and write, ditto. So that we have to either
write or speak every week. Friday is the day
appointed. We have also a Literary Society,
and Locomotion and a paper, and I can tell
you, we have some good times, for some of
our writers are really talented. If you will
write an Essay on Composition, I will find it

should think that you have received it
ere this. I sent one to the Longs also.
I had a letter from Jeannette Clarkson
this morning. She tells me that sickness
of all kind, such as scarlet fever, Diphtheria,
and Euboid fever is very prevalent, up there
also that James Strachen has been very
rich down south with fever, and ague, but
is now getting better, also that Bob Strachen
has enlisted. There is a good deal of sick-
ness here now, Lung fever and Diphtheria being
the principal ones. It must be on account
of the open winter which we have had. But
all of our College girls are still enjoying
the blessing of health, as far as I do
not think I ever enjoyed better health than
I now am. We are going ahead first-rate
in our Nat Phil class. There are five of
us in it now, Hubbard Van Horn, Cook,
Carpenter, and Christie. We have for our
lesson tomorrow, ten pages, "The principles
dependent on the attraction of Gravitation" and
"The kinds of Equilibrium." Oh, I tell

you Sandy, how you won't glory in studying
it and then our Algebra goes on nicely.
We have got to the extraction of the roots.
I am sure you must delight in algebra,
I do. It is ten times better than that
horrid old Arithmetic with its multiplying
of rules. My other studies, Grammar, German,
Singing lessons, History, all go on glide!
Tell you what Dear Ruth, I am anticipating
a glorious old time. I come next summer
with Jane and you, studying and reviewing
all my books, and I am thinking that we
must go through a regular course of reading
History, some of which we can get in our
School Library. We all have to here, as
well as in Cyrene. Speak for us ever other week
and write, Ditto. So that we have to either
write or speak every week. Friday is the day
appointed. We have also a Literary Society,
and Licensure and a paper, and I can tell
you, we have some good times. For some of
our writers are really talented. If you will
write an Essay or Composition, I will send it

put it into the paper, unless I mean of course
not anyone signs their own names to their perpetration
I tell you I enjoy the Lyceum, for the Colitis Mr
Gitch comes in and all the well educated gentlemen
of the village to debate. The question for next time
is "Affirmed that 'war is inconsistent with the principles
of Christianity'" Everyone can choose their own side
to debate on, and I can take a part if they wish,
and go on and on it had not as yet, have any
if we take a part I cannot write more
now but will do better by you next time if
possible, So Good Night from your loving

Sister

Sarah J. Christie



Box 6 a, Dodge Co., Wis.
June 12, 1863.
Miss Sarah J. Christie to her
brother

Alexander Christie

Wynona

Dodge Co.

Wis.



[original in possession
of Lowell Christie,
Pasadena, California]

put it into the paper, unless I mean of course
not anyone signs their own names to their peroration
I tell you I enjoy the Lyceum, for the Editor Mr.
Fitch comes in and all the well educated gentlemen
of the village to debate. The question for next time
is, "Affirmed that 'war is inconsistent with the principles
of Christianity.'" Everyone can choose their own side
to debate on, Last year I can take a part if they wish,
we go on and on and but not as yet have any
if we take a part I cannot write more
now but will do better by you next time if
possible, So Good Night from your loving

Sister

Sarah J. Christie

Box 62, Dodge Co., Wis.

June 12, 1863.

Miss Sarah J. Christie to her
brother

Alexander Christie

Virginia

Dodge Co.

Wis.

[Original in possession
of Lowell Christie,
Pasadena, California]

dismissive. I Christie if we only had the money now. I have ceased to build castles in the Rhine. I rec'd a long letter from J. C. going a very interesting description of Niagara Falls which he visited on his way to Danville St. Ct. where he is now staying. How much I would like to see them! But as he very saving of our earnings and perhaps we shall someday be able to take a long journey, there how you see what a discontented person I am! only a few months ago you heard me say if I ever packed home in safety I would never think of leaving it.

Rural June 15th 1863

Dear Christie [Sarah]

I determined to commence a letter to you tonight and perhaps I shall find some time to finish it soon; for I am really quite ashamed to leave your kind letter so long unanswered.

But I assure you Christie, that teaching school and walking two miles both night and morning leaves me but little time for letter writing.

Your very welcome letter was received about two weeks ago, and read and reread with much pleasure; (you know my habit of rereading my letters untill I could almost repeat them.)

Was very glad to hear that you are progressing so finely in your school. But how do you get along with so many little

It seems to me it would be almost impossible for me to get along with so many. I can not conceive how you do unless it be that the old saying is true, that "a hen can scratch for a dozen chickens as well as for one".

You wished to know my plan for recess. I have thus far used the old method. However I think your method a good one and think I will try it before long.

As to spelling. I have the first class write their lessons upon their slates. Then one scholar is appointed to read the words from his or her slate while the others correct mistakes if any have been made. The practice of writing spelling lessons is very highly recommended by our Sept.

As to teaching the Alphabet I hardly know what myself what plan I pursue. I have tried several methods. The one that I think succeeds as well as any is to first writing to you. Now please write to be, and give me a good long one. Excuse all mistakes please.

I did not
but I did not
purpose for you less Saturday
I picked some winter greens on purpose for you less Saturday

Take some one or two that can be easily remembered by their shape as, S & O these I try to teach them the names of, then combine them and teach them to read and spell the word which they form. In this way they learn not only the letter but also to read and spell. I always try to avoid teaching them too many letters at once.

As for whispering I have not much trouble with that. I require them to report at night if they have whispered or not. If they have I give them a black mark. Then every Friday night I make out a report for each scholar, giving them their standing in their lessons, the No. of times absent and tardy also their standing in deportment. The standard is 10. Every day that they communicate takes one from their standing in deportment, so it is to their own interest to avoid whispering.

These reports I write off on paper and hand to them on Monday. They seem to pay best respects to your parents and brothers, and a large share love to yourself. Ever your friend L.C. Y.R.

be well pleased with the plan. If I could only avoid communication by looks & motion &c as well as I have whispering I should feel well satisfied. But that is what I do not know how to do. In a small district school there will be communication, and I don't believe it can be entirely avoided. If so, I should be most happy to know by what plan.

16th " I have just returned from school. I closed school to night for this week, as I am going to Weyanunga tomorrow to attend the Baptist Association which holds two days. Then Friday and Saturday I am going to visit schools to see what I can learn. If you were only near enough I am sure I should like to come in and see you.

In regard to your going to Minn., I almost begrudge you your chance. I do so much want to go there myself.

How much I would enjoy a trip out there to go with covered wagons, have a good company camp out over night &c. Wouldn't it be romantic though, to go just for pleasure I believe I should enjoy it more than to go by the cars. I do believe I will go before long. I want so much to see something besides

Hooker are still in Position
Vicksburg Bluffs in rear where our
June 23rd 1863,

[Alexander]
Hello Brother or Mine. Have you got so immersed
in the solution of Problems, in Euclid or Algebra,
that you have forgotten to answer the sage question I asked
you in regard to my method of Punctuation. or are
you so hard at work on that Patch of Pratin that
you can't find time to give us a few lines from your
Pen, or a few Ideas of your own. I have another question
to ask you in this letter, and I believe I will have
many more to ask even if there is a great likelihood
of them remaining unanswered, for a long time.

Have you ever thought whether Man is most a Creator
of Imitation, or an Independent actor on the Stage
of Life. I have come to the Conclusion that Imitation
and habit are the motive powers in the present age,
of the world, if it were not so we would have a different
Class of men at the Head of affairs. or more properly
speaking a Representative Man, that would get us out
of the various difficulties that the Nation and this World
at large, ~~are~~ at Present Plunged into. We assuredly need
such an one. But it looks as though we had not got him
or if we have ~~there~~ time has not yet come for us to recognize
him even although he may be at work, for us every day.

You may see every day that there is a Pulling of ropes
By the various leaders of the Government and the Officers of
this Large force that has been called into the field for the
purpose of putting down this Rebellion. Demard and Blair
Pull against Lincoln and Stanton. Halleck, and
Hooker, jerk and snap different ways, and Banks and
Schofield, and all or nearly all that Butler and
Curtis has done, in the way of keeping the treacherous
and accursed Rebels in proper bounds, in the different
Districts of New Orleans and St Louis, Now if

These things could only be done away with by having more
sameness of opinion among these different individuals
how much sooner we would have this villainous condition
of things suffered and the war brought to a speedy
and triumphant close, but here I must stop this plan and
get onto another track. Shells are trumps here, and are
likely to be for a long time yet. I believe if the unsuccessful
charge of the 22nd of last month had not been made, at all
we would have had Vicksburg before this time, for now there
are good roads made up to within a few rods of the works,
and in fact there are our rifle pits, in where the Rebs had
them about eight days ago, there is two of our pieces going
into a new fort or rather entrenchments that are actually within
50. or sixty feet of the Rebs lines, there are great shields of rope
being made to put on the guns to keep the gunner and men
safe and four from the death sharpshooters, the whites of
their eyes can be seen. There are three thickens of inch
and half rope, again which a ball strikes beat and drop harm-
less to the ground. We have been amusing ourselves for the two past
evenings, in throwing shells over into the enemys lines
mortar fashion. We prepare the shells by taking out the
Bourman fuse or (Borman). We then take and make wooden
plugs, screw them into the shell, fasten in a long time fuse,
and elevate the piece by digging a hole for the trail, giving her elevation
according to the length of the fuse, and charge of powder.
We have fired forty of them, in all taking about four hours
time to fire them, and that would keep us up pretty late
at night. Tonight we will likely build another fort for our piece,
so that we can have a new range, as well as the one we have
at present. The Rebs has a gun planted so that they can shoot at
us without us returning the compliment and we don't
like no such one sided affairs. Its time they have not meddled
with us before this morning. Only as far as shooting over us
was concerned. We being in the exact range of that
gun if there were a half dozen of our own, that over us

and behind us. Secesh shells burst prematurely sometimes as
well as ours and between the two we run very narrow
escapes. But these things dont trouble us. But not more than
an hour ago the Rebs had the coolness to deliberately throw
a shell at us, taking out a huge chunk of dirt on the left
side of our fort, about two feet over our head, the shell went
on a little further and buried itself in the ground without
bursting. We will dig it up tonight and fix it up so we
can fire it out of our gun. To do so we will have to put
it in a fruit can, it being a long shell out of a twenty
pound powder (the gun that was taken the first day of
the fight at Corinth last fall, from the first Missouri Battery
The Lady Richmonds, so called.) The reason we have to fix
them so is to make it fit our piece and keep the rifled flange
on the base of the shell from injuring the gun. We are going
to make the new fort about sixteen or twenty yards
in rear of our present position. The Captain of the 22nd
Ill. Co. G. make the one we now occupy, and if he
had not been an A.S. he would have lost the fort where
we are now compelled to have it. We will be in fine
position to throw shells into the Rebs fort, and not in any
more fix to get them from him. The rumor in camp
this morning is to the effect that Port Hudson is taken
or, and Farraguts fleet is bombarding the City of Vicks-
burg. Whether Port Hudson is taken or not we more
than I can tell. But sure enough Farragut or some other
one is giving and has been giving them in the City
great quantities of iron, ever since last night. After
we got through our bombarding last night and got about
ready to sleep we heard a good deal of heavy firing
on the left of the line, it lasted for an hour or so,
and was finished by a couple of very heavy volleys.
We have not heard yet what the fuss was about,
But suppose that our left line ^{was} getting a

Position, ^{near} to the Rebel works. There are a few Deaths from
Redd Bullets every week, and occasionally one from the
Premature Bursting of a Shell, from over our guns, we are
so near the Rebs we cant hurt any of our own men,
But one of the Eleventh Ill. infantry was I fear mortally
wounded yesterday by a fraction of a shell from the first
Missouri Battery Co. C, his Bowels were torn and part
of his lungs visible. We find the most of the St Louis. Shell
Spherical Case, are not trust worthy. I Believe there are
numbers of Deceit workmen in that Arsenal, that
Deliberately make a Bad job of there work, so that
these Southern Brethren may not be hurt, Tom I suppose
has given Father a sketch of our Position, and the
lines of work. I would if I only thought I could, But
I am afraid I would spoil a great many hours before
I would make a poem, Give my love to all and
let me hear something about Mother in your
next, and all the rest of folks. How is our new
Cousin, making it or a Southerner would say,
We had some rain last night But it will soon clear
up again. I have not had a letter from Father in
a long time, this will have to be a family concern
although I have stated it to you. I am not tired ~~writing~~
But I have not the least doubt you will be tired reading
and you can see I am in a hurry. Now let me tell you
a secret. I am generally in a hurry about this time of day for
it is near dinner time. So you may be able to judge by
that I am more in favor of the Baker, than the Doctor,
Long may I live, Long may he all here, and be
right side up now and forever. So Write it Be,

Yours affectionately Wm. J. Christie
H & A L N Y

" We had Baked Peas for Breakfast and some fine
Bread and Coffee. We are all happy and generously speaking

Mistake
Walnut Hills, in rear of Richburg,
Fort Hill Richburg^{right}, June 27th 1863,

My very Erudite Brother, I have made a slight mistake in the Localising of the date of this Letter so bear I make the ammend honorable by informing you that Walnut Hills are in our extreme right, and only partially occupied by a small part of our forces, the Balance being in the Possession of the Rebs, or more properly speaking Interdemallions, you speak of heat, I have not the least doubt, but you have cause to complain, But you have just to go through the following way ^{of sharing about the difference between you and us, go fasten,} hot water ~~Hotter~~ with all the other interesting things you can think off. Or as the Preacher, said it is damned, hot, and if he were here, I would be very happy to say, you are right old fellow, and no mistake.

One day later, I would have proceeded with the writing of this Letter. But there was two men from the 36th Mass. Infantry, managed to come this way, and so we had to listen to their plaver, they came in from the Army in our rear, they are a part of Burnside's forces, they say that all the troops under Burnside, have great confidence in him. They say there are 90,000 men in our rear, so we have nothing to fear from fire in our rear, for if there was any word of it we could spare as many as 5000 men, from the force here, on the 26th ult. at five o'clock in the evening, the large Fort on our left, about four hundred yards distant was blown up, a heavy firing was immediately opened up along our line in which we joined, at the instant the Fort was blown up, a Portion of Logan's Division rushed in and took Possession with a very small loss of men, but I believe severe on.

Mistake
Walmart Hills, in rear of Richburg,
Fort Hill Richburg^{right}, June 27th 1863,

My very Erudite Brother, I have made a slight mistake in the Localising of the date of this Letter so bear I make the ammend honorable by informing you that Walmart Hills are on our extreme right, and only Partially occupied by a small part of our forces, The Ballance being in the Possession of the Rebs, or more Properly speaking Interdemassions, you speak of heat, I have not the least doubt, But you have cause to complain, But you have just to go through the following way ^{of speaking about the difference between you and us, go fasten} hotter hotter ~~hotter~~ with all the other interesting things you can think off, or as the Preacher said it is damned hot, and if he were here, I would be very happy to say, you are right Old Fellow, and no mistake.

One day later, I should have proceeded with the writing of this Letter. But there was two men from the 36th Mass. Infantry, managed to come this way, and so we had to listen to their Plaver, They came in from the Strong in our rear, They are a Part of Burnside's forces, They say that all the troops under Burnside, have great Confidence in him. They say there are 20,000 men in our rear, so we have nothing to fear from fire in our rear, For if there was any need of it we could spare as many as 5000 men, from the force here, On the 26th ult at five o'clock in the evening The large Fort on our left, about four hundred yards distant was blown up, a heavy firing was immediately opened up along our line in which we joined, at the instant the Fort was blown up, a Portion of Logan's Division rushed in and took Possession with a very small loss of men, but I believe severe on.

the Officer. We raised the Deric with success. ~~the~~ after
we fired about 30 rounds. We stopped, firing and looked at
^{the fighting on my right hand}
The fight. The Battery displayed on both sides was not or could
not be beaten by any troops in the world. Handgrenades were
freely used on both sides and our men barely held their
ground. Shovels dirt put up sand bags and timbers to protect
the sharpshooters, it was the 45 Indiana and the 20 Ill.
supported by the Seventeenth ^{Wis} in reserve. That did the
work. Night of the 25th Brigadier Ransom came to our
gun and requested us to drive out a nest of Rebs. that were
throwing handgrenades into our entrenchments. he gave us
the word where the Rebs were, and ^{we} Plunged the shells and
case right among them and dried them up. for that night
^{and killed Ransom very much}
in the line of the fight. There was one or two narrow escapes
on our gun. One Bullet hit and spoiled the spare handspike,
on the night of 25th there was some very narrow escapes from
Rebel Bullets. But owing to our being under cross fire from both
sides we are in danger often from the premature explosions
of shells. But there has been none of us hurt yet. On the evening of the twenty
seventh a Rebel gun opened on the Fort we have partially taken
and we with a half dozen rounds or so dried it up, and there was
Peace for a short time. That gun has not opened in that place since.
There is mining going on in two different places. But there is no use
in knowing too much. We have had some good times even if we are
under fire all the time. There are regular Artillery duels going
on very nearly all the time. Our Bergant. has just come
from our 84 Pounders a Rebel opened on them.
ours made reply. But some how Rebel don't work there
guns near so well as we do ours. at 1000 yards. our ~~last~~

four 120s will put them shells through the Rebel Portholes.
Three shots out of fire, we know this to be so, for we can
see being right in the line of travel. The 84 Pounders at the
first shot in the morning duel. sent the first shot over the
Rebel works. The other three went into the Portholes and that
Porthole is about 3/4 of a mile from our large gun. we can
hear lots of funny things but they are too coarse to tell generally
very profane. so its best to keep them out of circulation.
The Left of our line has made very close advances to
the Rebel lines and are digging trenches up to the various forts on
their front. In all likelihood we soon have Vicksburg
and that without much loss of life. Our Army as a
general thing is healthy and there is not a word of complaint
as far as I can learn, and every one is hopeful of the near
Reign of peace. I think it will not be a great while before we
have another row, and there will be as hard a time for Rebel as the
last one. There has been as many as five hundred men carried off on litters
at that one place. Our loss didn't amount to ~~three~~ hundred in all.
The Rebs are getting desperate, and the country between here and the
City is very much honey combed with rifle pits and trenches.
I have not the least doubt but Porter speaks truth when he says
that Vicksburg is stronger than Sebastopol. for partly if the
forts that our guns play on were of stone instead of King Cotton
and dirt. we would have had them knocked to pieces long ago.
But we do not despair. for if it were needed our Boys could go in.
But it is not needful for them to storm the place. General
Harrington will soon begin full command. inside the place.
Genl A. B. Grant, was all ~~about~~ the central line of the camp
yesterday. he was in our Gun Room, and from his manner

you would have thought him a very unpretending Private, he was
very thoughtful, and I think he is working out some plan to
raise the Devil with success, for a few words exchanged between
him and one of his staff hinted as much. The folks round him are
very social, also. But more careful, of themselves than Grant, he smokes
and smokes very much. I am very glad Father did not take the job
Cotton has got. And if there is any trouble to be anticipated, I know,
on what side you will be, shoot as you would shoot at a dog
carrying off one of Father's lambs. I am sorry for the poor fellow
in Lebanon, I do not think any such thing would have happened,
to Father, But it would hardly vex me a bit if Cotton got a
little of the same Laucer. I am looking for a letter from Father
every day. What is Mother doing it is very seldom. we hear of her
is she a nonentity. Give my love to all. is Dares deaf
or dumb. that he has quit writing I am afraid I may not
write to I will quit. Good by for the present,

Believe me your affectionate Brother
William J Christie.

Before Vicksburg June 28/63

My Dear Sister, [Sarah Christie]

Under any other circumstances than those under which I am situated I would consider myself bound to offer some excuses for the delay in answering your letter of the 8th but as it is I will have to depend on your own good sense to exonerate me from blame. When you consider that we are fighting every day and very often the greater part of the night, and when not in action employing our time in preparing for it by spending the evenings, making plank floor to traverse the trail out, carrying ammunition from the magazine up to the high hill on which we are in position, and doing so much work that we have no time to go to our meals sometimes, you will see that I have not much opportunity for recreation; if letter writing can be called recreation.

However, as we have not so much to do today as usual, (our ammunition being short,) I will drive myself to think enough to fill this sheet; for you should know that where a person has most to do he feels the least like letter writing. Notwithstanding the heat, and the labor, and the excitement, of the past 10 weeks I still retain my health and strength, although I am thinner than I have been for some time, about like what I was after my last harvesting. Do not suppose from this that I am in any danger of yielding either to sickness or despondency; I have seen hard times before, ~~to~~ enough to know ~~how~~ how much a determination never to give up will do for a man. You see I take credit to myself for having a good deal of the old "no surrender" element in my composition, and that very quality (which you used to call "stubbornness") is the only thing that has carried me through while men ^{in the company} to whom I would not ~~be~~ ^{have been} a white when we entered the service have allowed themselves to sink beneath the hardships and harassments of campaigns either into the grave or (Discharge for disability) and this from a want of fortitude to resist the

first insidious attacks of disease. Our Gunner has been sick for some days and I have acted in his stead, but he is getting better now and I will soon have it easier. William is tough and hearty as ever, and is always on hand when there is anything to do, being counted one of the best gunners in the Detachment.

I do not very well know what to write you, for although there is plenty of what you might consider interesting occurring around me, of the Blood and Gunpowder style, yet I see so much of it that I do not care to write about it; you can see all that one sees by reading the correspondence in the Tribune or some other paper. You will probably see some account of the blowing up of the fort opposite Logan, and the fighting of the 4th Ills and other Regiments on the occasion, and it may be interesting to you to know that we are within 400 yards of the fort and saw the whole performance, and opened on the rear of the work to cut up the Rebel reinforcements as they hurried them up. Some other times I may give you a description of the assault.

There is a Rebel gun (20 lbs. Parrot) in a work on our right, and some 200 yards distant.

Shelbygan Falls

July 1st 1868

Dear Christie.

I have been pondering in my mind which, out of 6 unanswered letters shall be answered first. I have concluded that it shall be Christie.

I have received letters from Van Horn, Jennings, Lillie, and of course from the Lindsay's.

Our beloved Mr Reed is boarding in the College; he has some way lost ^{his} chief attraction viz. the moustache.

Henry Lindsay, Dunshee, and Lund are to school.

I do not know as I have any thing more from Fox Lake, although I keep well posted.

Cousin Henry only lived a week after we reached home. He was so low that he could not talk much.

He was fully resigned to die and did not care how soon death came.

He suffered very much all of the time. His brother from the East reached here in the morning and Cousin died at night. A few hours before he died he wished us to gather around and sing. They sang several pieces: as soon as they would finish one piece ~~they~~ he would say more.

He bade us all "good bye" and distributed his things with composure: but Oh it seemed hard to give him up.

Brother Andrew's health is very good indeed. He has taken a farm to work this summer. Since I received your letter I have been to Chicago. I went to Kenosha to attend an Association. And went on to Chicago as we have friends there.

We went on ^{out} the Lake, and had a beautiful ride. It was very pleasant all of the time which is half, you know.

We stopped in Milwaukee about 4 hours both times we passed.

Kenosha is a beautiful city although not very large; containing about 7000 inhabitants.

The beauty consists mostly in the trees by which every house of the city is surrounded.

The trees are most of them very old and consequently very large.

There are some beautiful evergreens, and also, some splendid houses.

While at Chicago I got a photographic Album for Sarah and she is very anxious to get it full, so send on yours.

I suppose of course you know that Miss Tenney is married.

Where are your brothers now and how is their health? I taught 3 days for a young lady that is teaching in this district. We are both of us at home. I do not know whether I can

get Laide to write any in this or not.

I forgot to tell you that I have got
a white hat trimmed with dark blue.
It would just suit you.

Come and see us if you can. Write soon

From Your Friend

" Maltst "

Before Picksburg, July 1st 1843,

(Dear Sandy;

Your excellent long letter of the 18th Ult. is received and read by me with much pleasure, as it indicates great ^{made by you} progress in the art of letter writing, and also a manly independent spirit.

I am with you entirely in your plan of self-improvement at home. Let Father get you the necessary books, and give you opportunity this coming winter to attend school, doing enough chores to keep you in exercise, and I am confident you would learn more and learn better than at any college.

For you are too young yet, ~~to~~ and not well enough prepared, to take your place in a college class, where you would kill yourself in trying to keep up. No; lay a good, broad, solid, foundation first; by making yourself master of all the minor studies, and then you can enter college with a fair start and come out ahead, as I know you will.

It is a fault with us, and especially with Sarah, if you may show her this of course) to wish

to go ahead too fast; if not to go ahead, to appear to do so; and this is perfectly ruinous to a plan of education. This disubtomy much of catching up a study, pursuing it awhile with great ardor, and then dropping it half mastered to try something new, will never thoroughly educate man or woman.

Being a military man, I would advise you to push your lines of advance parallel. I know pretty well the situation of your forces: Opposite that grand old fort, ~~Mathematical~~, you are far in advance of the rest of your line, and until you work up as near to forts Grammar, Geography, and others, I would advise you to suspend operations at that point, taking care of course to hold all the ground you now occupy.

You see; if you push any part of the line too far in advance of the rest it is in danger of being flanked, and cannot be supported. To drop simile; you must be careful not to rush too fast into new studies and thus neglect the unfinished old ones. I think that by the time you have attended school for 6 months or less, and studied some at home you will be ready to enter College with every prospect of success.

Now for the mathematical part of my letter; A man has 100 acres of wheat to cut, and has 100 Dollars to pay out for cutting it. He hires 2 men to cut it; and one of them, (A) being a better and more careful cradler than the other, let he pay A 1.25 per acre, and consequently pay B .75 per acre. Now, the question is, how many acres shall each man cut to earn 50 Dollars as that is the sum to be paid to each.

You will explain the reason for the different answers which you get by different processes.

Again; How many strands of inch rope (inch in diameter) are needed to make a 3 inch rope, allowing nothing for twistage.

An interval of 14 seconds intervenes between the flash of a mortar on the river and the report. Another interval of 8 seconds between the bursting of the shell and its report here. How far distant is the mortar, and how far does the shell come before it bursts, supposing that the firing is directly towards us.

When you work out these I will give you some more.

July 2^d Yesterday at noon the big fort in front of Logan, (St. Hill) was blown up for the second time, but no charge was made. The artillery opened on its rear immediately.

We were
paid yes-
terday for
the month of
March and
April, 1862.
We will
send what
money we
can in a
letter to
Father
at Watertown
at once
and will
post it to-
morrow or
next day.
I have been
dreaming
Princeton
all along in
connection
of this being
too many
any count
in the eyes
of many, some
who have
marked up
Bavarian
my cane
off and
been reinsta-
ted. The
captains in-
sists that
I should not
at all great
thanks and
suffice, and
maybe if all
might be for
the moment of
the gun. While
they are in the
minds of the
15th Aug.

and for a short time the cannonade must be
mendous. Our howitzer fired 20 rounds of shell
and case in a few minutes, and must have
done considerable damage, as the enemy did
their best to silence us. The bullets came in
through the port hole thick and fast, but hurt no-
body, although one struck the face of the pier, an-
other split the handspike, and many others went
into the fascines behind the gun.
William got 3 holes in his blanket while it was out
airing yesterday morning.

We had a ~~visit~~ visit a few days ago from
2 men of the 36th Massachusetts Bersaglieri Corps.
They are now at Snodgrass Bluff, and these men
came to see what the Western men were doing.
One of the 45th Ills. was with them, showing them
round the works, and when they came to our
gun we had a long talk with them.
They seemed to take it for granted that the
Eastern army was inferior to the Western, although
we deprecated the idea. They said that the 7th
Pennsylvania is in their Corps, and they think it is
with them now, but I doubt it, as the last I
heard from cousin Robert he was at Port Royal.
Write me another such letter as this last
and have political disquisitions and criticisms on the war for William
Affectionately, J. P. Christie

RECOMMENDATORY CERTIFICATE,

ISSUED BY THE

REGENTS OF NORMAL SCHOOLS.

OFFICE OF AGENT OF REGENTS OF NORMAL SCHOOLS.

This is to Certify, That at an Examination of the **NORMAL CLASS**, in connection with *My Female College* held at *Hay Lake* 186*3* *Sarah J. Christie* passed a Creditable Examination, in the studies of the First Year, as prescribed by this Board, and *She* is therefore recommended as well qualified to teach any Common, Intermediate or Grammar School in this State.

The grade attained in the several studies in a scale of ten, is as marked below:

Reading,.....	8.5	Composition,.....	7.9	Intellectual Arithmetic,.....	9.5
Spelling,.....	9	Geography,.....	8.5	Written Arithmetic,.....	8.9
Elementary Sounds,.....	8.2	Phys. Geography,.....	8.2	Elementary Algebra,.....	7.7
Grammar,.....	8.5	Physiology,.....	8.8	History of U. S.,.....	9.3
		Theory and Practice of Teaching,.....	8.5		

EXPLANATION.—10, Perfect; 7, Good; 5, Medium.

Madison, *July 1* A.D. 186*3*

Leas Chapman Sec'y of Board.

J. B. Pratt Ag't Bd. of N. Reg'ts.

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Reading,.....	8.5	Composition,.....	7.9	Intellectual Arithmetic,.....	9.5
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		Theory and Practice of Teaching,.....	8.5		

EXPLANATION.—10, Perfect; 7, Good; 5, Medium.

Madison,.....

July 1

A. D. 186*3*

L. A. Chapman Sec'y of Board.

J. B. Pratt

Ag't Bd. of N. Reg'ts.

I will leave the other half about blank, for
you may not have paper to write & your
friends, or you may use it - to reply & this
half note & please address - Mrs. Sarah Southworth
Winthrop, Mass.

W. S.
Winthrop (Maine) July 8th 1868.

My Dear Brother in the Army of the West:

I cannot think of the defenders
of our common country in any other
light than my brethren in the truest
best sense of the term. "Liberty, Equality
and Fraternity" was the motto of the
short-lived Republic of France in
'48, and will be ours by right, if
in this long, deadly conflict Slavery
is overthrown, and with it the
despotism which ^{is} inseparable from
it. Then, when the Goddess of Liberty
sits crowned once more upon our
shores, and Equality of rights is
every where recognised, the true Human
Brotherhood ~~and~~ Fraternity will be
established which will bring a foretaste
of Millennial blessedness with it,
which can now be ^{but} dimly realised.

We, at the East, though feeling a deep
interest in the Army of the Potomac, which
is composed so largely of Eastern
Regiments, do not and never will
forget the noble sons of the West
under the gallant leadership of the
heroic Rosecrank, whose name is a
terror to the minions of Southern
Despotism, and whose presence in battle
is like that of "Richard, Coeur de Lion."
Ah! if we only could supply you with
all that is needed in Hospital and Camp
then we should be glad - the power of doing
good does not keep pace with ^{the} wish to
do so, but with this little bag of "comforts"
for a soldier's knapsack please accept
the best wishes of the Eastern ladies for
the prosperity and welfare of the "Army of the
Cumberland". May you be led to a
glorious victory, and rest on your laurels
through a peaceful and honored life,
trusting always in God as your Leader
and Commander. Yours very truly -
S. Southworth

Vicksburg July 6th 1863

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]

The battle and work attending ~~the~~ removal from our position outside to our present one in the suburbs of the town being about over. I take advantage of the first spare minute to answer your favor of the —. (By George; there is no letter to it I find on referring to it; except the rather general one of 1st A. D. 1863rd)

It is said that our Army Corps, in consideration of the hard work it did in the siege, their duty, is to garrison this Post during the summer, while the rest of the army goes into active service; One thing is certain. Sherman and Ord are both gone with their commands, and we are here in permanent camp.

Here is one of the strongest sights to be seen; our Regiments and Batteries camped side by side with the Rebel troops; and the men fraternizing and ~~joining~~ joining in friendly argument as if there had never been any

I got a rebel paper a day or two ago by expressing my last independent for it, and sent it to Father after reading please you got it?

Vicksburg July 6th 1863

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christie]

The battle and work attending ~~the~~ removal from our position outside to our present one in the suburbs of the town being about over. I take advantage of the first of my minute to answer your favor of the —. (By George; there is no blate, to it I find an referring to it, except the rather general one of V.A.D. 1863")

It is said that our Army Corps, in consideration of the hard work it did in the siege than any other, is to garrison this Post during the summer, while the rest of the army goes into active service; One thing is certain. Sherman and Ord are both gone with their commands, and we are here in permanent camp.

Here is one of the strongest sights to be seen; our Regiment's guns Batteries camped side by side with the Rebel troops; and the men fraternizing and ~~joining~~ joining in friendly argument as if there had never been any

I got a rebel paper a day or two ago by exchanging my last independent for it, and it sent it to me. I have a paper of it. I have a paper of it. I have a paper of it.

We are camped close to New Orleans & near
Franklin, your friends started the Holyh controversy
and Congress.

How do you get along?
rest of the army is on the march,
But the boys generally, and my-
self among them are not disple-
ased at the prospect of a rest after
a long tail. I went up to the heights
this afternoon, and saw the monster
gamb that tried to impede the naviga-
tion of the old River. From there (the heights)
there is a most splendid view of the
river as it winds around the low penin-
sula opposite; the green swampy woods
of Louisiana, the smoke of steamers at
Youngs Point and the mouth of Yazoo;
the town, with its red-tiled roofs and
bushy trees; and the fleet of gunboats,
motive boats, and transports sailing
about or tied up at the levee.
Looking at all these and meditating
on many things occupied me a full 2
hours, and when I awoke myself it was
almost time for Roll call.

In answer to your inquiry I will
tell you that I got a letter from South-
wick a few days ago, and he was still
at Memphis and his movements doing
well. I think though, that you
will see him before long, if he is not al-
ready at Glynn, as he promises me that
he will visit you on his way to Minnesota.
Yours cordially J. R. Christie

Wetford July 4th 1883

Dear Friend Mark [Christie]

I received

your welcome letter a good while ago, (which will appear quite probable is you) but have delayed answering it till now. I did not get it till nearly two weeks after it was written. I see by the tone of your letter that you are not growing less jubilant - ~~after~~ ^{for} your great responsibilities? Your letter made me forget my school master dignity and for awhile I returned in fancy to "College days," and within those sonorous walls that have echoed to the tread (not of either Breckin) but the light footsteps of laughing maidens I met again my school mates and among them was you and all the other "Red heads" Yes and in imagination I saw the much loved Prof you spoke of, with his banjo on his knee and eyes turned up to the wall, lost in the ecstasy of his own music, ~~and~~ ^{and} Roy imagine I have no finer time in so small a school as you? well I don't; I get lonesome.

I do wish we were near each other so we could visit. I would ask you to edify my scholars by making some remarks, &c. The Superintendent has been to visit my school he came in the morning

staid all the forenoon and took dinner with me
When he comes to see you you write all about
it. I had a picnic two weeks ago. Carpenter school
Miss Stark and her school, and Miss Sawyer and
a part of her school was here. we had a good time

I went to see Joe Williams
a while ago, went Saturday forenoon and staid all
day. I had a splendid good visit. Joe is the same
old "Chick". She went to Beaver Dam for school last
winter. She wants you to write to her. You said Mattie's Cousin
was dead was that her Cousin that came to the College?

Where did you spend the Fourth? I went
to Maupum. I saw the Lindsey Boys there. But I must
stop for it is school time, write as soon as you
get this. and excuse this awful scribbling for I am
in a hurry. I have lots to tell you but cannot
stop this time

This from your Friend,

Mary A. Hubbard

Vicksburg, July 11th 1863.

SARAH CHRISTIE CLYMAN, Dodge Co., Wis.

Dear Sister, I Received a letter from you two or three days ago (I am so warm it fatigues me to think up to a day,) and was glad to learn by it that all the numerous connections of the Christies were in good health. You all know up there by this time that we all got into Vicksburg on the fourth of July. And you may be sure it will ever be a memorable fourth to the ever victorious Army of the Tennessee. Think of it on that Day the Brightest in American History: The Army of the Lord added a new lustre to the glorious Remembrance of the Heart of true and loyal little Israel. By breaking the back of one of the most ~~aggressive~~ ^{aggressive} rebellions ever got up in this world, or I believe any other, I need not go into any of the high falutin rhetorical styles or get into testaceous and all such like things about it. But let me tell you it will as a new era for me to count from, and I have not the least doubt with many others. In your letter to me you complain about the Corporal: giving you a drubbing over Helen's back for the want of something in your letters: him and I have often talked about your letters. I have really tried to find excuses for you. But the Bage Corporal, the Pragmatical Corporal, yes the Stubborn Corporal. The infallible Corporal has no excuse for such shallow people as you and I unfortunately happens to be. I suppose if you were corresponding with a sister or a very Dear Friend such as Helen should be, instead of to a Pair of Soldier Brothers: we would see a little more under the surface and the Imovable Corporal, The unbelieving Corporal, would see a great Deep sea of thought. That he

Becksburgh, July 11th 1863.

S. SARAH CHRISTIE CLYMAN, Dodge Co., Wis.

Dear Sister, I Received a letter from you two or three days ago (I am so warm it fatigues me to think up to a day,) and was glad to learn by it that all the numerous connections of the Christies were in good health. You all know up there by this time that we all got into Becksburgh on the fourth of July. And you may be sure it will ever be a memorable fourth; to the ever victorious Army of the Tennessee. Think of it on that Day the Brightest in American History: The Army of the Lord, added a new lustre to the glorious Remembrance of the Heart of a true and loyal little people. By breaking the back of one of the most ~~heavily~~ ^{aggravated} rebellions ever got up in this world, or I believe any other, I need not go into any of the high falutin rhetorical styles we get into & ostacous and all such like things about it. But let me tell you it will as a new era for me to count from, and I have not the least doubt with many others. In your letter to me you complain about the Corporal: giving you a drubbing over Helen's back for the want of something in your letter: him and I have often talked about your letter. I have really tried to find excuses for you. But the Dage Corporal, the Pragmatical Corporal, yes the Stubborn Corporal. The infallible Corporal has no excuse for such shallow people as you and I unfortunately happen to be. I suppose if you were corresponding with a sister or a very Dear Friend such as Helen should be, instead of to a Pair of Soldier Brothers: we would see a little more under the surface and the Imovable Corporal, The unbelieving Corporal, would see a great Deep sea of thought that he

now scarcely Dreams of I Believe so at least. Now mind
I do not mean to flatter either you or myself. For I know that
flattery is bred and meat to you. But I am speaking what
I think is the truth. Now do for once give the wise Corporal,
or feast of Intellect in one of your epistles: and as for me poor
weak fellow. I will be content with the old gossiping sort
of things you have disgusted the Profound Corporal with.

Sarah I am really sorry to hear you say you are almost
discouraged. in regard to your Penmanship. Persevere. for
I really think you are improving in your Chirography, and
if at first you don't succeed try try again. I am rather too
old or or I would enter the list with you; and see who would
gain the day. if you say so I will as it ~~is~~ ^{is} and although I
have all the inconveniences of a camp against me I will try
for the Palm of Victory. Sandy's Xth Plus yrs and it is
equal to F. P. or some other such fixers. in answer to
the Mathematic Corporal. Muddled my poor weak
Brains and this Confounded Country. so warm I am sure
almost that some very wise folks we know of will get
such exotic growths of knowledge into their heads that they
beginning to think that we will hear an awful explosion
equal in sound to the opening of a fine thrifty Cabbage head
at a certain stage of its growth. One of these mornings.

Be that as it may I will for one take great care of the fragments
and forward some of them to the most learned friends of raid folk
and the Balance to P. S. Barnum, or some other man of
Vt. or fame. You ask a great deal about C. W.
Southwick I have nothing to say for or against. We are antagon

always have been, and so we don't hitches. Tom will gratify you
in all likelihood about him, and let you know the Particular
traits of his most Excellent Character. Bah. The Clover
and grass Sprigs Helen sent to Tom, gave me a glimpse of the old
home, just as it was many years ago when I used to stand
at the well, and look down the ridge and dream of it covered
with green waving wheat. I have always been a Dreamer;
and so I suppose that is the reason I am so much of a Heely head
today. and gave me a look at it now. Then the whole ridge was
covered with brush. through which I one fine Spring morning
sent a devouring fire. I was so very ambitious to burn
brush heaps. I destroyed orders: and a great conflagration was
the consequence. Beautiful Country then. more beautiful
now when my Dream is a reality. although I can't be
there to see it. Sarah oblige me as soon as you can by getting
me some news about A. Blair. through Janet Clarkson.
November will crawl or before we are fully aware of it. and
I would like to learn something about Blair's concerns. for
you know I am personally interested. Since he came on
here, we have had any amount of talk with the Rebels
as a general thing they are a very poor unintelligent whiskey
drinking people. and much in need of the school master
among them. he would be highly esteemed if he was armed
with the whiskey bottle instead of the Rod. There dialect
is a miserable Negro jargon and they really look worse than
that nigger over there. The Bluffs are pretty well cut into for places
to get out of the way of the Yanks. Cannons and the cells are made
straight in for about four feet wide enough for a man or woman.

single file then they are dug to the right or left some both ways,
and made so that several can sit or stand, or lie down,
there are but few houses in town that has escaped, being hit,
several has been very badly torn. By bursting shells houses are
cracking in the ^{center} torn off. Some with the roof smashed in
and the floor torn out. The effects of war is seen every where.
great patches ^{of ground} are literally trampled with graves. Thousands of
bodies must have been buried since we looked up this army
in Vicksburg. The wounded were brought in here, of the other
battles. But there has never the less been a great destruction of life
by the bombardments of the siege. Let us hope that these things
will soon cease, and that war will end, and we soon return
home. Tell Sandy I will write to him soon if the heat
don't make me too lazy, and give my respects to Min Mary
and Maggie Amos, and let them know they are very great
strangers indeed. Tell about Lennie, and William Emerson
that I hope to see ^{the} happy Neddy checked and strong. When
I return from the war, I would offer my love
to all the old ladies and gentlemen. My respects to
all the young ones. Good By for the present.

P.S. You must not take ~~any~~ thing herein
written, as being said in malice or rancor.

Your loving Brother Big fool,
William J Christie

what a Delicate De-li-ca-te
Ladies R-a-n-d This i's

Say where do you learn your Geography, Nephew - his is
Mississippi

[Alexander] Vicksburg Mississippi July 16th 1863.

Brother, I lay aside my large fit as I would a load and I will try and write you a letter. But here I have to come to a dead halt for want of something to say.

July 19th Dear Brother I once more resume my pen, to scribble a few lines to you. We are much pleased here with the prospect in Tenn: and Penns and are well satisfied with our own achievements. Rumson has it the greater portion of the garrison at Fort Hudson gave Banks, and fleetly the ship crossing the river to the La: side and cutting some very smart Yankee tricks. Let these things be as they may. The Mississippi River is open and the Southern Confederacy is cut in twain, it will ^{be} out of the question to think that the Pesky Critter can live without the tail, and if Meade only gives the Head a sound with his heel we will soon make away with the Body. This City is very nicely situated and has been very handsome. Before the war I have been over the whole place and I have changed my mind in regard to its appearance. It is very filthy and although large gangs of Negroes have been employed in cleaning the streets, there has been but little, ^{comparitively} apparently speaking done. The Rebels have been very filthy, and it has just been here as every where else. We have been driven to a great deal of work, for health sake. There are waggon loads of old rags of clothing, full of vermin and disgusting to behold. There are one or two Rebel hospitals in town, and you can tell long before you come near them by the odious stench, ^{where they are,} and let me assure you that that they as a general thing have a Peculiar odor. belong to the camps and hospitals, and you can tell when passing through a country, where troops of Both sides have been camped the difference, between each camp by the smell even before you see a scrap of clothing or anything else to tell the difference by. A Report is current in Camp today that Joe Johnson

has got out of Sherman's net and is running away as fast as he
can. We do not hear much about what is going on in our
rear. But we do not trouble ourselves much. We have
any amount of confidence in G. A. Grant and feel sure
of everything coming out right. I have picked up an old
grammar. Kirkham's first published in 1833, and I study
it with great profit and pleasure. getting some very good assis-
tance from the Corporal. I will say nothing further at
present about my propensities in the rules or appli-
cation of them. for I have not the least doubt you can see
no improvement in the grammatical construction of my
sentences. and there is none in the sense either.
You complain of having nothing to write about. What do you
suppose we poor Devils have to write about. Nothing only
drumming. here: and drumming there. drumming everywhere
and piping for the same. Dixie played on one side of your Yankee
double behind you. The Prairie flower in front. and the fire
I left behind me on the other ^{sides}. accompanied by the Devil's
Dream. By another band close by. The whole makes a very
curious mixture of sounds like one grand Devil
Dream. or some such other villainous composition of mis-
chief. Next we might tell of hot weather. Then of the daily arrivals
of contrabands from the cane brakes. where they have ^{been} ^{lured} away
by their masters. until so near dead with exposure and
want. Poisoned by vines of various kinds, and in such horrid
plight. that ^{many} drop dead in the streets. or lie down in some
unoccupied house. and die. Is this near too much for the
Nation. that has had such a system in ^{it} ^{that} ^{has} such
fruit. No. and until this accursed thing is put from
among us there will be no end to the war. I might
also tell you ~~of~~ a large quantity of provisions ^{that} have been
found under the house of a citizen. of Vicksburg. while
he was drawing rations from our commissary. fifteen Bales
of flour. several of sugar. and a great quantity of

melons. He was taken in custody and the goods seized.
I might also tell you of the departure of Hanson's Brigade for
Sketches. how the 13th Ill. relieved the 11th. and so you
see you might learn a great deal if I was only disposed to tell you.
The 11th I might say followed the balance of the Brigade. I might
also let you know there is two of the colored regiments camps
in Vicksburg. ~~that~~ it is said in camp that a number
of our troops down the River near Sketches captured five
thousand head of stock. two thousand head being beef cattle
and the balance mules and horses. I might also tell you
about an election for officers in the first Minnesota Battery
and how near like a political thing of the same kind. in Egypt
it looked. But being like Greece. I do not feel disposed to do
so. and so you may die of curiosity. or ignorance.

But I hear the ringing of the Church Bells. making music
in the air. and they bring many many pleasant memories
before my mind's eye. Not that I have ever been a church going
individual. not for. But I can go away back to the Sunday
School. when I used to be in Dundee. making music with
my fingers on the railing round St. David's Church or ^{then}
near the new Catholic ^{Church} at the foot of 3rd Street and listen to the
Organ. as it helped to swell the choruses of the pieces
played in the service. Then I used to go and see the tide
come in roaring over the Banks. as it came in. and
Now I go and see the Mississippi. Pouring to the ^{seas}
water beaten white by the Paddle wheels of the transports.
or thrown up in spouts by the Propellers of the messenger
Boats. as they glide up and down from one place to another
keeping communication between the gun boats. One
of these goes past at times grim and black to look at.
and their port holes. threateningly open. My letters
are wearisome. I know. But there is only one excuse for me
writing and that is it lets you know
I am well. I am also light.

in weight, (not to say or imply anything else) Being
only 140 lbs. By the scales. So you see I am not a
Bunch of Bones, But lively and well. I am glad we left
Lake Providence, for we learn it is very sickly there.
The ~~sixteenth~~ ^{sixteenth} Wisconsin, and 120 th Ill., has a
great number on the sick list. There does not seem to be
much increase of sickness among our troops at this Point
and the old Contraband inhabitants say "Plat. Di. n'ice
not be a fallen fern you di. zee, Thank de God." Poor
things they may be mistaken. But they are at seems quite
confident. Then they go on and tell of faithful watching,
over thankful Masters, and mistakes. And how they
would be taken with it themselves: and left to die or get
well as they best might. The Christian Episcopal Methodist
Church ^{about} ~~left~~ a year or so ^{ago} gathered up a subscription for the
erection of a Church for the use of the Colored People, would
have nothing But Gold or Silver, got right hundred Dollars
in hard cash, never built the Church, nor returned the
money, and so the matter is in "State just or some
other such fix. Be Patient in all things, is my advice
to you and if I had only written so at the head of this letter
you would have been profitably warned and spared your
self the trouble of reading such a jumble of nonsense.
Read and forgive, and Remember me to all,

Believe me your affectionate Brother

Wm. J. Christie,

P.S. We had lots drawn in the Battery Secretary for purposes
of those that draw three detailed men from the main district
2d Prizes: and are going home, I did not draw, neither did I, it
would cost 2 cents mile each way. James Fischer is
one of the men going home. He will call at Uncle
Sams. Fischer resides in Porters
Enclosed Myrtle Blooms,

Beckstowen Mass: July 22nd 1863

[Alamy]

Dear Brother, We Received your letter from home yesterday, and we are very glad to learn you are all in good health, and enjoying the blessing of life in a commendable manner. Not letting trouble^{men} the serenity of the Pleasant home life too much. I need not tell you we are as usual, for if we were not you would hear it soon enough, it is likely you have warm weather. But here warm is no name for what we have, no sir. But if we were in the habit of using Profane language, which we are not (only when we hear of such men as you speak of as making speeches on the 2nd ult. in Watertown. Then I suppose because we is wicked like poor Tippecanoe, we let a good round oath or two and rejoice as wonderfully, seeing we can't turn our gun on such people. But to come back to the weather, it is damned hot, and no mistake, and so we lie and fairly smelter in the exhalations of our Bodies Corporeal, and wish for rain. The sky for a great many days back has been covered in the morning with a dull leaden haze which clears up into great detached masses of cloud, round the horizon while the sun pours down on us with an almost unbearable heat, soon the clouds gather up in thunder storms on the outside of our section of country and we hear the growling of the storm as it rages to far away to do us any good, and so we are left with the heat and drought, and night comes down on us with the stars and the young^{moon} obscured by a brazen kind of a fog, then we have music by the bands, and it would not be so unpleasant if the performers were not so urgent for their pay, that they insert their bills without any hesitation and will not be denied, I am going to hunt some Beavers, and so I will quit until I get back. Well Grandville Lourd, and I have been off and got a small basket of Beavers, and so I will resume my letter to you. I was talking of music and bills. Bills are troublesome things sure enough, especially when they are blood ducts or conduits. A great electrical Battery is at work north

Reckless Critters speak out there Disloyalty. On
Sick & day I am very sorry to hear of such a Villanous
set of Scoundrels, as those you speak of in connection
with Council Bluffs of the 29th. I am sorry to think
they got off with such remarks, without feeling the Bazaars
of some of the Brave 29th Poked in among their ribs, not
to say anything about a Place that shall be named. But I am
very much mistaken if such men don't get there just
Deserts. When the Bold Boer Boys return home, won't they
though if they ^{show} the least sign of Messager, about them, down
will come the fist of a true man on those foul snips, and serve
them right. 'Tis true enough that Joe Johnson got out of
Jackson, and we captured a great number of Prisoners,
and I don't ^{know} how true it may be, but 'tis said that a large
number of the Vicksburg Prisoners were recaptured with
arms, in their hands having Broken their Parole, after
being used like men and fellow Soldiers. You see I am
trying to draw out this letter to an indefinite length, or to
the ^{end} of the Page. But I am almost run dry, for I have two
more letters to manufacture in as many days, and you see
it won't do. But Now while I think of it let us have a music
Book. Called the Bugle Call. There are some excellent Pieces
in it, and you folks had Better learn some of them.
Now I must inform you darkness is settling down on the face
of the Earth and the musketoes in my Back. So I will wait
till morning to daylight does appear. Good night, Morning
after Breakfast. Six o'clock P. M. The rain is over. The
dust Barely laid, and the air cooled, ^{only} for the Present.
The Boys had a little dance last ^{night} the Camp was quite
By Ten o'clock. So after letting you know that this is
the second letter for your one I close By signing myself.
All that I should Best good By for the Present.

William O. Christie, 1st Minnesota Battery

Vicksburg Miss. July 23rd 1863.

[SARAH CHRISTIE, CLYMAN, Dodge Co., Wis.]

Dear Sister, I will try and answer your question about the Copperheadism shown in water town on the fourth. Such things being allowed on such an occasion show a lack of true Patriotism among the inhabitants of that portion of the State. But when you tell of what ingredients the crowd was composed of you give a correct index to what might have been expected. 'Tis a well proven fact in the history of Nations that the more Barbarous a People were, they were the less capable of knowing what was best for their real happiness. Now the very paper you speak of as composing the crowd in question. What are they. When you come to summer them right down. Nothing But Barbarians. People wholly given up to the interests of the Body Corporeal. Without wisdom enough to guide them even to that desired end. ^{The gratification of all its hungers at whatever cost} even as it is. When compared with the higher interests every human Being should have continually before them. Their Brains steeped in liquor every thought perverted. They could do nothing else But cheer as their master Devils directed. Sathan after his return to Pandemonium after his discovery of Paradise. Made a speech to his followers: and after he had turned their hearts to sing just as he wanted them they cheered him vociferously. So of a kind are these you speak of. Sathan was balked of his end, and so will all of his kindred, although they may make great efforts and look as though they were victorious they lose. For God reigneth. Now Sister here goes for something about us that is the Corporal and I. Seeing the Papers are so taken up with other matters that they never mention us. I for one think it is a shame for them to be so neglectful of two such worthy and will inform them of the fact. Perhaps when we think they can give our Claims just attention as to what we hear the inventory is easily made. Imprimis: One Pair of Blue Wooten inexpressables. One Shirt wooten, sometimes red, other times a white one. and blue Shirts are not uncommon. We lie down at times our heads are wonderful to relate. enclosed or covered with a hat or cap. feet encased in shoes and socks, at least mine

Dear Porter. I shall try and answer your question about the Copperheadism shown in water town on the frontier. Such things being allowed the such an occasion I have a lot of true Patriotism among the inhabitants of that portion of the State. But when you talk of what ingredients the crowd was composed of you give a correct answer to what might have been expected. It is a well known fact in the history of Nature that the more Barbarous a People were, they were the less capable of knowing what was best for their real happiness. Now the very people you speak of as composing the crowd in question. What are they when you come to consider them right down. Nothing but Barbarians. People wholly given up to the interests of the Body Corporate. Without wisdom enough to guide them even to that desired end ^{the gratification of all its hungers at the expense of all its feelings} when compared with the higher interests every human being should have continually before them. Their brains steeped in liquor every thought perverted. They could ^{do} nothing else but cheer as their master Devils directed. Sathan after his return to Pandemonium after his discovery of Paradise made a check to his followers and after he had turned their hearts to sing just as he wanted them they cheered him vociferously. So of a kind are these you speak of. Sathan was balked of his end and so killed all of his kidneys although they may make great efforts and look as though they were victorious they lose. For God reigneth. Now Porter here goes for something about us that is the Corporal and I. Seeing the papers are so taken up with other matters that they never mention us. I for one think it is a shame for them to be so neglectful of two such worthy men and will inform them of the fact. Perhaps when we think they can give our claims just attention as to what we hear the interesting is easily made. Imprimis: One pair of Blue wooden inexpressables. One shirt wooden. Sometimes red. Sometimes a white one. and blue shirts are not uncommon. We are covered at times. Our heads are wonderful to relate. Enclosed or covered with a hat or cap. feet encased in shoes and socks at least mine

Mine are. There are numbers of the men for iron manufactures, and very much disabled. (Disabled) As for what we eat we eat victuals of course. Corn, bread, meat, flour, pork, cured and cooked in various ways. We get Beans Baked after the following manner. The Beans are first Baked Clean. Then washed Clean. Then Put Boiled. Then Put into just such a Kettle as we had that winter. The three persons first move into this. Father will describe it. Then said Kettle is Put in a hole in the ground ^{and} ^{the} ^{fire} ^{is} ^{put} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{hole} ^{and} ^{the} ^{cover} ^{is} ^{put} ^{on} ^{the} ^{Kettle}. Then Put Coals of fire is heaped around over and above the Kettle. The whole being covered with dirt. Then in the morning we have an excellent dish. or rather over full of Baked Beans fit for any man to partake of. if you should try the experiment don't forget to Put Coals under the Kettle as well as over it. We have fresh Beef at times of which we make Soup. By adding Dissolved Potatoes. We have Steak cooked at times. Coffee is plentifully supplied and we live very well. By a slight expenditure we have our Cooks Bake our apples. Or the Boys (the staff) makes the pies and we pay for them. My Partner and I have got to using this condensed Milk. and it is very nice for Coffee. or even he can have Bread and milk. By dissolving said Milk in water. one large tea spoonful. Sweeten and milk one pint cup of Coffee. a small can a pint will last two or three days. and cost 45 Cents. Now we will have steady Peaches for a while. Being we confiscate all such things. I really would like to see the first Minnesota Battery near old Cottons Orchard. Now I suppose as it may seem Father's Orchard would be intact as far as our Boys are concerned. ^{on} ^{the} ^{account}. But on his own.

So you had a visit from Robert Elasmu. I am glad you were not disappointed or found he had ever said anything about our health that was not true. I am half inclined to think you are mistaken as regards Bob's startled look. or at least the cause of it you must think of the kind of people he has amongst at the time you speak of. So different from his own sort of folks. and then you will see reason for his startled appearance.

^{not} ^{attributed} ^{it} ^{to} ^{his} ^{life} ^{as} ^a ^{bold} ^{man}. Yes you are right there is much that ^{will} ^{not} ^{do} ^{to} ^{the} ^{tell}. seen and heard every day in camp. or on the march among soldiers. Much that is precious and rare. and if there is ^{any} ^{one} ^{asked} ^{it} ^{is} ^{hard} ^{for} ^{any} ^{one} ^{to} ^{tell} ^{what} ^{would} ^{be} ^{interesting} or in fact there is so much. that without some such index as a question its almost impossible to separate events one from another. As for C. W. Northwick he is yet in Thompson and his wound. it has caused him some severe pain and a fever. but he is gaining now. I believe Saturday if he will go up the river or not. if he does. and stays I hope you will like him among you. That's all. As for reading matter we have the dailies, when we can get them. Then we have the New York Tribune Weekly. Chicago. Pitts. The Independent. St Paul Press. Tri-weekly. and then we have Harper's Weekly. full of stupid pictures at which we laugh. We take the Monthly of the same firm. So you have an inventory of all. or nearly all that we do in the Battery. I don't our Sergeant takes the Tribune from New York. Frothingham. Chicago. Pitts. I pay for the monthly and Kettle for the weekly. The Corporal gets the Tribune weekly for his correspondence and he pays for the Independent. We have various details for fatigue that gives us enough of exercise. Wood. water except what we drink. has to be hauled. Hay and grain for the horses. We have been moving heavy guns and light artillery. and there is a detail for both hay and gun hauling to day. and I will have to close. or rather cease for the present. Your Patriotism was good enough, and you done very well. I am glad your term of teaching is very near out. and by this date. you will feel happy and sorry at the same time. and you will be proud if you have done your duty. By the little ones. I expect you will be of great use to all the folks at home. through the harvest. and haying. not so much in the field as formerly. But in the house. you will have time if properly seen too. to go on with some of your oddities. and there will be exercise enough for the body. to keep you in health. I am very good at

giving advice, and think I am wonderful music. But when I come to
try I find I am weak and foolish. You would like to know what
we think well as a general thing that would be hard to tell
seeing the way the question is asked. Do you seem to think
George Sutton is tired of farming. Well I don't wonder at it, being
he has such a place to farm on. At all the excitement ^{is} over about the
marriages and the Pees are jogging on at the same old gait. That is
all right and proper. Marriages, Births, and Deaths here to justify
things too much out of place there would be an end of all harmony
and there is no telling how soon everything would be ruined. We are in
the land where figs grow. Grandmother Bertie would call them at the
present stage of their growth foolishness things. In which I would heartily
agree. Give her my love, and let her know I am all sound (get
and shake her hands By and By. Afternoon. I have been
to the River with the Teams for hay, and since I got
back I have eaten dinner, and made some Peach sauce
so now I will finish up this letter By requesting you
once more to write to Lannet Clarkson and learn
all you can about Blair By her, answer to you.
I am very much obliged to you for keeping me posted
about all that's going on in Ogman, and vicinity.
Keep on doing so, and I will continue to feel
gratefully. We have had a little more rain, and
the sun today has been much hidden By clouds.
Be sure and send on any kind of music you can
think will interest us and don't stop the Republic.
We have only got two copies as yet. I will write to
Pa: tomorrow, and now I must cease. Love
to Mother and Grandmother. Little to all.

Good Bye
Your affectionate Brother

William G Christie

P.S. enclose

One Dollar worth
of stamps

Department of the Interior,
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,

July 29th, 1863.

Sir:

Your bid for N^o 14 of Section 30
Township 107. N. Range 27. W.
of 5th principal Meridian, (the same being a portion of
the Winnebago Trust Lands,) has been rejected, a better bid
therefor having been received.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

William P. Dole,
Commissioner.

Mr. Wm Stevens

Des Moines

Iowa

Department of the Interior,
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,

July 29th, 1863.

Sir:

Your bid for SW 1/4 of Section 33
Township 108 N. Range 27 W.
of 5th principal Meridian, (the same being a portion of
the Winnebago Trust Lands,) has been rejected, a better bid
therefor having been received.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

William D. Dole,
Commissioner.

Mr William Stevens
Berlin
Wisconsin

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,

July 29th, 1863.

SIR:

Your bid for S 8 1/4 of Section 30 Township
107 N. Range 27 W. of 5th principal Meridian
(the same being a portion of the Minnebagos Trust Lands) has been accepted.

Amount of Land 160 Acres.
Amount of bid per acre \$ 260
Total \$ 416.00

Payment must be made immediately, either in money or Certificates of Indebtedness of the Minnebagos. In order to accommodate parties desiring to pay with Certificates, it has been determined to issue new certificates for the amount of the difference between the price of the land and the Certificate offered in payment therefor, provided such difference shall be equal to, or in excess of the sum of one hundred dollars. If such difference is less than said sum of one hundred dollars, the party making payment must forward, with his Certificate or Certificates, such an amount of money as will enable this Department to adjust the account by the issue of a Certificate of the denomination above mentioned.

All payments must be transmitted at the risk of the purchaser.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner

Mr. Wm Stevens
Berlin,
Wisconsin.