



James C. Christie and Family Papers

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St Charles January 3rd 1864

Mr James Christie

Sir I would have sent you the
the money I agreed to send before this time but one
of my horses has been sick & kept me back from
haling my wheat off & since he got well we have
had so much stormy weather here that I have not
got the money made up yet it has snowed & blowed
here so much that the men in this neighbourhood
means to turn out & break open the road tomorrow
if we have no more stormy ^{weather} at present I will send
you the money within two weeks I inclose a list
of Williams taxes & rent which to my surprise
were unpaid when he left here & in order to
keep the land I was obliged to pay it & I suppose
it is right that I deduct it from the principle
I was sorrow to hear of Mr Thomas getting himself
hurt I hope Uncle Sam will soon send his boys
home where they wont be in so much danger
when you write to your sons remember Mrs Blair
& myself with respect to them Mrs Blair wishes
to be affectionately rembered to your daughter Sarah
whilst I remain yours with respect
James Blair

Win Christies Taxes for 1861
and rent on 100 acres \$ 11.35
us War Tax on same 72
Do on Personal property 36

12,43

I am this afflicted with a very bad cold
so I cannot write in consequence
of my poor health
1864

Vicksburg Miss Jan 6th 1864

Dear Sarah, [Christie]

We have got no news from you
for so long that we begin to think you have for-
gotten us in the midst of your arduous teach-
ing duties. I suppose that you find showing
those Millionaire Young Ideas how to spend enough
of a task to employ all your energies. I have been
expecting every day a letter from you in relation to
how you succeed in that semi-barbarous School-
District among the White Trash. Perhaps my caution
to you some time ago about not writing any more
to us was a little too hasty, for we are here yet and
with a prospect of remaining in statu quo for a
week or 10 days at least. Our prospects of go-
ing North are now better than ever, Genl. Hunter
has put in his application to be sent our Recruiting
Service, showing the names of 86 Veteran Volunteers on
his Muster Rolls, and Col. Clark, A. A. & 17th AC, told
him that we should go immediately, and have
a banner from McPherson as a reward for so
many of us volunteering. Clark said that the 14th Wis.
was the first Regiment in the Corps to go North, and
the 1st Minn. Battery should be the first Battery.
That's good enough for the far North West!

I am still afflicted with a very bad cold
so I have not been able to write
much from home

Windsor, Miss Jan 6th 1864.
Dear Sarah, [Christie]

We have got no news from you
for so long that we begin to think you have for-
gotten us in the midst of your arduous teach-
ing duties. I suppose that you find showing
those Millionaire Young Deacons how to spend enough
of a task to employ all your energies. I have been
expecting every day a letter from you in relation to
how you succeed in that semi-barbarous School-
District, among the Wild Irish. Perhaps my caution
to you some time ago about not writing any more
to us was a little too hasty, for we are here yet and
with a prospect of remaining in statu quo for a
week or so days at least. Our prospects for go-
ing north are now better than ever, Genl. Hunter
has put in his application to be sent on Recruiting
Service, showing the names of 86 Union Volunteers on
his Muster Roll, and Col. Clark, of the 5th ac, told
him that we should go immediately, and have
a banner from the Person as a reward for so
many of us volunteering. Clark said that the 12th Va.
was the first Regiment in the Corps to go north, and
the 1st Minn. Battery should be the first Battery.
That's good enough for the far North West!

Major Maurice, our Chief of Artillery, is especially delighted with our conduct, as we are the only Battery in the Army Corps I believe which has recruited so many men in proportion to our aggregate, and he promises, to the great delight of some of the Veterans, that we shall have a barrel of Beer at his expense, if it can be found in Vicksburg.

So you see, my dear sister, that we are appreciated here, and what is, I suppose, of more consequence to you, that we will soon be steaming Northward, to stay all winter and prepare for the next Spring's Campaign. But you must not expect us too soon, as there is considerable business yet to be done before we can start.

After we receive Orders to leave, all the property in the hands of the Officers has to be inventoried and turned over, which will take two or three days at least, then we must be paid, and there is no money come yet for the purpose.

I still think of going East to see the folks in Boston, Hartford and Waterbury (to say nothing of New Haven), but we will be allowed to stay long enough so that I can also be at home a few days, and I don't think you should ask more. William intends to stay in Plymouth all the time of his furlough.

Speaking of going to visit our relatives in Connecticut reminds me that I do not

have their addresses, and I think that if you would take the trouble to send the answer to this letter to Cairo enclosing the Address of Uncle Robert or Uncle William's family, I could get it there, and it would save me considerable trouble. Direct the letter thus, Thos. D. Christie, Cairo, Ill. (to be called for,) do not put on it anything about my Company or Division, or they will forward it down the River.

You may also wait about 4 days after receiving this before you send the answer down, perhaps a week.

With the New Year has come in a severe change of weather, cold and wet by turns. First it rains, then freezes, then thaws and rains again, and so on, no one phase of weather lasting longer than 36 hours. At present we are favoured with the coldest that we have ever experienced in the South, and you will see how much my condition was to be commiserated when I tell you that I was on Guard last night, and had to get out of my warm bed, and go out in the cold to change the guards once every 2 hours, which operation generally lasts about half an hour.

I laugh sometimes to think how Sandy would grumble under such circumstances, for we all know how much he loves his blankets. But then he would get used to it of course, in time and think no more of it than he does now of rising in the

Come to all the ones and write a long letter to
Morning.

(Now that Father has got
horses, and the snow is deep as we hear it is
up there I should think he would get a sleigh
or cutter for them so as to be able to take the fam-
ily to church every Sunday.

Here, we attend
Divine Service every Sabbath, and, when the
weather permits, twice on that day. The Rev.
Mr. Potter, whom you saw mentioned in the
Western Correspondence of the Independent
a short time ago, is the preacher whom I like
best, and I attend very regularly.

And in fact, my dear Sister, I have been very serious
on the subject of Religion during the past fortnight
and have said to myself often, while listening to
the good man's exhortations as Agrippa said to
Paul, "almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

I hope you still stand firmly by the principles
you avowed at first at Fox Lake, for even if
our conviction that there are no better ones
to make the miles of life than those,

I trust you continue the habit of daily prayer
and I would here request you to pray for me,
that I too may find the true path. I am in
earnest in this.

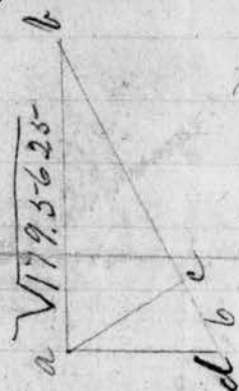
Yours affectionately

Thos. Christie

Vicksburg Miss. Jan 14th 1864

My Dear Brother, [Alexander]

I thought today that I would sit down and send you a few "sums" that have been of much interest to me. If they are too difficult for you, you might let Mr. Benson see what he could do with them.



You see that here is a Right Angled Triangle abd, with the square of one of the sides given, and there is given, also, the segment of the hypotenuse cut off by the line ac let fall from the angle ad perpendicular to the hypotenuse. It is now required to find the length of the lines - ac - ad &c.

There is another. There is a square stick of timber, equal in width and depth throughout its entire length, 12 feet long, and weighing 1200 pounds. On one end of it a man, weighing 150 lbs, is seated. Now, how far from his end shall the fulcrum be put under, in order to make him balance the long end of the log. That is, where shall the fulcrum be put so that the log may equally balance with him sitting on the one extreme end. I will send the solutions of these problems with this, but not to be opened until you

WILSON

and the Schoolmaam have tried the same yourselves. They are two that were given me by Supt. Sage of the 10th Ohio Battery, and in return I proposed some to him. He is a good Mathematician, and before he came into the army taught school in Southern Illinois. I worked some time on both of them, as I made a good many mistakes at first.

We hear through the papers of the awful cold weather and snow you have been favored with up there. We were not passed by auricles, for we had a cold snap here, beginning on the night of the 31st December, and lasting about 10 days that made us wish auricles still further South. All the clothes we could get on would not keep out the searching wind, and even the fireplaces in our tents were not sufficient to keep us from shivering. The River here is full of running ice, which phenomenon, the citizens say, has not been seen here before for 12 years. I thought something must be up when we could get no mail or newspapers for so long.

Genl. ^{Wm} Curtis has disappointed all the old Norcons, but one, and that is me,

He made a slight mistake in my commission by dating it 1863 instead of 63, so I took it back to him and told him that was making rather too much of a Veteran of me, to make out that I had been 60 years in the Service. He made it right and returned it to me. Nothing more yet about our going home. Granddaddy was talking about it last night, and

we thought it would be a good thing for us to select our Quarters here while in Minnesota. I wish it could be that you could go up there with me and see the country, perhaps buy land beside our, see what Father says about it.

Your Loving Brother T. D. Christie

Problem No. 1

The figure acd being a Right-angled Triangle, of which cd is the Base, ac the perpendicular, and ad the hypotenuse, it follows that

$$(1) ac^2 = ad^2 - 36$$

Also,

$$(2) ad^2 = bd^2 - 179.5625$$

But

$$bd^2 = (6c + 6)^2 = 6c^2 + 12c + 36$$

Substituting this value of bd^2 in Equation (2), $ad^2 = 6c^2 + 12c + 36 - 179.5625$

$$\text{Reducing - (2) } ad^2 = 6c^2 + 12c - 143.5625$$

Again, in Equation (1) we have $ad^2 = ac^2 + 36$

$$\text{And we find also that, } ac^2 = 179.5625 - 6c^2$$

Substituting this value of ac^2 in (1) $ad^2 = 179.5625 - 6c^2 + 36$

$$\text{Reducing - (1) } ad^2 = 215.5625 - 6c^2$$

And we see by Equation (2) that $ad^2 = 6c^2 + 12c - 143.5625$

placing these 2 values of ad^2 = to each other $6c^2 + 12c - 143.5625 = 215.5625 - 6c^2$

Reducing,

$$2c^2 + 12c = 359.1250$$

Dividing by 2

$$c^2 + 6c = 179.5625$$

Completing the square,

$$c^2 + 6c + 9 = 188.5625$$

Extracting square Root

$$c + 3 = 13.75 \text{ (almost)}$$

$$c = 10.75$$

From which it is easily found that $ac = 8$

And

$$ad = 10$$

I have just discovered that my solution of the other problem is not correct, so I shall not send it.

I have no Arithmetic, and so had forgotten the Rule in regard to weights and levers, and thought that 4 lbs. at 2 feet distance would balance the same weight as 2 lbs. at 4 feet. This I believe is wrong, but I have not time now to do the sum before I send this away. T.D.C.

and the Schoolmaam have tried the same yourselves. They are two that were given me by Supt. Sage of the 10th Ohio Battery, and in return I proposed some to him. He is a good Mathematician, and before he came into the army taught school in Southern Illinois. I worked some time on both of them, as I made a good many mistakes at first.

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Lieut. ^{and} Hurter has disappointed all the old Don cows, but one, and that is me.

He made a slight mistake in my commission by dating it 1863 instead of 63, so I took it back to him and told him that was making rather too much of a Veteran of me, to make out that I had been 60 years in the Service. He made it right and returned it to me. Nothing more yet about our going home. Gave I more talking about it last night, and

we thought it would be a good thing for us to select our Quarter Ser. while in Minnesota. I wish it could be that you could go up there with me and see the country, perhaps buy land beside ours, see what Father says about it.

Your Loving Brother T. D. Christie

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$$(1) ac^2 = ad^2 - 36$$

$$(2) ad^2 = bd^2 - 179.5625$$

$$\text{But } bd^2 = (6c + 6)^2 = 6c^2 + 12c + 36$$

Substituting this value of bd^2 in Equation (2), $ad^2 = 6c^2 + 12c + 36 - 179.5625$

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$$\text{placing these 2 values of } ad^2 \text{ to each other } 6c^2 + 12c - 143.5625 = 215.5625 - 6c^2$$

$$\text{Reducing, } 2c^2 + 12c = 359.1250$$

$$\text{Dividing by 2 } c^2 + 6c = 179.5625$$

$$\text{Completing the square, } c^2 + 6c + 9 = 188.5625$$

$$\text{Extracting square root } c + 3 = 13.75 \text{ (almost)}$$

$$c = 10.75$$

$$\text{From which it is easily found that } ac = 8$$

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Rule in regard to weights and levers, and thought that 4 lbs. at 2 feet distance would balance the same weight as 2 lbs. at 4 feet. This I believe is wrong, but I have not time now to do the sum before sending this away. T.D.C.

Solution of problem No. 111

Not to be opened until the problem has
been tried,

Direct Answer to Cairns

Solution of problem No. 11

Not to be opened until the problem has
been tried,

Direct Answer to Cairo

Vicksburg Miss Feb. 3^d 1864.

My Dear Father, [James Christie]

Enclosed find two drafts on the Sub Treasury, New York, drawn in your favor, one sent by ~~me~~ William being for One hundred and sixty (\$160) Dollars, and one for One hundred and fifty (\$150) Dollars, sent by me. Apply the money as may seem best in your judgment.

We are both well and drilling every day. You need not expect us home for some time I think, In fact, we know as little about when we will leave as you do. Expect to have about 80 new men in about a week. Some new guns have come down for us from St. Louis, but it is undecided yet what calibre will be given our Battery as there is a battery of 12 pdr. Chapolon guns, and another of 3 inch Rifles, come, perhaps we get the Chapolons, and perhaps the others, ~~and~~ can't tell yet. The great expedition has gone out, and our Division is left to garrison the town, under the command of Mr. Arthur. We can't get any forage for the horses, and have to go out every day beyond the lines to pick some for them. I must go this morning and as the mail is soon to start - also I have no more time to write. I am taking care of Capt. Clayton's horse until he comes back. I attended a lecture on Geology last night, by Professor Winchell of the Michigan

University at Ann Arbor, Mich. It was splendid,
We are having good times now, what with our Literary
Associations, Lectures, Library, and last though not
least, Divine Service twice a day on Sabbaths!

Positively, I must stop, or I will not be
able to get through the lines if I do not go with the
rest;
No more from your affectionate
and enjoying-himself generally Son,

J. L. Christie,

P.S. Love to all,

Was principal in a Debate to the night and
over side more. Question was, But that I am
of country make more influence over the masses
than these boys of money. Spread out all of course
on Democrats, Jimmie Leakes, all the mass that
have been carried on for love of country, not for-
getting the present - should have much love of country
could do in the case of the collapse of the Union, "all that
a man hath will he give for his life," and yet we
are men in every little cherubly giving life for
their country. Deduce therefrom that - men
think much of country than of possessions,
"Heads! there Christ, are you giving out for
more or come if you are good better than
yourself" "Continuing" "last appearance!"

I must write to
the P. M. at-
baird to send
along
those
letters
that are
waiting
for
these
little

Was principal on a Debate tother night, and
 our side more, question was, Red, that Love
 of country yields more influence over the masses
 than does Love of money. Spread myself of course
 on Samiela, Quintus Curtius, all the wars that
 have been carried on for love of country, not for-
 getting the present, - showed how much love of country
 would do in the case of the soldier of the Union, "all that
 a man hath will he give for his life," and yet we
 see men in every Battle cheerfully giving life for
 their country. Deduce therefrom that men
 think more of country than of possessions,

"Hallo, there Christie, are you going out for
 me if you are you'd better think
 yourself." Positively "last appearance,"

W. J. Love to all,

W. Christie,

Community at our altar, which, it was splendid,
 We are having good times now, what with our literary
 associations, lectures, library, and last through with
 least, having twice a day on Sabbath
 Society of most-often, as I will not be
 able to get through the house if I do not go with the
 crowd from your affectionate
 and enjoy my-himself generally soon

of must-wait to
 the S. M. at
 comes to and
 about
 those
 letters
 that are
 meeting
 found
 that
 the

What do you think?

Thank you & love
I am
Will write more next time

Love
Cecilia

with
love

Box Lake Wis
February 4th 1864

My Dear "Christie"

I remember distinctly about writing you a great long big ma role of a letter some time last summer, for which I never had the pleasure of receiving an answer. It pained me to think that you had so soon forgotten me, your sincere though unworthy friend and school mate. So I thought maybe you were sick, and maybe you had not time to write, and maybe you never got my letter and a great many other "may bes" and "excuses" I conjured up in my indignant mind to shield your devoted head from my everlasting displeasure. Now can't a kind? Well, I heard from you by way of our mutual friend "Ven" (the dear good girl) & she said you mentioned me, and that you had written to me and received no answer. So I

The pupils all seem to be delighted with these exercises (for which Calisthenics is a new name) and they seem to take great pleasure in practicing them, but they will not allow any one to call it Dancing.

The largest number of pupils present this winter is 75. There are five teachers

all from Rockford Illinois, and next term they are going to have a Matron to superintend the domestic department.

Maggie is going away. She sends you "a big bushel of love". One young lady died at the college last term of Typhoid fever. Another is now very low with the same disease.

Mattie Abbot was married last new years eve to a discharged soldier by the name of Abbot. so she has not changed her name, you see. She is gone to house keeping and says she "likes it first-rate". Please write me soon and direct to Fox Lake.

Yours Your Affectionate Schoolmate
Affectionate schoolmate Ellen Corbin

Madison, February 4th 1864

Dear Uncle, [James Christie]

I have

written from La-Cross one letter to you
one to Charles and one to Darine and
directed all to write to me at this place
but no answer has been received and
to-morrow I shall probably start for
the South— I send you by mail
a draft on the State bank Madison

for 70 dollars Number 133 97—

As you will not know where to write to me; if you receive it all right send a receipt to the bank; describing the original bill and giving its No.

The first letter you write to me you will let me know if you receive it so that if it is lost I can draw another.

You can get it cashed at any bank in the state. Get Greenbacks if you have to pay a little for them and keep a just account of what you pay and all your trouble and it shall all be made right. — I should like very much to have all my money in those United States Bonds and drawing interest. I lent 10 dollars to Aunt Electa the last time I was in Ellyman. She gave me her note and agreed to leave it with you. Please to write me if she does so. — It is reported here that the 8th regiment has been transferred to the 16th army corps and

sent to Mississippi but it is impossible for me to tell whither this is so or not. As soon as possible I shall write to my friends and let them know where to send their letters. I expect to leave here tomorrow but there is nothing certainly known until the positive order comes. There are

nearly 3000 soldiers here now and coming and going every day but no furloughs are granted here.

Give my love to all enquiring friends.

good health

Yours in

As good, J. Wager.

Vicksburg, Miss. Feb. 7th 1864

My Dear Sister: [Sarah Christine]

I can not blame you for not writing after the foolish advice I gave you ^{not to write}, but it is a dreadful long time since we got anything from you, and you will not wonder if we do feel a little disappointed as mail after mail comes in and nothing comes for us. Our anxiety to hear from home is very great, for we want to know how you get along with your school, and how things generally are prospering.

Here, we are in the best of health, and enjoying the most lovely weather that could be desired, just like June up North. The buds are bursting on the trees, the grass is starting green everywhere, and all the birds that denizen your woods in the summer are beginning to show themselves among us. It was only yesterday that, as we went out to the piece to drill, a little Blue Bird flew out of the black, sulphur-stained bore of the howitzer, where it had been, poor thing, to see about building its nest. It reminded me of when we were camped at Shiloh church before the Battle. I there observed a little bird, with straw in its ~~mouth~~ bill reconnoitering attentively the muzzles of our Rifles, and probably thinking that such a nice bright, clean & cavity would be an excellent place to bring up a family in. Our guns

at that time had never been fired, and were so shining inside that the bottom of the base could be plainly seen, but in about a week from that time they were black enough.

How suggestive would such an incident be to one who possessed "the poetic fire," and many good poems have been written on subjects far beneath it in interest.

The innocent little bird, in the boldness of a guiltlessness that knows no fear, confidently rearing its nest in the very jaws of Death. Forth those deadly shining tubes possessed no terrors, it only seemed there beautiful abodes, where could be reared in peaceful security the coming brood. If I were a poet I would favor you with a sonnet on the subject, or "lines on seeing a bird building its nest in the mouth of a cannon," or if I was even good at moralizing I would give you a whole string of reflections on the insecurity of life. ^(In the midst of life we are in death.) The courage of innocence, and the strength that sometimes is in utter helplessness, all drawn from the same subject.

I send enclosed the photograph, and an excellent likeness it is, of one of my comrades of whom you have often heard me speak. Joseph O'Hare. He is one of the best fellows I ever was acquainted with, and it is said of him in the squad that if any of one of the 4th Platoon goes to Heaven it will be "Old Harry," as we call him. He got the half a dozen photographs yesterday, and I coaxed this one from

him for your Album. Perhaps you may have my phiz to put beside it - sometime. Joe is always good natured. I never saw him angry in my life, and he is always ready for a joke, practical or otherwise. To hear him talk about the women you would think him a perfect woman hater, but this is only on the surface. He was jilted, handsome as he is, some time ago, by a woman whom he devotedly loved, ~~and~~ his nature is capable of deep and noble passions, and this has soured somewhat, in respect of the gentle sex, his otherwise frank, loving disposition.

He and I get along ^{to getting} like two schoolboys. (He is about 28.) Sometimes, when we are tired reading or talking, Joe will challenge me out to jump with him, then, when he beats me at that, I will challenge him to go out to the piece and see if I can't "stall" him on theomenclature, that is, the names of the different parts of the gun and carriage. Then you will see him puzzling his brain to remember the names of "trunnions," "rimbases," "chase," "reinforces," "cascable" &c. and when I finally stall him, and flap imaginary wings and crow in consequence, he will dare me to a game of quoits;

Beaten in that - also, he has resort to the dictionary (we have an abridged Webster,) and will try to beat me in spelling and definition, at which he is an adept, having an excellent knowledge of words,

The 16th Wis. has come inside the lines from where they were camped at Redbone church, some 10 miles south of this, and I went over to see Shaller today. I found him not very well, having had recently a shake of the ague. His folks do not seem to like his resolutism, by the letters he let me read, but John does not care for that; he knows he is doing his duty, and if the folks at home do not feel willing to make their part of the sacrifice, it only shows their lack of Patriotism. I wish I could tell you whether to write to us or not, I think you had better, as we will not be likely to leave now until the expedition which left last week is returned, and that may not be for a month. I wrote to the P.M. at Cairo recently to send down all letters awaiting W. or me there, and I think you had better continue writing the same as before. I wrote to father 2 days ago, directing the letter to Watertown, and enclosing Drafts to the amount of \$310, I hope he has got it. When he does, let him write immediately. We are expecting Clay ton with 80 Recruits down on every boat.

The Tattoo sounds, and out must go the light in ten minutes. Good Night. My Love to Mother, Father, Grand mother's Reid and Bertie and the boys, not forgetting a large slice for yourself.

Your loving Brother,

Thos. D. Christie

Break open envelopes to find in small letters

Minona Minn

February 9th 1864

James Christie Esq

Clyman Wis

Dear Sir

Your letter dated
some three months ago was only re-
cently received. I have made arrange-
ments to ~~send you~~ the money within
the next three weeks and you
may rely on it - within that time

Yours truly
George Stewart

Minna Minn
February 9th 1864

James Christie Esq
Clyman Wis
Dear Sir

Your letter dated
some three months ago was only re-
cently received. I have made arrange-
ments to ~~send you~~ the money within
the next three weeks and you
may rely on it - within that time

Yours truly
George Stewart

Clyman Dodge Co
Mass Feb 22nd 1844

Dear Brother [James Christie]

We Received your letter and were
glad to learn that you had got better
of your sickness, I think James is you
would stop trying to make a Whistle
out of a Pigs Tail - you would have better
Health. But if not you must suffer the
Consequences - a little Work and a little
Thought is the right way, But trying
to make twice 2 = 5 won't Pay and the
sooner you quit it the better - I have
little faith either in nonsense or in that
which cannot be Proved, there is plenty
of room for our judgement other ways
where there is Profit, so I am trying
a little of it it is some time since I quit
Liquor and now I have quit the tobacco
and never mean to touch it again,
in your last letter you seemed to
be offended at something I said. Now James
that letter was not Personal at all

in fact games I did not see the Fly But I consider a Religion that Builds
I was looking at the Ox you asked upon Death Bed senses which they all
at me if I did not see something in do more or less to have very little common
Samsun or Solomon I don't mind sense about them every system of
which - But it is all the same which of Religion ought to stand on its Merits
Then I can see enough in each of them alone, and even the closest examination
to fill a Bushell Basket of Nonsense tion in Bodily Health and sound Reason
to take the better of the Book which I believe ~~my~~ system is truly contemptible
is the right way to take it at least they That trusts for support from sickly
say that is ^{the} Orthodox way to take it Opinions and Stories of Death Bed
Mother is about the same and if she can make Recantations, if Sir Isaac Newton
out till Spring I think she will be able to opinions have changed at that time it would
rise a little, you tell me not to trouble have shown that his faculties were
her with any of my Views of Religion your one impaired and his Mind agitated
right games that is what I never have done one that in such a state, he was incapable
it would be making too little of my Belief of Reasoning accurately on the subject
and giving her trouble for little Purpose such Change of Opinions would not have
I do not see what is the use of any one doing it made his former Reasonings false nor more
to me it does not signify what a ^{Person} says such sickly Opinions even true
Believes, Cross on Crescent so be it they are likewise of Voltaire, Hume or Paine or
Carry and be Happy - But she takes these any of the same Kidney, should have changed
very cool for her Memory is very poor on These Death Bed the Case would have been

Resist the same with their Reasoning
as I have supposed I Newton
and then this way of talking to such
People of their Past Life, is very much
like telling them to look the Moon
often the Horse is Stale. But so it is
and so it goes - in fact James I believe
People have become Religious, Men
- a manick they have become
Constitutionally so, from long
training from the first idea up to
the Present time, you may laugh
James But I believe it, Priests in
all Countries have allways tried
to Cloud their Reason, so as they might
have the People Intellectually Blind
so as ^{they could} the more easy to govern on them
there is no use for such a Class of men
they are dangerous and perpetuate the
Curse, it costs Men more trouble to
Graduate the Errors they have taught
him in Childhood than to adopt new
truths - they ~~th~~ teach What They ought
to know to be false and Absurd

2^d
I have been ^{2^d} told within these ^{few} weeks
that we must become as little Children
near before we can believe in Christ
and I believe it - we all know what
that Means, Lay aside our Reason and
Destroy the Distinction between us
and the Beasts of Field - now if a
Man ^{do} can't do so, he would be under the
Necessity of Keeping so all the Days of his
Life - True the Priests wish ^{it} so and
has the impudence to ask it of us
But I hold James that Reason is the great
Attribute and without it there can be
no Knowledge or Wisdom you have told
me often that Christianity have Civilized
Mankind now I do not believe it, it is
Genious that has done that Work and is
Still doing it look at the Nations of
Europe that is running over with Christianity
without the ~~arts~~ ^{arts} and Sciences and see
What a miserable Set of hours they are
yes and the Priests have kept there from
them and have allways done so up to
this Day, While Men of Genious
and Facts have been labouring to

Enlighten the People - But sometimes
sitting under the Punishments
by these Worshepers of that God
inflicted on them for teaching
(these Cursed Mathematical Truths) I am tired of such stuff and believe
along with such Wives in Sheep's Clothing are gone
and give Robert Cuneas system only
a tenth of the time that they have had
and then we shall have Men and
not fools to walk on the Earth
we know that Mathematics and Geometry
and Reason did exist before we had any
historic account of ourselves there are the
elements of our Progress But as ^{to} Religion the Best we ever saw in the Country
and it is nowhere + it made ^{me} ~~teach~~ ^{teach} give my Respects to Family and Carrie
James when you ^{to} me you were sorry for and tell them to be good Boys untill
Grandfather But it would give me a chance I see them again Willie will be
undoubtedly to lay up stones in Heaven
it made me wonder how we came
Built a Blind Asylum when there were going to be as often But we will see
so many Christians in the Country
how many are there in the Church that any have

would bring on such a Promise
(Board) (men)
well now games I don't want to be carried
into Heaven on the Back of a Blind man
Peter would think it very mean indeed
I am tired of such stuff and believe
Sabra was up yesterday and
she has got the Clyman School this
Summer she is going to start early
so as she can finish soon and be up
before Harvest she looks well
and I think is doing well
we have had a Pleasant summer
give my Respects to Family and Carrie
James when you ^{to} me you were sorry for and tell them to be good Boys untill
Grandfather But it would give me a chance I see them again Willie will be
undoubtedly to lay up stones in Heaven
it made me wonder how we came
Built a Blind Asylum when there were going to be as often But we will see
so many Christians in the Country
how many are there in the Church that any have

care
of Helen
old Evans

I have hired a Butcherman untill the
first of December (and 15th) I think he will
do I must try and be kind to my good
Chaper Mr Ramsay had an accident
happen him the Horses were coming along
in to town for lumber he was sitting on the
bench had no bridle was thrown off on his
face hard frost and the hind wheel went
over his head his face is pretty badly bruised
But he will be all right in a few days
now James if you can read this
you will do well you will
think it is like the Highland merris
Wilke not worth the cracking its
kennel for all it is worth it is a
Batch of Blunders and I take time
to make it any better
my Good Wishes to you Both Hoping
you are all well
your Affectionate Brother Wm Christie

Backriver-Bridge Mississippi Feb 25th/69

Dear Uncle and Aunt -

[James Christie] It is

with a lively feeling of pleasure that I take
my pen in hand for the purpose of sending a
few lines to you - A thousand fond recollections
of ^{happy} seasons now forever fled are gathered around
your names - One single thought spans the
wide expanse between us and as I see you
peacefully seated in your snug little home
far; far; away in a land of comparative quiet
rest my whole past life from childhood to the
present hour; happy scenes, and days of gladness
time made sacred by a thousand chances; earth's
most holy admonitions and hopes of an immortal
rest; all come floating back like ocean surges
beating on a troubled shore - But I have
neither time nor space to make display nor
give any just expression to the deep ~~emotions~~
emotions of my heart. - I wrote you a letter
but a few days before I left Madison

in which was enclosed a draft for 40 dollars manifested. Everybody seemed to know that which you can get cashed at any bank in the state by finding some person that they know to show to them that ~~the~~ you are the identical man therein mentioned. I found that nearly all the business men sent their money in that way and considered it the safest plan. I wish you would write to me immediately and let me know if you received it as it is lost the bank should be notified as soon as may be. - Same 12.00 of us recruits left Madison by a special train in the evening of the 5th and arrived in Chicago the same night. Early in the morning of the 6th we were marched through the heart of the great city of the west to the depot on the Ill. central; and found to our surprise that there was no snow in Chicago. Other troops joined us here so that we had 13 cars loaded with soldiers. The day was very fine and as we swept southward through the vast prairie state it was truly astonishing to witness the enthusiasm everywhere manifested. Everybody seemed to know that we were coming and we were greeted by a continual roar of acclamation in every town and village through which we passed; while from fields and house-tops and chamber-windows flags and scarfs and handkerchiefs were continually waving. At times I could not forbear tears as I witnessed the enthusiasm of these people and reflected on the 14,000 men their state had furnished to support the government under which they lived; and when I saw that nearly every lady among them had some mark of mourning.

Early in the morning of the 7th many painful thoughts arose of the ~~many~~ ^{fallen} hard fought fields where so many of their husbands and brothers are mauling into dust. Surely the great state of Illinois is sound to the core. We arrived at Memphis early on the morning of the 12th where we learned that our regiment had left that place about one week before and gone down the river to join in General Sherman's expedition. The next day we were again

on board a steam-boat and headed down the stream. On the morning of the 15th we saw the steamer Northern Bell at anchor. The Captain hailed us and informed us that they had just been fired at and warned us to keep well out from the eastern shore. This gave us a lively sense of our situation, with no arms on board we were exposed to be fired upon from every thicket and jungle along the stream. But we passed on without any interruption and arrived safely at Vicksburg in the afternoon of the 16th where we learned that our brigade not arriving in time to accompany Sherman other troops had been taken in their place and they ordered to remain at this place and await further orders. We are stationed here at the bridge where one of Grant's battles were fought 14 miles from Vicksburg. How long we are to remain here no one knows - My health is good but I have not a very favorable idea of the healthfulness of this locality. Having been exposed to the Small Pox I was vaccinated as soon as I could be and it appears to be working well. - But I am approaching the bottom of the page and must condense the rest I wish to write. I inquire for your boys at Vicksburg but could not hear of them. Please to write to me immediately and let me know where they are; also about the money sent from Madison - If you see any from Aunt Elsie's tell them where to write to me. You will direct to Osgood & Hayes Company, 5th Reg Wis Volunteers, via Cairo Ill. and if we are sent elsewhere the letters will be sent on to us - Please excuse mistakes. Give my love to all the family and all other friends.

Yours in haste Osgood, J. Hayes.

Beautiful weather here now, I am busy all the time
in making out our Day Roll, most till 11 O'clock last
night. Expect our pay soon, but in no hurry

Vicksburg, March 3rd 1864

My Dear Brother, [Alexander]

We were delighted this afternoon
with an enormous mail, among which were 3
letters for me from you, Father, and the School Master.
They were the first we have seen for something like
6 weeks, and so you may be sure they were welcome.
That was an awful accident that Father met with, and
I cannot understand yet how it could have occur-
ed. The loss of his tooth is dreadful! I can't imag-
ine how he will look, but he must get the loss repaired
by a dentist if it should cost a hundred ^{dollars} or two.
Your letter is full of interesting news, as might have
been expected after so long a silence, and William
and I laughed till our sides ached over your descrip-
tion of the hay larceny. I think you must have thought
as we do about the Rule, that all is fair in a war of the
enemies making; that the reason why we soldiers can
confiscate with such a good conscience.

Father writes me that you are very earnest some-
times in your desire to enlist, and give him a
great deal of trouble and anxiety on that account.
I am sorry to hear of this Sandy, for several
reasons: 1st you are needed at home; 2nd you
are too young to come into the Army; 3rd the family is

not in a condition to allow any more of its members to leave the Homestead, nor is it needed, as more has been done by us now than could have been expected of us. You see my reasons bear on two points: your duty towards Father and the rest of us, and, your duty to yourself individually. I know you have thought upon this subject enough that you will readily concur with me when I say that should you leave home, the old Homestead, ~~which~~ ^{which} it has ~~ever~~ ^{ever} been our pride to say, has always been managed better than any other in the neighborhood, would have to pass into strange hands, for you well know that Father and Dave never could carry it on, and you should recognise, and be proud of the fact, that on your shoulders rests the responsibility of advancing the welfare of the family at home, while we sustain its honor in the field, and of the two duties, yours is the more really difficult, and therefore the more honorable. of the two. For, Sandy, we must work together, and I hope never to see the day when your interests and mine will be separated. I know you are eager to be doing something for the Cause of the Country; but rest assured, that you are serving it far better on the farm than could you in the camp. Let Father give up to you the whole management of the farm, I know you are competent to it, and I think he would be

fully willing. Here would be full scope for your ambitious desires to be doing something on your own hook, and you would at the same time be acquiring as much knowledge of men, and the ways of the world as you could here in the army.

Again; on your own personal account I would strongly advise you to stay quietly at home for a year or two yet, until you are older, before thinking of pushing your own way through the strange world. I tell you Sandy, I came away from home at an early enough age, and I have never told you how many times I would have given up everything willingly, only to catch a glimpse of the old home with its dear, dear, face, only to enjoy for a short time the society, and many other blessings, which you now ~~hold~~ ^{esteem} so lightly. You must not think that the soldier's life is all big and smashing; I know the romance of the thing weighs with you greatly; But did you ever reflect that what appears so romantic when viewed at a distance may prove, on a close acquaintance, the most dull and prosaic life that ever man lived. I tell you it is so, and it would be unbearable were it not for the Cause for which we endure these things. Even as it is, my heart sometimes sinks within me at the thought that 3 long years are to elapse before I can again enjoy the

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fully willing. There would be full scope for your ambitious desires to be doing something on your own hook, and you would at the same time be acquiring as much knowledge of men, and the ways of the world as you could have in the army.

Again: on your own personal account I would strongly advise you to stay quietly at home for a year or two yet, until you are older, before thinking of pushing your own way through the strange world; I tell you Sandy, I came away from home at an early enough age, and I have never told you how many times I would have given up everything willingly, only to catch a glimpse of the old home with its dear, dear, faces, only to enjoy for a short time the society, and many other blessings, which you now ~~hold~~^{esteem} so lightly. You must not think that the soldier's life is all bright and sunny; I know the romance of the thing weighs with you greatly; But did you ever reflect that what appears so romantic when viewed at a distance may prove, on a close acquaintance, the most dull and prosaic life that ever man lived. I tell you it is so, and it would be unbearable were it not for the Cause for which we endure these things. Even as it is, my heart sometimes sinks within me at the thought that 3 long years are to elapse before I can again enjoy the

privileges of a hard life. Take my word for it, this is one of the most miserable of existences, and it is only by the constant exercise of my faculty of hopefulness that I am kept from absolute despair. Oh, Sunday, you know nothing, really, about it. Every body is describing our life in uniform (and I acknowledge myself to be of the number) always takes pains to show only the bright side. For why should we pain the hearts of our friends by telling the whole truth, and besides we ourselves have to think the most of it is disagreeable as we would soon drop down heartedness. I shudder when I think of your coming into the Army, for I remember how many young faces I have seen in our hospitals, faces that should have been shining over a desk at school but doomed never to see dear ones again, chooped where a few short weeks of quelling sickness should be over to rest in the grave. The novelty of this kind of life would make you bear its inconveniences and disagreeables for a short time, but that would soon wear off, and as I said before, the major part of a soldier's existence is so dull and tedious that we mean the most of us don't know what to do to relieve this terrible monotony. You know we have got a lot of recruits and a more homelike lot than the most of them are now, you could not imagine, I was making out the Morning Report this forenoon as is my duty, and a chap who

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it is only by the constant exercise of my faculty of
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I acknowledge myself to be of the number) always
takes pains to show only the bright side, for why should
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truth, and besides we ourselves have to think the most
of it is sublime, or we would soon drop down -
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coming into the Army, for I remember how many
galling faces I have seen in our hospitals, faces
that should have been shining over a desk at school -
but doomed never to see desks and again dooped
when a few short weeks of quelling sickness should
be over to rest in the grave.
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and tedious that we mean the most of us don't
know what to do to relieve this terrible monotony.
You know we have got a lot of recruits and a more
homosick lot than the most of them are now, you could
not imagine, I was making out the Morning
Report this forenoon as is my duty, and a chap who

Beautiful weather here now, I am busy all the time in making out our Pay Rolls worked till 11 O'clock last night. Expect our pay soon, but in no hurry.

Report this business as to my duty, and a check upon
 is considerable of a tough nut, who has been in the hotel since
 and twice in weeks, this chap has been looking up
 When I came to enter in the appropriate column, I said
 he laugh and said "I said, and how many times?"
 I told him that was not a useful item in the Report, but
 would put the number at about 50.
 And a very dangerous and painful disease
 I am glad to hear from Father's letter of the safe
 arrival of our money. I did think it was your the money
 of my other \$20 dollars. I will answer his letter just
 as soon as I can find time, and would have done
 so this evening but for the fact that this is his
 I his letter at the hospital, and is answering it.
 It is much better is able to be up, and out door, and will
 soon be able to go again in the campaign.
 We are sorry to disappoint you, but we can not come
 have till September 1st, when will also be the
 best time to change climate.
 I am getting along fairly well, and about 20 men
 are all waiting to get into my squad, but I have
 too many in it already, although a better set of men
 to get along with. I never saw you and it is a
 I think we have made it since the
 Veterans went off. But I must rest, what I have to say
 for Sarah's letter, which I intend to write tomorrow, so I will put
 you good night. I must turn in. Remember me to Mother.
 Must take out patent for this style of letter.
 It has at least one recommendation and is loved to all, writes soon, Thos D. Christie

Troy Lake Wisconsin
March 7th 1864

My Dear Christie

Your most welcome letter of February 29th was duly rec^d. and gladly welcomed. You were very kind indeed to write me such a nice long interesting letter. I wish you could have sent me your photograph, for I would be so delighted to see it. I will send you mine in this and hope you will send me yours as soon as convenient, for I do want to see it, but would much rather see the original herself. You have a very large school this winter, and it must be very difficult to drill such a large army of "Infantry" and keep them all in proper discipline. I never want to teach a school myself that will average more than twenty five in daily attendance. Should not know how to manage more than that. You seem to have trouble about keeping your scholars from whispering, and want me to give you my views on the subject. Well Christie, you are a dear good faithful Teacher: I know you are, and I really wish I could tell you some plan to keep your scholars from communicating in school. But I never had the good fortune of discovering such a plan. In my humble opinion, it is one of the few things that "Can't be did" in schools where there are so many young scholars

I have tried a great many ways to prevent whispering in school, but never succeeded thoroughly. The best way I ever found, is to keep all the pupils occupied with their lessons as much as possible. I always try to give every scholar both large and small so much to do that he will have no time to whisper and play in school hours. Then if they come into their classes with deficient lessons I tell them that it is the consequence of wasting their time, and so I allow them to take their books and stand up on the floor and study as long as I think proper. Some times I have kept a class standing so on the floor through the whole day and after they were obliged to do this several times, I always noticed that they would try very hard to get their lessons, which of course would keep them pretty busy all the time. I always could see a great ^{deal} of sound philosophy in those familiar lines of Watts

"Saturn finds some mischief still,
For idle hands to do."

I often repeat these lines to my pupils, for their special edification, and give them to understand that "idle hands are my special abhorrence!"

I require every scholar in school to be furnished with a slate and pencil. Then the young scholars can occupy their time in drawing pictures and printing letters on their slates; and I also require the smaller scholars to print every spelling lesson on their slates before reciting it in the class. Some times when the school

is unusually noisy (as you know it often is) I wait until recess and then say to them: "well, scholars, I think you have all seemingly enjoyed yourself to day thus far; you have laughed and played and whispered to ^{sufficiently} keep your bodies in a good healthy condition, and consequently, you will need no recess; you may all take your books and go to studying as hard as you can." That sometimes has a little good effect; but, my dear Christie, I never yet could keep a still school.

Still I feel very charitable toward my erring juveniles, for I know (and you know too) that I never enjoyed a very elevated degree of scholarly perfection myself when I went ^{to school}. I remember how Prof. C. used to cast such despairing looks at me, and act as though he thought it a thing impossible for me to behave myself! I hope to hear from you soon. I got not a single valentine this year.

Oh dear Bless you Christie! why do you ask me about poor Philander G. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Chicamauga & is yet held by the rebels. Indeed I have not been happy ever since. Frank Eggleston has been teaching and is coming home in two weeks. The other Egglestons are all well I believe. Georgie & Washington Cleveland, & Ellen and her gallant William Morgan are still as devotedly attached to each other as ever. I should judge that, from all appearances, affairs will soon come to a matrimonial termination. Prof. Goldthwait and family are well, and if I had thought of mentioning to him that I heard from you I know he would wish to be kindly remembered. Mrs. Fish wishes to be remembered.

Elder Frick is down in Walworth county, where he has been laboring with Elder Bright for a few weeks. Father Cady preaches for us here. We have good prayer meetings, and enjoyed a most excellent covenant meeting last Saturday. — I wish you had been here to enjoy it with us. You wished to know which school I think would be best, the one at Madison or that at Appleton. I think they are both very good schools. But if you are fitting yourself for a teacher, you ought to go to Prof. Allen's school by all means, for it is a regular Normal school I understand, where teachers are to be trained for their Profession. & the manner of instruction must be better adapted to the peculiar wants of teachers, though perhaps in no way superior to that at Appleton. I never was in Madison myself, but have been told that it is a fine pleasant city. ~~Have~~ your brothers come home from the army yet? Give them my kind regards. You must not ^{think} ~~it singular~~ that I should think of sending my regards to your brothers who are strangers to me, for I feel peculiarly interested in all those brave young heroes who have already fought so many battles, and faced so many dangers in their country's cause, and now show their determination to stand by the flag until the end of the cruel struggle, and their enemies shall be all subdued. May the God of Battles spread His protecting care like a strong wall around about them and shield them from the dangers of the battle, and, above all, from the evil influences which surround them in their soldier life; and may He return them again to their friends crowned with the laurels of victory, when war shall trouble us no more and the Prince of Peace shall gather this distracted nation once more under the shadow of His wings.

Your Affectionate friend

Ellen C

Oh I forgot to tell you that I am going back to my school next month. They are all well of the small pox now. I intend to teach for months and a half.

Elder Frisk is down in Walworth county, where he has been laboring with Elder Bright for a few weeks. Father Cady preaches for us here. We have good prayer meetings, and enjoyed a most excellent covenant meeting last Saturday. — I wish you had been here to enjoy it with us. You wished to know which school I think would be best. The one at Madison or that at Appleton. I think they are both very good schools. But if you are fitting yourself for a teacher, you ought to go to Prof. Allen's school by all means, for it is a regular Normal school I understand, where teachers are to be trained for their Profession. So the manner of instruction must be better adapted to the peculiar wants of teachers, though perhaps in no way superior to that at Appleton. I never was in Madison myself, but have been told that it is a fine pleasant city. ~~Have~~ your brothers come home from the army yet? Give them my kind regards. You must not ^(I think) think that I should think of sending my regards to your brothers who are strangers to me, for I feel peculiarly interested in all those brave young heroes who have already fought so many battles, and faced so many dangers in their country's cause, and now show their determination to stand by the flag until the end of the cruel struggle, and their enemies shall be all subdued. May the God of battles spread His protecting care like a strong wall around about them and shield them from the dangers of the battle, and, above all, from the evil influences which surround them in their soldier life; and may He return them again to their friends crowned with the laurels of victory, when war shall trouble us no more and the Prince of Peace shall gather this distracted nation once more under the shadow of His wings.

Your Affectionate friend

Ellen C.

Oh I forgot to tell you that I am going back to my school next month. Don't me all words of the small for now. I intend to teach for months and a half.

Vicksburg March 13th 1864
My Dear Sister: [Squad Christie]

I only wish you could see the number of waste sheets of paper on my shelf all beginning, "My Dear Sister," and dated all the way from Feb. 28th to the present time. Some of them are half written, some with one page scribbled over, and 3 or 4 have just the date and address. Sometimes I would flatter myself, as I do now, with the expectation that I could finish them without interruption, ^{but} when just in the midst of some interesting (to you) sentence, the Orderly Sergeant perhaps would poke his head into the tent with, "Christie, the Captain wants you at 'Hed. Qrs.'" "What the devil is that for?" "Oh, something about that Ordnance Report that is to be ^{be} made out." So, down would go your letter into the cigar box which serves me for desk and portfolio, with a mental promise to finish it "tonight," or would go my hat cap, and that would be the last my tent would see of me till perhaps 10 o'clock at night; for the Captain always had plenty of other work for me when the Report would be finished, and I would have to stay and eat dinner and supper with him, while his waiter would be sent down to the company to feed my horse, and

While writing, the candle has been tipped over and dripped on the sheet, but I suppose you can read it anyway.

excuse me from Roll call;

Or, perhaps the interruption would arise from the cry of "come Sergeant!" (they all call me Sergeant now, although I am only acting.) "divide the bread," or, "divide the sugar," or, "get your Squad out to the piece for drill."

Then, next day, when I could spare time to sit down to write again, I would not be satisfied with what had been written, and would start another sheet only to be thrown aside again like its predecessors.

I have not much news to write that would be interesting to you; if it were to one of my comrades I were writing I could tell him a great deal that would be interesting to him, but ~~to~~^{by} you, such items as, "Dick and Sandy (the 2 negroes) died of Pneumonia last week," "James Cheatham, the brother of him who died of Small Pox, is very sick with the same disease that carried off his brother," such items are not appreciated, ~~by you~~. The only thing I can tell you of ^{special} interest is that William left the hospital today, and is again with the Squad, but can not be put on Duty yet.

A little incident occurred this evening that I must tell you of; We were out in the park playing Quits, Dave Dwyer and I being playing against Dan Wright and his partner. All of us were deeply engrossed in the game, and were "playing" as the boys say, "for all in sight." Dave had just thrown a

"good shoe," and it was now the turn of Dan's partner.

All our heads were bent down over the "hut" to see the effect of the throw, when down came the shoe, square on to the ~~to~~ peg - a "ringer." On seeing this, Dan sent up a shout of exultation at the success of his partner, and unfortunately, at the same instant, Gen. Chambers, the commander of the 3^d Brigade, was riding swiftly by, coming from town, and, as our officers generally are after being in town, he was about 3 shots in the wind as Mother says. On hearing the shout, he was fool enough to think some one was making fun of him, as he is very unpopular in his own Brigade, and immediately he reined in his horse, rode up to where we were standing, and dismounting with difficulty, walked up to me, and took me by the shoulder, saying, "I'll learn you to holler at me, come along sir."

I saw at once the mistake he had made in first supposing that the shout was intended ~~by~~^{for} him, and secondly, in thinking that I did it. So pointing to the "ringer" still lying on the hut, I said, "General, you are mistaken, there is the cause of the shout you heard." One of the boys spoke up and said that I was not the one who had made the noise, whereupon he turned to me and asked me if such was the case, saying that he saw me "holler." I told him then, that it was not I who shouted, and reiterated the assurance that no disrespect was intended by it. This he would

I have heard nothing of Tom Reid since that falling out and you
tell me all about it. I judge by what is in one of your
letters that you are
not believe, and asked me who was the offender, which
I refused to answer, and he was threatening punishment
if I still continued obstinate, when Dan stepped up and
owned to the act, giving the reason for it. I had got
my "dander" up, and would not have told who was the
supposed culprit, if he had put me in the Guard house
for a month. "Come along you, sir," the drunken
fool, (it is too bad to use such language about so high
an officer, but it would be perfectly applicable if he had
been a private,) said to Dan, whereupon, Dan demanded
be taken before the Captain, which, Chambers acceding
to, away they went, and I ran my head in the lions
mouth by going too, to bear testimony in Dan's favor.
It was noted, too, for after the General had preferred his
charges, in which he implicated me pretty deeply for aid-
ing and abetting, the Captain turned to me, and
sternly demanded our reason for the insult.
We believed our explanation, and told the General
that it was customary for our boys to make a noise when
playing, but Chambers would not believe but what it
was intended for him, and after abusing the ar-
tillery generally, and us in particular, threatening
Clyton with punishment if Dan were not pen-
ished, and swearing he would shoot the next man
who should shoot at him, he went off. Isn't it melancholy
to think of this drunken bully having command of thousands of men, the
meanest of whom is more of a gentleman than him.
All our starred Officers however, are not like him.
No more now, as my paper is out and as are my ideas.
Love to all, and believe me, Yours, T. D. Christie

5 MARCH 18, 1864 \$8.81

~~\$58~~
~~\$58~~ To Wm L. Stephen
Treasurer of Joint School
District No 12. In the town
of Berlin & Nepuaskun
Please pay to Mary McKitter
the sum of \$8.81 dollars for
teaching School out of
any money in your
hands not appropriated
belonging to said District
Dated this 18 day of March 1864
(Signed) Oren J. Fuller } District
H. S. Spencer } Clerk
Director

5 MARCH 18, 1864] 8851

~~858~~ To Wm L. Stephen
Treasurer of Joint School
District No 12. In the town
of Berlin & Nepuaskun
Please pay to Mary McKitter
the sum of \$38.⁸¹/₁₀₀ dollars for
teaching School out of
any money in your
hands not appropriated
belonging to said District
Dated this 18 day of March 1864
(Signed) Oren J. Fuller } District
H. S. Spencer } Clerk
Director

Vicksburg March 19th 1864

My Dear Brother Sandy:

"The cry is still they come." I had just posted a letter to Father this morning, (dated 17th) when the report came into camp that there was a mail for us at Division Hd. Qrs. The Co. S. M. (acting certified ~~doct~~) went for it, and sure enough, there was something like a peck of it, (these recruits have increased our mail amazingly,) and in it were yours of the 9th to me, and Father's, same date to M. It was the first notice we have had of the arrival of the V. V. in the realm of civilization, and I am very sorry that Father did not know what august Company he was in when he rode out of town with them, and sorry also, that he saw such a poor specimen of the Battery, as that drunken fellow, Charley Norton, I suppose it must have been. Be on the lookout for them when they come down, and see our Lieutenant. By the time this reaches you though, I hope you will have seen some of them at home, and perhaps, among them, Connor, O'Hara and Bill Miltse. We hear that there are 7 men enlisted for the Company at Winona, and more at other points, if they come down, we will have an

eight Gun Battery. We have six now in the fort, and will have more men than we need when the Veterans come back. I suppose you must have seen that rumor in the newspapers about sending the 11th, 12th, 16th and 17th Army Corps to the Army of the Potomac. It comes via the Washington Correspondence of the N.Y. Herald, which says that Grant is to concentrate 200,000 men on Richmond, and is to take the field in person, to command them.

It will be as good a thing as we want, to go either East, South, or West, if we can only be in active service. This lying in Garrison is enough to kill anybody. Waiting, waiting, the same thing every day, dull routine of eating, drinking, sleeping, Roll call, feeding horses, cleaning horses, watering horses, drill, guard duty, details for wood and water hauling, and attending to our personal comforts; these constitute our daily life, varied once in a while by Inspection, drawing of Rations, Muster &c. Now, you see, this would not be very bad to undergo for a month or even two, but when it is the only mode of existence for 6 months or a year, it becomes tedious and monotonous. In my position, there is not much chance for error, for I always have enough to do to keep me busy, but that is not the case with one man

in fifty in the Army, and the most you hear our Recruits complain of, is the sudden transition from their busy farmer's life, to this dull, idle existence. The more sensible of them entering with might and main into the Base Ball, Quits, and Cricket of the Camp, to replace the home work, while others will soon die of diseases engendered by inaction, for there are some men who would not get out of their bunkers all day if they were not compelled to.

I send you in this a Valentine that was sent by some fair Minnertian to one of the Recruits in my Squad. Its dilapidated condition testifies to the fact that it has been in the hands of about every man in the Co. a sure sign that it is appreciated by the Boys.

Its laughable significance is more readily appreciated by our old hands, after the thousand and one ^{fancied} questions that are daily asked us about the duties and arms of Artillery men, and after hearing them call the Gun Carriage a "Wagon", and the Breach and Cascade, the "butt" of the Gun, not to speak of the question asked by one of the new boys of me, when I was showing them the ammunition, (which is you know, fixed for howitzers, that is, the Outridge is attached to the shell by a wooden sabot,) he asked me which

"ball" we insulted first in the gun.
 The same one who sent this caricature sent
 also one representing "A Recruiting Officer" to
 Tom Gordon, who was up with the Captain.
 It was of the same character as this, only a little
 more so, and Gordon had the laugh turned
 against him awfully when he opened his suppressed
 letter in a crowd of men, and found the
 terrific caricature staring him in the face.

What lay behind was that, that Father must
 with Sutton? If Osgood Mayes is with his Regt.
 on Black River we will have a chance to see him
 but I heard some time ago that the 8th was home on
 furlough and we did not know where to find the sum
 of the recruits. All of the 4 Regts comprising the 3rd
 Brigade of our Division, (11th, 13th, 15th and 16th Iowa)
 are gone home in a body as veterans, and you
 can see nothing where their tents stood so thickly a
 few days ago but a forest of chimneys dotting the
 bare side hill.

W. and I conclude to go home
 as soon as we can after the boys get back, but our
 going home at all will depend on circumstances; if
 we went into active service this spring we could not
 leave, nor indeed would we ask to, but the general
 impression is that we are to stay here during the
 summer, unless the Corps is ordered East.

Give my love to all, and especially to my mother
 Burton. From your affectionate Brother, J. DeKruze

"ball" we insulted first in the gun.
The same one who sent the caricature sent
also one representing "A Recruiting Officer" to
Tom Gordon, who was up with the Captains.
It was of the same character as this, only a little
more so." and Gordon had the laugh turned
against him awfully when he opened his supposed
letter in a crowd of men, and found the
terrific caricature staring him in the face.

What lay bargain was that, that Father made
with Sutton? If Asgard Hayes is with his Regt.
our Black River we will have a chance to see him
but I heard some time ago that the 8th was home on
furlough and we did not know where to find the camp
of the Recruits. All of the 4 Regts comprising the 3rd
Brigade of our Division, (11th, 13th, 15th and 16th Iowa)
are gone home in a body as veterans, and you
can see nothing where their tents stood so thickly a
few days ago but a forest of chimneys dotting the
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we went into active service this spring we could not
leave, nor indeed would we ask to, but the general
impression is that we are to stay here during the
summer, unless the Corps is ordered East.

Give my love to all and especially to Grandmother
Butler. From your affectionate Brother, S. D. Kristie

Original in
possession of
Mary Craighill

Love to yourself a large share
Please write to me soon, a
good, long letter, I always enjoy
receiving your letters.
As ever your friend
"Oyar."

Rural Waupaca Co. Wisconsin
March 27th 1864

My Dear "Christie" [Sarah]

Your letter of
March 1st was gladly received a few days
ago. I am glad to hear that you are
enjoying your school so much. But I
am just now imagining that I see you pale
pore and looking almost sick, quite worn
out with so much care. I would
certainly have an assistant if I were you.
You will wear yourself out this winter
and that you ought not to do, for teachers
are going to be scarce next summer.

My school is out, and I am perfectly
free again. I was quite tired when my
school closed but notwithstanding have

already engaged a summer school at
Kulal for ^{the} months at \$22 per month;
to begin about the 1st of May. It is only
three miles from home so I can come home
every Friday night. I shall probably have
about thirty scholars and of those a great
many little ones. The present teacher is
not well liked, and the school has quite a
hard name so I suppose I will have
something to do in the way of governing
which, is I think the hardest part.

I am feeling very tired, and
looking about as bad as I feel, to day.

I went with father and Georgie last
Tuesday over into Outagamie Co, which lies
just east of Waupaca. I had never been
through the east part of our Co, and thought
it would be just a nice ride and that I
would see a good deal that was new to me.
And as I did. After leaving Waupaca a few
miles it was all new. Nothing but thick
heavy timber. I was not quite equal to

the Sunday boys, I had seen a pine
tree before, but I never saw quite so
many together or quite such tall ones. Why
in some places it was almost dark.

I guess I saw nearly every kind of
tree that grow in this part of the state.
We went about 40 miles from home and
returned last night about ten o'clock. I
was perfectly satisfied with home. Today
I look somewhat as Abbott and I did in
one of the pictures we had taken in the
group. Do you remember the one we called
the contraband?

And so Abbott has married.
Well I second your wish for her, "that her
married life may prove to be a happy one".
Ellen Corbitt also wrote to me of her marriage
that is, Abbotts, and also Etta Hawley's.

You see Christie they are dropping off one
after another. You and I will soon be the
only ones left of the old school girls.
But never mind. We will not get married.

untill after the war is over, will we?

For we want neither maimed men or cowards
You see I talk to you as if I understood
all your plans for the future. Abbott married
a soldier who had been in the army and lost
an eye for his country. I don't know who
Otta married.

You speak of a Stephen B. Van Horn
in the 1st Minn. Battery. Your brother was
very kind to make inquiries of him and send
you the news and through you to me.

But he is an entire stranger to us. We know
of no such person. My father has but two
brothers living; one in Camden N. J. and the
other in Cincinnati Ohio. I know of no other
family of our name in this county and certainly
no one of the same name ever attended school
at Fox Lake or I should probably have heard
of it as the name is not very common.

I shall be most happy to receive your
photograph as soon as possible and will send mine
in return just as soon as I can have some
good ones taken. My Cousin Edgar sent me
his a few days ago, from the army. One of his
sisters is coming to live with us. We expect her
next week. You remember his picture. I had it
with me at school.
I will close this ~~hasty~~ written letter. My respects to your

parents and brother

Excuse me for marring
the top of my sheet,
but it has just occurred
to me that perhaps you
would not know where
one at Beaver Dam
Dodge County, Wisconsin
I have good faith
for you will not
be very angry at me
for one glimpse at the
good time at the
Seminary will dispel
all such feelings from
your warm generous
heart
While my love
Lamar A. Bensen

Beaver Dam: Mar. 28/64

Monday Evening

My Dear Friend:

[Sarah Christie] If such I may

call you after so long a silence:

But believe me you have not been
forgotten through the long year and a
half since last I saw you.

How many changes have been wrought
in that time. My step father since
then has been summoned to appear
before his God - and my aged and
much loved grandmother has also
gone to rest - but my dear friend
what a consolation it is to know that
they are now singing hallelujahs to the
Lamb - and will never suffer pain nor

death. My step father died in the army we felt sad, that we were not permitted to watch over him, and attend to his wants in his last sickness - but though no earthly friend was near to smooth his pillow - his Jesus was with him and more to him than any earthly friend could have been. He was sick fifteen days - and had been in the army only about four months. He sent many kind and loving messages to his family - and we have the blessed assurance that he but exchanged Earth for Heaven.

My grandmother was nearly eighty-eight when she died, had been sick about two years - we all loved her very much and miss her too.

I have been attending school at Wayland University at Beaver Dam for some time past until last winter when I taught. I liked the school very much - think

I never enjoyed myself better. I want to commence again next fall. I had a very pleasant school last winter - rather small - but it has been a very severe winter for lady teachers especially - do you not think so? My mother and the rest of the family are now residing in Grant County. It will be a year the last of next June since they removed there. I am sometimes quite lonesome and homesick but you know that does no good, and I do not often give way to it.

But my dear Christie I must ask you to forgive me for waiting thus long and please write to me very soon and take me into your favor - tell me I am forgiven and I will try to write you a good long letter. Write all about yourself, and how are your brothers - I hope they are still spared. But it is after "ten" and I must bid you good night. From your long absent friend, Emily.

Cairo, Ill. April 18th 1864

My Dear Brother: [Alexander]

Here we are once more, in the outer edge of civilization, in this swampy, watery copperhead town. Camped in a spot where we have to look up to see the steamers on the Ohio ten ft. above the level of the town, whose streets still ~~are~~ are encumbered with the skiffs and boats used by the inhabitants in former inundations, and which, I think will be required again pretty soon, if the River continues to rise. I feel very jubilant at the idea of again being so near home, where it will not take a month to get an answer to a letter, and I hope I have seen the last of Vicksburg, and the banks of the Mississippi. Although the weather was good, after leaving Vicksburg, we had rather a tedious voyage, being crowded like sheep in a pen, as the boat we were on was from New Orleans, and had aboard the 4th Wis. Cavalry, and the 8th Indiana, all Veterans from Texas going home on furlough, who, of course had all the best places selected before we came on board, and so we had to shift as we could. Below stairs, I and my bed mate slept under the traveling forges of the Battery, where we bumped our heads on the Assembling bolts at every motion, and had to eat our meals (very temperate ones I assure you.)

lying full length on our blankets, the very circumscribed limits of our dormitory making it impossible to sit up, unless we stuck our feet through a wheel, for a hundred men to stumble over in the gangway. To give you all the dates &c. of our movements, I will transcribe a page or two of my little pocket Diary, kept in pencil, and which I find far more convenient than the cumbersome pen-&-ink Journal that I used to keep.

Vicksburg Saturday, April 9th/64

Fine weather. Troops going on board transports all day. Our boys impatient to be off. William, Dave (my bunkmates) and I now sleep in the orderly's tent.

Resigned my position of Trustee of the Union Library, on account of leaving the Post. Sunday, 10th Had orders to go on board the "Tatan" this afternoon. Countermanded, & given out by the officers that we would not leave till tomorrow morning.

Then at 5 P.M. orders came again, and we had to tumble aboard the "J. C. Siron" in an awful hurry. Everything in confusion, and everybody, especially the new boys, in a terrible "stew." William left behind. Left the wharf at dark, and steamed up river.

Monday, 11th Passed Providence this forenoon. 4th Wis. are the greatest gamblers I ever saw, and seem to be very flush of money.

Tuesday, 12th Made very good progress today, and stopped seldom. Passed Napoleon at 11 A.M. Desolate looking town. Saw 12 Gunboats during the day, mostly at anchor.

Wednesday, 13th Passed Helena before daylight. Made Memphis at dusk. Great excitement about Ft. Pillow being captured by Forrest. 10th Ohio Battery on the "Hopi" fired into yesterday. Guerrillas infest the River.

Thursday, 14th Disembarked this morning, marched through town, and camped in the suburbs, about 2 miles from the River. Put up tents, and made ourselves comfortable. All troops, passing either way, are stopped to garrison the city till Forrest's intentions in regard to it are discovered. The fort has been abandoned by him, and boats run by in safety. Friday, 15th Made preparations to stay in camp for some time, but orders came about noon, and we broke up camp, and went aboard the same boat as before. Found William on the levee, he having come up on the "Tatan." Left Memphis this evening.

Saturday, 16th Passed Fort Pillow at daylight. Gunboat at anchor there. Bank of the river at the fort, high and bluff. Passed several boats by racing. Stopped a long time, to wind up about noon. River very high. Sunday, 17th Stopped at Columbus at daylight for a short time. Arrived in Cairo at 9 A.M. Steamed up the Ohio about a mile above town, disembarked, and went into camp north of the city, in the midst of a cold, drizzling rain. Camping ground low and muddy.

That was yesterday, and today we are as comfortable as could be expected, the rain having stopped, and enough lumber for bunks having been jayhawked during the night. Speaking of jayhawking, I noticed several cups of milk at breakfast this morning, which, considering the price of that commodity in town, (20 cents per cup) and the "strapped" condition of all our boys, looks rather suspicious, especially as several female specimens of the genus *Bos* were to be seen about daylight tied

with halter straps to some of our gun carriages.

I got your letter, post marked 28th March, before leaving Vicksburg, and also a letter from Father of the 30th which I will answer soon if we find that we cannot go on furlough from here, for which we will try as soon as things are more settled here.

The most of our Army Corps is here in camp, and the rumor is that we are not to leave for a month, but this can hardly be, and I think all we wait for before going to Henterville, is the arrival of some more troops. I wish it could be managed so that Father could come down and see us, for I am afraid that it will be impossible to obtain furloughs. The fare to Chicago from here is about 12 dollars, and 4¹/₂ from there to Clyman. So his trip would not need to cost more than 35 dollars, which he could use from William's and my money, and be welcome to it. It would be worth 2 months pay to see him down here, and it would be of great benefit to him, I know. The Spring labor could spare him for a few days. I fully agree with the ideas of immigration advanced by you, and shall do my best to further your plan, as I am convinced it is by far the best thing the family could do. More of this in my next.

I got your letter to him at Memphis, where I also found a letter from Dave, which smelled villainously of ducks, and Marshes, and wet feet, and burnt powder, besides a slight scent of the horse-stable. On the whole it was a good letter, which is more than can be said of this, from
Yours Affly, Thos. D. Christie

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Yours Affly, Thos. D. Christie

Carr. Mo April 20th /64

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

In the midst of busy work I snatch time to drop you a line, don't expect more than the shortest of letters, for what with the mud, the bad weather, the reorganization of the Company, the drawing of new harness, harness &c, and the orders to hold ourselves in readiness to march at a moments warning you will allow that we must be fully occupied. If the weather had only been better during the past 3 days, it would not have mattered so much, but it has rained and rained till our low Camp is knee deep in mud, and the picket-Rope has had to be changed to new ground three a day, to keep the horses from miring where they were tied. Today is the first clear day for some time, and we are in hopes that our things will have a chance to dry somewhat. In the organization of the Company into 6 Platoons the Capt. has given me the command of the

3^d but whether he intends to continue me in that position by giving me a Sergeants warrant is more than I can tell as not a word has passed between us on the subject, except that he goes on and makes arrangements which point that way; for instance, yesterday when we divided horses among the Platoons, he ordered the Sergeants to select their riding horses first and told me to keep the one I have always had, as it was easy on a horse, and not very heavy, so that Bob would do justice for me.

All I can say is, that if he left the choice of Sergeant to the men of the Platoon, the 25 votes would all go for me. I am now doing, and have been doing for the past 2 months, the duty of Chief of Piece, while the other Corporals who acted commanded Platoons during the absence of the Veterans are all reduced to their regular positions by the reorganization. The Capt. has put William on another gun than mine, in spite of both our requests, so that we are separated for the first time since coming into the Company.

We are under orders to be ready to march
at a moments warning, and the Capt.
says we go tomorrow, leaving our clothing
tents and everything but H. Quarters & Re-
tires behind. It is thought our destina-
tion is up the Tennessee to try & cut off
the ^Northern. This prospect of active service
determines W. & me to not ask for fur-
loughs now, but to wait till we come
into camp again. We have seen
Schaller since he came down &
got the things sent by him, which
were very welcome. Also found
Rob. McCally among the Carpen-
ters who came down to build
Govt. buildings.

I must close, as it is time
I was in bed. Write, if you can't
come down. & direct 4th Div instead
of the 1st. Love to all,
Thos. J. Christian

We are under orders to be ready to march
at a moments warning, and the Capt-
says we go tomorrow, leaving our clothing
trunks and every thing but blankets & Re-
tires behind. It is thought our destina-
tion is up the Tennessee to try & cut off
Forrest. This prospect of active service
determines W. & me to not ask for ful-
loughs now, but to wait till we come
into camp again. We have seen
Schaller since he came down &
got the things sent by him, which
were very welcome. Also found
Rob McCall among the Carpen-
ters who came down to build
huts, build dunnage.

I must close, as it is time
I was in bed. Write, if you can't
come down. Address 4th Div instead
of the 1st. Love to all.
Thos. J. Christie

On Board Transport "Colossus"

Cairo, Ill. April 26th / 64

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

We are all aboard for the Tennessee River (we think,) & while the boat is craling I snatch time to inform you of our position, as it is likely that you may not hear again from us for a week or 10 days. We are either going on some short, swift expedition, or our destination is the front at Chattanooga, by water. Nothing is taken but what is necessary, Camp, sick, and spare baggage all left in charge of a Seryt. to rejoin us at some future period.

We got yards of snary dater this morning. This is no time to ask furloughs, it would be shirking work, and that we have never done yet so I would not even ask the Capt. for Leave of Absence. I would be no use anyhow for no one is allowed to go at such a time as this. You must look at the matter in this light, I know, and would not have us desert our posts at this moment.

There is work ahead, and you will soon hear of our actions. We have 15 days Rations aboard, and the general impression is that we are to ascend the

Tennessee to Chattanooga.

The 14th is along. William is on another
boat from me, as there was not room
for any more than 3 guns on this
& he belongs on the Left Half Battery
while I am in the Right.

I must try and mail this
now, as we start shortly.

All in the best health & spirits.

Yours faithfully.

J. J. Christie

Sent package of Scientific
Americans by last mail.

They are a present from our
Second Lieut. in return for the
Spanish Grammar.

Athens Ala. May 11th 1864

My Dear Brothers: [Sandy and David Christie]

I do not know when I can

get this off to you, but I must write anyhow and try to send it, for you must be anxious to hear from us. I wrote you at Clifton, Tenn. near Carrollville, soon after our arrival there, but I am not sure that you got it, as Clifton was captured by the Rebs soon after we left, and perhaps our Mail went up Salt River too. We left 6 of the men sick there also, & it is feared that they were nabbed. By the Map you can see our route from the Tennessee to this town, passing through Maynesborough, & Lawrenceburg, & Pulaski & crossing Elk River at Elk mount where the Decatur & Nashville R.R. passes it. We left Clifton on the evening of the 5th & came in here late last night, having marched every day, generally from 15 to 18 Miles per day, & on the 8th we pushed into Pulaski by a forced march of 27 miles, most of it in the afternoon. This was in consequence of hearing the intelligence at Lawrenceburg, as we passed through it in the forenoon that Braddy with his Division of Mounted Infantry

had crossed the Tennessee at Savannah, with the intention of cutting us off and capturing the 850 head of Beef Cattle which we were guarding on the way to the Army of the Cumberland. Had defeated part of the 7th Ill. Cavalry the day before, taking 30 prisoners & was then pushing on to get ahead of us & capture Pulaski before we could arrive. On hearing this, Genl. Gresham pushed us through with a vengeance, our Cannons were ordered to march at their posts, & 2 Regts in front of us loaded their arms & deployed skirmishers on each flank. In this manner we pressed on, got into the town late at night, having beaten Mr. Brady by five miles, the light of his camp fires being visible that night on our right. Since then we have been expecting a fight every day, as the Rebels are still in the vicinity, although they have been neatly foiled in the attempt to cut off any one of the Stations along this R.R.

Our force amounted to about 4000 men & our 8 gun Battery. All the Infantry were picked men, old Regts, & if the 5th Pz. Bn. had been against our column they would have hurt their heads badly.

All the troops that were here at Chattanooga have been pushed to the front at Chattanooga, & it is likely that we will march in that direction soon for a great battle is expected there; at Pulaski we heard that for the first

previous 2 days the 2 armies had confronted each other in line of Battle, with heavy skirmishing going on all the time. At Pulaski also we received the news of Grant's success on the Rapidan, but the intelligence is so vague that we are not yet quite sure whether the 3 days fight was not one of those "Victories" for which the Army of the Potomac is so famous, such as Chancellorsville, for instance. If old U.S. gets into Richmond by the 4th of July he will be the greatest man in the world. May I be there to see. Right before last we bivouacked on Elk River, having marched from Pulaski (15 miles) that day, & yesterday morning it rained heavily, for the first time on the march, and, as we were standing in column awaiting orders for about 3 hours, with our fire or shelter, you may suppose we felt rather uncomfortable. But that was nothing to the time we had in the afternoon, after approaching this place to within five miles. It had cleared up, & we were flattering ourselves that no more rain would trouble us. When just after leaving the valley in which we had been travelling, for the upland road through the pines, there burst upon us the heaviest storm of wind, thunder & rain that ever I was out in. It continued without abatement

had crossed the Tennessee at Savannah, with the intention of cutting us off and capturing the 650 head of Beef Cattle which we were guarding on the way to the Army of the Cumberland. Had defeated part of the 7th Ills Cavalry the day before, taking 60 prisoners & was then pushing on to get ahead of us & capture Pulaski before we could arrive. On hearing this, Genl. Gresham pushed us through with a vengeance, our Cannons were ordered to march at their posts, & 2 Regts in front of us loaded their arms & deployed skirmishers on each flank. In this manner we passed on, got into the town late at night, having beaten Mr. Bridgely by five miles, the light of his camp fires being visible that night on our right. Since then we have been expecting a fight every day, as the Rebels are still in the vicinity although they have been neatly foiled in the attempt to cut off any one of the Stations along this R.R.

Our force amounted to about 4000 men & our 6 gun Battery. All the Infantry were picked men, old Regts, & if the 5th Ills Cavalry had run against our column they would have hurt their heads badly.

All the troops that were here at Hunterville have been pushed to the front at Chattanooga, & it is likely that we will march in that direction soon for a great battle is expected there; at Pulaski we heard that for the first

previous 2 days the 2 armies had confronted each other in line of Battle, with heavy skirmishing going on all the time. At Pulaski also we received the news of Grant's success over the Rebels, but the intelligence is so vague that we are not yet quite sure whether the 3 days fight was not one of those "Victories" for which the Army of the Potomac is so famous, such as Chancellorsville, for instance. If old U.S. gets into Richmond by the 4th of July he will be the greatest man in the world. May I be there to see. Right before last we bivouacked on Elk River, having marched from Pulaski (15 miles) that day. Yesterday morning it rained heavily, for the first time on the march, and, as we were standing in column awaiting orders for about 3 hours, with our fire or shelter, you may suppose we felt rather uncomfortable. But that was nothing to the time we had in the afternoon, after approaching this place to within five miles. It had cleared up, & we were flattering ourselves that no more rain would trouble us. When just after leaving the valley in which we had been travelling, for the upland road through the pines, there burst upon us the heaviest storm of wind, thunder & rain that ever I was out in. It continued without abatement

for 3 hours, so that after coming into camp, over a terrible road with the mud & water up to the bellies of the horses we had to unharness & feed in the driving storm, & then go out at in the darkness to find horses to sleep in. But a chap gets th toughened by such usage, & the only thing I complain of, is that some of the 30th Ill. fellows who slept in the room with me jay hawked my horse, having in the pocket my Diary & the Testament I got at Fort Snelling besides the pocket handkerchief Sarah sent me.

The Boys are all in capital health, as we always are when on the move. I can tell you, the fresh pig, chicken & relish well with hard tack. I had a horse, so the march was easy on me, but some of the Infantry that came with us are badly footsore. The 1st part of the 14th, & the 12th Wis. are along.

This is the hill country of Northern Alabama, & is a beautiful region, but rough & hilly. I have not time to describe things, so you must not expect it.

We have had no mail since leaving Cairo.

William is hearty & sends love to all.

I must taper off.

So no more

from.

D. Christie.

The Nashville and Huntsville Turnpike, and after four mile travel
on it we turned to our right for Colleton, on Elk river, our road was
good through a very good farming country, and we got into camp before
sundown, making a march of 13 miles, next morning a day dawn it began
to rain, and it ceasing at eleven o'clock we started for this Point. Crossing
the River on a Bridge of Boats covered over with Planks, our Infantry and
Battery got over all safe, but those who had the Cattle in charge let many
of them on the Bridge, and it parted in the middle, let a large number of
them into the water, but there were none drowned. We got along very
well on the road climbing some very high hills, and having but a very
little trouble to get along, about four o'clock, we had got through climbing
a very high ridge, and shortly after a heavy rain storm commenced falling
accompanied with a high wind, vivid lightning, and loud crashing thunder.
The scene who can describe it, I can't, but I will try just think you see
four thousand men, with their Wagon Trains, and seven or eight hundred
head of Cattle, winding through a country covered with a heavy growth of young
timber. The road was literally like a river, and the men and horses
plushing through it. I laugh; I can't paint it no sir, but we had a very
disagreeable night of it I assure you, but our men are all in good health.
J.D. and I differ, and we have had quite a nice rest here on a very
nice flat West of Athens, a few rods. This Country could be made the Paradise
of the South, the formation of it gives a pleasing variety of line to the
eye. The Soil is very fertile, and water very plenty for digging thirty feet.

Now for the People, they are rather a ^{looking} sort of set, and have the most filthy
habits of any People I have ever heard tell of. Tipping is one of the bad
practices, I speak of not table tipping, nor tumbler tipping, but Tobacco
tipping. Just think of it old men and young Black, and White,
Yellow and Brown, Massa, and Misser's tip, and so Parents and Children
tip, and Steals young Masses and Misers, snuff for the sake of the
Pleasure

Now for the method of tipping as you may enjoy the new use of Tobacco
it will give you, get some snuff, and a small reed hollow cut reed reed
file the hollow with the snuff, then put one end between your teeth and
gently raising one end, if not in a hurry get the snuff into your mouth, which
must be full of saliva. Then commenced spitting the back and forth through
your teeth keep the lips shut, you will have the first process. Next
take a small stick, and commenced rubbing your teeth and gums
if the stick and handy use your knuckles, and so on, when tired
that chew, when tired of chewing smoke and then with your back brain
or fire be ready for the first deviltry that comes in your way, if none come
seek some, and you will be sure to find it. Life in the South, is not
life in the North, you have little idea of what has been under the surface
through the past years of the every day life of this People. Oh master of
the South, don't give you any idea of life as it has been there, no matter how high
in Position, Politically, or Morally, in the eyes of the North. Well no
matter, As the Rose thorn, Roses blossom, Birds sing, Men and women
dressed fine and fancy sumptuously, The whip cracked on the Backs of the slaves
and the chains clanked on their limbs, and when it suited their Master
—, so he needed this war, and God sent it, and surely
it will end Right, for he will assuredly not cease while it is well done.

We are having glorious news from Lieut. Gen. Grant's Operations in the
East. I hope that we are having no wrong impression in our minds in regard
to these things. Many brave men are falling, but through these trials
we will get to be made free. There are slight rumors in camp here that our
advance at Tunnel Hill in Georgia, has fallen back on Ringgold, we have no
Particulars. Thanks! What is he? I did not like his actions in his Admin-
istration, of affairs last fall and summer. This Spring he had too much
to do with the making of the Governor of Louisiana, I really hope that things
are out as bad as the Papers say they are, in that respect. I expect a letter from

you every day now. But there is no any telling when we will get mail.
He said that on the evening of the 15th of this month, after we left Clifton
there was fifteen thousand men and 1900 head of cattle landed there,
and it is likely we will get mail when they come they should be
here tomorrow, or next day. There is a report that there are 10,000
men under some Rebel General within a few miles. I don't believe
it although we have started up every morning before day light, and hats
and saddles being bound, the harness and kit up, the Infantry at
fall into line. This road is guarded at many places by colored troops,
raised in this state and the border of Tenn. These regiments in all
we are with some troops we were never with before, the 30th Ill.,
and 32nd Ohio, are among them also the 14th Ill. They all think
we are as good; not better than any Battery they have been with, and
think we have done well in getting so well along in the storm. The Genl
is well pleased with us to I hear. We are the only Battery in the force.
My love and respects to all, and believe me ever your affectionate
son William J. Thrate

P.S. Send along Post Master a dollars worth, at least
Love to Mother and Grandmother. Good By for the Present

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My love and respects to all, and believe me ever your affectionate

Wm William & Thrate

P.S. Send along Post Stamp a dollars worth, at least
Love to Mother and Grandmother. Good By, for the Present

Post Office
I have just left for home with a new
letter of introduction to Mr. W. H. C. I have
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Athens Ala May 13th 1864

My Dear Sister: [Miss Sarah J. Christie]

It is so long since I have got
any news from you, (Something over 2 months)
that I begin to think you do not intend to let us
have the benefit of your correspondence any
longer. Father & Sandy write regularly, & sometimes
Dave sends us a few lines but either you have
too much to do or you are regardless of the claims
we have on you, for it is a long time since either
of us has heard from you. I hope you will sit
down after reading this & write me a good long
letter in answer, containing all the news, a bit
of Gossip & something of your own thoughts, pros-
pects, duties &c.

For myself personally, I have only to say that my
health is good, in fact better than ever before since
I had the ague, which I think has left me for good.
My spirits buoyant, (for I have enough to do to keep
me busy & prevent melancholy thought,) and my hope
strong in anticipation of a short, successful cam-
paign, & a return home soon.

You know how it is about getting a furlough,

Post Office
will forward
P.S. The last of this is written on Monday, the 13th. I'll no more
hesitate but let the post wait no more & in due season I'll send you
without fail a bundle of information, viz. I'll let you know how I am
getting on today from Washington yesterday, & on the 13th.

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You know how it is about getting a furlough,

When at Cairo we could, perhaps, have got leave to go home on furlough, if we had tried for it, but in view of the prospect of active service, I thought it would not do for us to leave the Company just as it was ordered to the front. So you and we will have to wait till the Summer Campaign is finished, which, judging from past experience, will be in July sometime, before you will see us.

William wanted a furlough worse than I, for very good reasons, for he has been gone from home now nearly three years, and naturally, is more anxious to see you than I am. I think, by the likeness that Schaller brought us at Cairo, that you must have had a hard time of it last winter, for you look dreadfully thin and careworn, and I trust it does not represent you in your usual condition of health, for if so, you make that school teaching too hard work, as I suppose it is anyhow.

I have enough to do to keep me busy at something all the time, but no hard work. As Acting Sergeant I have charge and command of 25 men, whom I must drill and see that they all do their duty as Drivers, Cannoneers, and Supernumeraries. Then, there are 13 horses, besides my own riding horse, over whose feeding, grooming, watering and working I must exercise

a superintendence, and am answerable to the Capt for this condition at all times. If a Driver neglects to attend to his team in my Platoon it is my business to compel him to or give the horses to another man. Besides this there are my Gun and Carriage, with 232 Rounds of Ammunition to take care of the Ammunition to be aimed frequently, and the Carriages to be kept clean and bright.

So, what with these, and miscellaneous duties my time is pretty well occupied, and pleasantly occupied, too. Since we left Clifton, the Bugle has roused us at three every morning either to march or to form in line of Battle in anticipation of an attack by Rebels. Every morning since coming here we have had to be ready for action before daylight, with horses harnessed and hitched up, a days Rations of hard tack and raw pork in our haversacks, and the Infantry under arms on each flank of the Battery.

We are without tents here, having left all the Camp Equipage at Cairo, and as we are domiciled under tarpaulins, and in empty houses in the vicinity.

William and I are under tarpaulins, and so are Southwick and Connor. Perhaps you did not hear before that Southwick was married.

When at Cairo we could, perhaps, have got leave to go home one furlough, if we had tried for it but in view of the prospect of active service, I thought it would not do for us to leave the Company just as it was ordered to the front. So you and we will have to wait till the Summer Campaign is finished, which, judging from past experience, will be in July sometime, before you will see us.

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*the your letter tell me all your news from home
I am young & want to know all news*

remember me to Mother and Elizabeth
while up in Minnesota, and so was Joe O'Hara
who got the prettiest girl in the Winona County.
And this after all his vows of eternal bachelorhood.
In the reorganization of the Company our old Squad
was all divided up, and there is only Southwick left
in my Platoon. However, the Captain seems to
think a good deal of us for many of the boys of the
"old Fourth" have been promoted. Southwick,
O'Hara, and Miller are acting Corporals, with every
probability of receiving their Warrants soon.
Jesse Connor is now in command of the 4th Squad
so that his Platoon and mine form the Center
Section, commanded by Orderly Sgt Heywood
who is to put on the Shoulder Straps of a 2nd Lieut
soon. Sam Woolley is detailed in a Supt. Hospital
as Cook, and we left him in Cairo enjoying
himself first-rate. Schallie Ryte was left there
also, but we expect it up soon. So you now know
how all your acquaintances are getting along,
and if there is anything you want to know that I
can tell you, about anything here you can ask it
in your next and I will answer to the best of my
ability. As Shakespeare has it, "Live brevity is
the spur of Wit. And tediousness the limbs and
outward flourishes, I will be brief." So give my love
to all and remember me as
Your Obedient Brother
J. Christie

*Don't forget to write me all you hear from the boys
in your letter. I'll be glad to hear from you too.*

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the soul of Wit. And tediousness the limbs and
outward flourishes. I will be brief." So give my love
to all, and remember me as
Your Loving Brother
J. D. Christie

This Indenture, Made This Twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty four, between Daniel S. Willard and Catharine E. Willard his wife of the County of Ancker and State of New York

parties of the first part, and John W. Willard of Minnisto in the County of Blue Earth and State of Minnesota

party of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Four Hundred and Seventy Three Dollars to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do by these presents Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever; all that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in the county of Blue Earth and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to wit: The North East Quarter of Section Number Thirty four (34) in Township Number one hundred and seven (107) North of Range Number Twenty seven (27) West according to the Government Survey and Subdivisions of the same and containing one hundred and sixty acres of land be the same more or less

To Have and to Hold the Same, Together with all the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining. And the said Daniel S. Willard one of the parties of the first part, do hereby for himself and his heirs, executors and administrators, and each and every of them, covenant and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that he is lawfully seized in fee of the aforesaid premises, that they are free from all incumbrances, that he has good right, full power, and lawful authority to sell and convey the same, and that he and his heirs, executors and administrators will WARRANT AND DEFEND the title to the same forever against all lawful claims.

In Testimony Whereof, The said parties of the first part, have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of

John Meyers
Edward Clark



Daniel S. Willard
Catharine E. Willard



New York
STATE OF MINNESOTA,
COUNTY OF Ancker

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this Twentieth day of May A. D. 1864, personally appeared before me, the undersigned, Daniel S. Willard and Catharine E. his wife, the signers and sealers of the within written instrument, and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed for the purposes therein expressed. And the said Catharine E. Willard being examined by me separate and apart from her husband, she acknowledged that she executed the same freely and without any fear or compulsion from any one.

John Cande Justice of the Peace

State of New York, }
CLERK'S OFFICE, ONEIDA COUNTY, } ss:



I, DAN P. BUCKINGHAM, CLERK OF THE SAID COUNTY, AND OF THE COURTS OF RECORD THEREOF, Do Certify That *John Canale* Esq., whose name is subscribed to the Certificate of the proof or acknowledgment of the annexed instrument, and thereon written, was, at the time of taking such proof or acknowledgment, a Justice of the Peace for said County, dwelling in said County, and duly authorized to take the same. And, further, that I am well acquainted with the hand-writing of such Justice, and verily believe that the signature to the Certificate of said proof or acknowledgment, is genuine. And further, that said instrument is executed and acknowledged according to the Laws of the State of New York.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the said County, (which is also the Seal of said Courts,) this
of *May* 186 *4*

Dan P. Buckingham Clerk.

Warranty Deed.

*Daniel S Willard and
Catherine E Willard his wife*

TO

John W. Willard

Office of Register of Deeds,
COUNTY OF *Blue Earth*

I hereby certify that the within instrument was
filed in this office for record on the *4th*
day of *June*, A. D. 186*4*, at *2*
o'clock *P* M., and was duly recorded in Book
M of *Deeds* page *1010*

B. H. Smith

Register of Deeds.

Transferred *June 4*, 186*4*,
and all delinquent taxes paid.

Chas. R. Chapman
Auditor of Blue Earth County.

E

chd 87/2
Willard

Decatur, Ala. May 27th/64

Dear Father: [James Christie]

We left Huntsville day before yesterday in the forenoon, the whole Corps, four Divisions, being in column on the same road, extending six miles along it. Before we left the Baggage of the command was reduced, and everything left in town except a change of underclothing, one Woollen Blanket and one Rubber do. for each man, so that we are in light Marching order, which always means work. This was done the day before we started, and our knapsacks were all turned over to the charge of an officer appointed to receive them, to be forwarded to us by R.R. when the Campaign is finished. Our Camp Equipage and stores that we left at Cairo came up

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to us in time to be turned over with the rest. Everything is made as light as possible, as we have a long hard March before us, our destination being well known to be Rome, Ga. for which we start as soon as Rations can be furnished us here. The Corps is 20,000 strong, and it is not anticipated that we will have any difficulty in pushing through, although the road is new to our Army, and very mountainous. If you hear anything in the newspapers of Blair's Column you may see where we are and what we are doing, and when you meet this you may imagine our guns in position somewhere at the front, (which

is just going South till it pinches the Rebels into the Last Ditch at Mobile.) We made about 16 Miles day before yesterday, and yesterday we pushed on to this town, crossing the Tennessee River and three fourths of the way to the mouth of the river. The Capt. left us at Huntsville and sent a letter to Joseph by him to be registered at our destination of Rome, Ga. that it was not likely we could get enough of food to last us for the next 4 or 5 days. The Capt. also sent a letter to Joseph by him to be registered at our destination of Rome, Ga. that it was not likely we could get enough of food to last us for the next 4 or 5 days. The Capt. also sent a letter to Joseph by him to be registered at our destination of Rome, Ga. that it was not likely we could get enough of food to last us for the next 4 or 5 days.

of a mile long. Hence we wait to day till something to eat can be provided for we are on two third Rations, which is our only trouble. If we march for Rome ten days grub will have to be carried.

The country between this and Huntsville beats anything we have yet seen for beauty and cultivation.

You will think us extravagant in praising Southern Alabama so much as we do, but it is actually the loveliest land in America. Abundance of the best water, springs gushing out everywhere, gently rolling land, a cool climate, for this hill country is so elevated that a cool breeze blows continually. I

do not see what is to prevent this from being one of the richest, as it is the healthiest of regions in North America. Any of our fellows would take a 20. cent excursion about it without grumbling, that the South is the best place in the world to live in. The Capt. left us at Huntsville and sent a letter to Joseph by him to be registered at our destination of Rome, Ga. that it was not likely we could get enough of food to last us for the next 4 or 5 days. The Capt. also sent a letter to Joseph by him to be registered at our destination of Rome, Ga. that it was not likely we could get enough of food to last us for the next 4 or 5 days.

on the train, I hope you get all of our letters for we write often enough I am sure. Our permanent address now will be - "1st Minn Battery, 4th Div 17th A. C." Genl Crocker is in command of the Division, the man who led the famous bayonet charge at the first capture of Jackson, Miss and the Division is the old one of "Hurlbut's fighting Fourth" that checked the Rebels at Shiloh, and stopped the retreating army of Price on the Hatchie at Plattsburgh. All of our old 1st Division Regts. are in it so you see we are in a good command. It is cheering to see the old veterans Regts. which last year at this time, before Vicksburg, could, some of them, scarce raise 200 men for duty, now mustering their 800 and 900 Bayonets.

On the day before we left Huntville the position of Ordnance Sergt. for the Division was offered to me, but I declined it, as I did not wish to leave the Company although it would have been a good promotion, as the Ordnance Sergt. has charge of all the Ammunition of the Division Infantry & Artillery. When Lieut. Hawley who is in command of the Company, was ordered by Capt. Spear, Chief of Artillery, to recommend a Staff Commissioned Officer for the position of Ordnance Sergt. he came at once to me, and said he would give me the first refusal, of it. I thanked him for his good opinion of me, but told him I would rather stay with the Boys, as I wished to be identified with the Battery in all that I did. My friends say I should have taken it but I still hold to my first decision. Am I not right? Yours truly, J. Schuster

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the rest. Everything is made as
light as possible, as we have a long
hard March before us, our destination
being well known to the Roman Co.
for which we stand as soon as Ration
can be furnished no less. The Corps
is over doing, and it is not anticipated
that we will have any difficulty in
pushing through, although the road
is not to be easy, and very narrow -
as we do, but it is actually the best
land in America, abundance of the
the share paper of State testimony on that matter, opening our way
many as there is as and what we then, greatly rolling land, a good claim
are doing, and when you need the act for the full country is so cleared
you may imagine our game in that a good large farm continuously.

of a mile long. There we not to stay
the some thing to see even be provided
for we are in the land Ration, what
is not only trouble, if we march for Rome
the danger will have to be carried.

The country between this and Hous-
ville back anything we have yet
over for beauty and culture.

Then will think no extraordinary and in
passing through Alabama so much
as we do, but it is actually the best
land in America, abundance of the

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, }

No. 260.

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Bid No. 161.

Whereas there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the UNITED STATES an ORDER bearing date April 30th, 1864, from the Secretary of the Interior, accompanied by a "Schedule marked (C)," containing a "List of sales of Winnebago Trust Lands, made pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 21st February, 1863, entitled 'An Act for the removal of the Winnebago Indians, and for the sale of their reservation in Minnesota for their benefit,'" whereby it appears that on the 1st December, 1863, Daniel S. Willard made payment at the rate of \$2⁹⁶/₁₀₀ per acre, amounting to \$473⁶⁰/₁₀₀, for the north-east quarter of section thirty-four, in township one hundred and seven (north,) of range twenty-seven (west,) in the district of lands subject to sale at St. Peter, Minnesota, containing one hundred and sixty acres, according to the OFFICIAL PLAT of the survey of said lands returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General; and that Daniel S. Willard is designated on said Schedule as the "person to whom the Patent is to issue:"

Now know ye, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the Act of Congress, the "ORDER" and "Schedule" aforesaid, Have given and granted, and by these presents Do give and grant, unto the said Daniel S. Willard and to his heirs, the said Tract above described; To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Daniel S. Willard, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the first day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Abraham Lincoln

By

M. D. Stinson

Secretary.

M. Granger

Recorder of the General Land Office.

N^o. See 36-107-27

U.S.

To

Samuel S. Willard

Filed for record this
19th day of June 1875
@ 11 am and duly recorded
in Book N^o 2 of Deeds
on Page 308

Hugh J. Ormeau
Reg. of Deeds

Transferred from 1875
Rose part Chas. Lloyd
Bridges
Done ~~27~~
X

I could fill a dozen sheets but
have no time to tell more than
that I shall have the
pleasure of writing you again
very soon.

Rome, Georgia

June 5th/84

My Dear Father: [James Christie]

We came through
here from Decatur, by way of
Doraville, Warrenton, Coker
Shuff and a dozen other little
towns in the Mountains since
the 27th May, having marched
every day but one, arriving
in this town this afternoon.
I can not enter into details
in describing the march, in-
teresting as they would be
to you, for we push on
tomorrow for the front, be-
yond Kingston, and I am
writing this only to let you
know that we are all right
yet, well and hearty, only

a little worn by the severe march. The Corps, 2 Divisions of it rather, has got through without the loss of a single wagon or Caisson, although we crossed some awful mountains and forded a few pretty deep rivers and creeks. I had no idea of mountains till this march.

Our horses have stood the trip far better than I expected, owing to the care that is taken of them by the men.

One of the worst hardships with us has been the want of sleep, many nights we would not get into the blankets till past Midnight, once it was after One, and then routed out at half past two, or three in the morning.

William has driven his team all the way through and so has ridden the most of the journey, as I have also, so we are neither of us foot-sore, as many a poor fellow in the Infantry is tonight.

All that ~~that~~ ^{Bill} ~~Bill~~ ^{is} the Caisson wheel run over his toes today, making him limp a little, but nothing serious. One of our boys shot himself accidentally through the foot yesterday, which is the only casualty we have to report in the Battery.

Perhaps you may have heard of the brisk little fight our Cavalry had with Roddy near Mount Zion, in which our Left Section was engaged. It occurred on Sunday the 29th and the Rebels were nicely

cleaned out. Our Section ^{the Centre} was not engaged.

When we got here we found a very large Mail awaiting us. And M. and I got yours and send y's to both of us, dated the 16th, 17th & 21st of May. They were read with a relish. I can assure you, and I regret not having time to answer them as they should be answered but I am stealing time to write this that should be devoted to sleep and the most you can expect for some time from us will be the shortest kind of letters. "Duty before Pleasure" you see now and we have plenty of the former to keep us busy all the time. Just rest assured that we are going well, performing every thing opportunity to the very best of the work here, and that is considerable. I hear tonight that the Corps is ordered forward tomorrow so we will not get the same rest we thought we would. There is a train of 3000 wagons waiting at Tinsington for us to conduct through. The front is about 40 miles south of this and there is where you will not hear from us. It would be only too true for us. It has been pretty long now but what the odds as long as you are all well. S. B. Christie

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I hear tonight that the Corps is
ordered forward tomorrow so
we will not get the ~~same~~ rest we
thought we would. There is a train
of 3000 wagons waiting at ^{Tringston}
for us to conduct through. The front
is about 40 miles South of this and
there is where you will not hear from
us. I would write only ^{we} are too tired
tonight. It has been pretty tough on us but
what the odds so long as you are all ^{well} and happy. S. A. Christie

Will father to let that kind of business be till we come up in the Fall
I wrote to
Tom Simpson,
a lawyer in
Winona, and
he writes that
a lot of the best
cattle land in
the Minnesota
Law by passing it
can be bought to
about that.
However,
we have
more in
front of
us and we
and with
independence
of we are
We are and
if we are
any more we
not meet it
I hope to
get so dolly
get going
H. Charles
is what
am excited
and a good
family of
I do feel
from him.

The Front, Near Oakworth
June 5th / 84.

Dear Sandy:

I will have time,
now that we have reached the
main Army, to correspond with
you more regularly than before,
and in the first place I must
answer yours of the 20th May (I
think) rec'd at Rome, the one in
which you tell your interesting
experience in Greenland, which
astonished me. I assure you,

Well, in the first place, I do
not know what to tell you there
are so many things to write
about, and ~~the only thing~~ ^{all} I can
do in this letter will be to deal
in generalities and leave the
details to be related viva voce
(I hope.) We are both well, the

Company is well, and the Army generally is in better health than it has been ^{ever} before. I wrote Father at Rome, the evening we got in there, and we left the next morning for Kingston, where we camped that night (the 6th). (When I say we, I mean the Corps.) Left Kingston yesterday morning and marched to where the R. R. crosses the Etowah, where the column stopped for the night, and this morning, resuming the road reached Sherman's Headquarters at Ackworth about noon. The Corps is now in position in McPherson's front, on the left of the 18th A.C. Genl. Dodge, and a mile in advance of the little Station of Ackworth. So ends our weary march for the present, and we are all glad of it. I tell you, The enemy's works were in the immediate front till

It will write today.

It is a Currier now, etc. I on my gun, has changed the ammunition in action yesterday, when Johnson fell back to the Chattahoochee river, 8 miles this side of Atlanta, where he has the strongest works he has ever defended. Our Men feel confident that we will soon rout him out of there when the advance is made, which will be in a day or two. We have plenty of men, Thomas, with the 4 Army Corps of the old Army of the Cumberland, Schofield, with the Army of East Tennessee, Hooker and his 11th & 12th Corps, and our own McPherson, commanding the Army of the Tennessee, the 15th, 16th & 17th Corps, under Logan, Dodge and Blair, so that there must be about 100,000 men here at the very least, probably more, while the half of the Rebel force is Conscripts, of whom it is said that Johnson has 30,000 drilling

at Atlanta, and will go to pieces
like a rope of sand so soon as
we once whip them well.
Johnson has not risked a general
engagement yet, for the reason
that Sherman has invariably
flanked him in every position he
has yet taken, but he can not
delay it long and keep his army
together, for this falling back all
the time will soon ruin any
Army, especially such a one as he
commanded. The way we now front
our Left is nearer to Atlanta than
is the enemy's Right, so that we can
take that place at any time.
McPherson is on the Right of our
Army, and I think Hooker has the
Left. He had a severe fight a day
or two ago, of which you have of
course heard. Our fellows have
whipped the Secesh in every engage-
ment yet, and they have been nu-
merous, and the whole army feels
the greatest confidence in Genl
Sherman. I have just been talking
with some of Birge's Sharpshooters of
the 16th Corps, whom we met to day at Or-
mish 2 years ago, and they say they never
saw an army handled so well as is this
one. Tell Sarah that Jed Steeles was with
us to day, looking well, and unhurt though
the Regt lost about 200 men since leaving
Dalton. Nothing more now, though as a Bear, J. G. H.

The Capt came back today from Miami, by R.R. through Chattanooga.

This Indenture, Made This Seventeenth day of June
in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Four, between
John W Willard of Menahata Blue Earth County State of Minnesota
party of the first part, and William L Stevens of Winnebago County in
The State of Wisconsin party of the second part, WITNESSETH, That the said party
of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Fifteen Hundred

Dollars to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt
whereof is hereby acknowledged, do by these presents GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL AND CONVEY
to the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns FOREVER, all Three tract
or parcels of land, lying and being in the County of Blue Earth
and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to wit:

The North East Quarter of Section Number Thirty four and the
West Half of the North West Quarter and North East Quarter of the
North West Quarter of Section Number Thirty five (35) in Town
Ship Number One Hundred and Seven (107) North of Range Number
Twenty Seven (27) West according to the Governmental Survey
and Subdivisions of the same and containing two hundred
and eighty acres of land be the same more or less

To Have and to Hold the Same, Together with all the her-
editaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining. And the said
John W Willard

party of the first part, do hereby for himself and his heirs, executors and admin-
istrators, and each and every of them, COVENANT AND AGREE, to and with the said party of the
second part, his heirs and assigns, that he is lawfully seized in fee of the aforesaid
premises, that they are free from all incumbrances, that he has good right, full power, and
lawful authority to sell and convey the same, and that he his heirs, executors and administra-
tors will WARRANT AND DEFEND the title to the same forever against all lawful claims.

In Testimony Whereof, The said party of the first part, ha his hereunto set his hand... and seal... the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of

L. O. Barney
James W. White



STATE OF MINNESOTA,
COUNTY OF Blue Earth

Be It Remembered, That on this Seventeenth day of June A. D. 1864, personally appeared before me, the
undersigned, John W Willard to me known to be the signer... and sealer... of the within written instrument,
and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed for the purposes therein expressed. And the said

being examined by me separate and apart from his husband... acknowledged that

executed the same freely and without any fear or compulsion from any one.

Sheldon F. Barney
Notary Public for Minn

Warranty Deed.

John. W. Willard
TO
William. L. Stevens

Office of Register of Deeds,
COUNTY OF Blue Earth

I hereby certify that the within instrument was filed in
this office for record on the 18th day of
June, A. D. 1887, at 8 1/2 o'clock A
M., and was duly recorded in Book of
Deeds page 219.

B. H. Smith

Register of Deeds.

Transferred June 18
1887 and all delinquent taxes paid.

Chas. A. Chapman
Auditor of Blue Earth County.

Warranty Deed.

John. W. Willard

TO
William. L. Stevens

Office of Register of Deeds,
COUNTY OF Blue Earth

I hereby certify that the within instrument was filed in
this office for record on the 18th day of
June, A. D. 1887, at 8 1/4 o'clock A

M., and was duly recorded in Book of

Deeds page 219
B. H. Smith

Register of Deeds.

Transferred June 18

1887 and all delinquent taxes paid.

Wm. A. Clapp

Auditor of Blue Earth County.

Now do not
complain
at this unsuc-
cessful letter
from I. C. as he
is very busy
without
neglecting
his duties

The Front, June 18th 1864

My Dear Sister, [Sarah Christie]

I have got two letters from you since I last wrote, so I must take time now and give you one in return, if that Ammunition Report has to wait till night. The truth is, we are so busy here, at work night and day, that it will not do for us to neglect our duty for even so pleasurable a task as writing once in a while to our friends, so you must remember at home that, with the Enemy in front, and our Guns thundering on him night and day, we have something else to attend to besides sitting writing letters.

To come to the most important part of your last letter, (which made me melancholy all the evening), I think your plan of progressing with your Education is a good one, and I shall

consider it a pleasure, as well as a duty, to assist you in any way I am able, so the "cool hundred" will be forthcoming when it is needed. I know you are in earnest about fitting yourself for the higher walks of your Profession, and so anything I can do for you will be done. I want you, though, to consult Father about everything, and take his advice, you will find it best in the end, even if it is unpalatable at first, for he has at heart, I know, only the real welfare of all his children. So consult with him, and let him know that my opinion is that you should attend School this coming winter, and I will advance the necessary funds after next Pay Day. On the 30th of this Month the Govt is owing me 6 Months pay, part of it at 17 dollars per month I believe, and one or two installments of Bounty. But when we will get it is somewhat uncertain, probably when this

Summer Campaign is ended.

I read your letters with much interest, especially that concerning J. Amos and Helen. So Jimmie is the same old youngster yet, is he? How do the folks bear his assumption of superiority? I don't think Sandy is a very great admirer of him, in spite of his bags of Gold. As to that pitiable creature, Uncle Tom, if ever I get back there in health, he will get a few spicy truths from me. Till then I shall take no notice of him, although it made my fingers tingle to read what he said of me. I want you to tell him, if he again insults you so in his house, that you will never speak to him again, and stick to your promise. He is not worthy of the least notice or I would write him a letter that would open his eyes.

We hear from Helen regularly as she writes to M. but did not answer the letter I wrote her, I think you judge her too harshly. The part of the 14th that

Mike Dempsey is in is down on
 the Mississippi somewhere yet
 but we have not heard from it in a
 long time. The 16th & 18th are here, but I
 have not had time to visit the latter as it
 is in another Co's. I have not time
 to write more for the Capt has sent
 for an acct of our firing. I hope
 to hang you with the details for
comm. We are busy day
 and night, firing & working
 on the forts in which we take
 position all well and hearty,
 and working like Trojans.
 A big Battle is on the tapis
 here, and cannot be long de-
 layed, for we press them steady-
 ly every day. There is hot work
 sometimes for the artillery. Fired
 99 Rounds from my gun one day
 lately. Every one from Genl Sherman
 down is complimenting our
 Battery for its good active service. Sherman
 saw the two Jessies Gen blow up a
 Rebel caisson at a mile and a quarter
 and commended Gen Sherman to compli-
 ment Clayton on his (Sherman's) name
 for the good service he made. T.D.

In Heaven's sake, Sarah, try to improve your hand writing if you are to be a teacher.
 and the rest of us
 will be glad to
 see it.

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the Mississippi somewhere yet,
but we have not heard from it in a
long time. The 16th & 18th are here, but I
have not had time to visit the latter, as it
is in another Co'st. I have not time
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man saw the ten Jessies gun blow up a
Rebel caisson at a mile and a quarter
and commended Genl. Sherman to compli-
ment Clayton my lieut (Sherman) for
the good shooting we made. T.D.C.

For Heaven's sake, Sarah, try to improve your hand writing if you are to be a teacher.
Give it more attention. It is the rest of my life.