January the 21st 1855

Friend Olney.

How do you do this snowy morning I suppose your doing the best you now how. Thats how I'm doing. I thought that I would try and write a letter to you this morning. but I dont know as I will make it out. writing a letter you know is a hard job for me. but then that isnt all the worst of all is to think of sumthing to write. But to the Print. Ol. it has ben a good while since we saw one another. I have been waiting a good while for you to write But I dont see as you are ever a going to write. so I thought that I would write and let you know how we all did Wal I am well and all the rest of our folks is at present

We are having a protracted meeting hear to
The baptis house. twinty converts areddy. thats a
Doing verry well for old steambury I think dont you
I expect to get religion every day day now you know that
I always was a cinty on a pious young man. Hann.
Wal I suppose you would like to know how all one the
boys are getting along out here wal who will be the first
wal theres elsters boys. Bill he is a going to school to
Norwalk now. albert he is here at home he is a going to
School hire to the bury and so is lester. they are all well
I believ. lonzo he is out on the railroad as Gus do.
Erwin andres he is at home he is as big as his father. and i guess wimmy
has stuff his bundut by this time (hann) I guess you have heard bout
Anuff about the boys by this time i supposen we change
The subject to suntning else

I Suppose we talck about the girls who shal
I speak a good word to for you (Cant particular wal
Suppose it be Lize Sillivan wal Lize has got to be
Jumpunkins if not more me thinks so hain
Maybe you would like to know how the weather was out
Dear wal last night it snowed very hard the snow
fell about 3 or 4 inches deep they are out with the
Sleighs. eny way. oh hold on. darn the luck it has
Comenced raining now thats just the way when a feller
Wants to have a sleigh ride with the girls. pley out all
Never mind. all. when I come out there will will have
A time to pay for it thats so. now all I dont want
You to think hard of me because I wrote first
You just make up your mind to write a good long
letter to pay for this one

Ol I Dont now as i have eny more to
Write I want you to give my best pair ave
goy-gles to all ov your folks.
Tell wonne that i send all one my love
to
the rest one the good
for
now al you write as soon as
you can no more at present
yours truly olney

To wonne
wonne why dont you never
write to a feller be you know
I and you yous to think lots
Ove one another But now you
Dont as mutch say how do yo do
You yous to make lots ove love to me When this you spy just think of
But now you dont even
Write me a love letter.
now wonne do write
Jno L Hopkins

John L Hopkins to all

Jno Hopkins

Oakfield July the 14-1853

Dear Friend i thought I would answer your letter. I suppose you think I am smart to let you send two letters to my one but now I will try to talk to you by way of pen but I tell you it would be a pleasure to talk to you as we use to I have commenced two or three letters before but some one would come ~~in~~ see me then I would have to give up. mother has been very sick this seven weeks I have ~~had~~ not had much time to think of riting mother is some better now then she was mother gives her kind love to you and mother and father and all the rest of the folks

well Obey I suppose
you had grait ~~7 July~~
Times on the forth of
July I ~~would~~ liked to
have been thare with
you
well I suppose you would
like to ~~know~~ know how I
spent the post i went
to pondydock and i had
a ride on the cars they
have got the railroad finished so they
can run the cars down
within two miles of our
our house. There was as
much going on there as we expected
there was two boys went
in swimming and liked to
got drowned they could not
swim much they got in
where it was about three
feet deep and supposed they
got cast they rose for the
third time before any one
could get them out two

men jumped in after them and got them out. the last time i heard from them one of them had got pretty much over it and the docter thought the other could not live their father name is Mr. Hood he lives about a mile and half from here James knowed them. me was very surprised to here that ed hopkins has got so near neighbor to us. Charley and me talks of going and see him. we have begun harvisting yet but we expect to begin purty soon i dont know as i have any more at present to write to you. i remain your

Sincere Friend

Henry. Parratt

Write friends

Wedding Gen Hospital Oct 7th 1864

Ever remembered

Father & Mother I received a letter from Almy last night and I sadly deplore the necessity which compelled him to enlist & could not help weeping for when I read the letter I know how much he is needed at home for he is the support of your declining years, I feel sure that he will run clear of all the vices in the army and for his bravery he has enough I think to stand the ogle ordeal of battle, but believe me when I say, that I would rather have served my time and his to have him go into the ranks, & when will this

a close get it may hang on for some months yet when you get this you must answer it and tell me where to direct to him let me know to what Regt he is connected with and let me know how he feels about his leaving, I received 10 months pay, here day before yesterday I could not get my commutation money which was $13,66cts, but when they payed me off they made a mistake of $ 19,97 in my favor so I think I am about square with them, my transportation was $ 26,37cts so I would only draw $ 5,37cts and through the mistake I received $ 24,63cts

cruel war be over all ready
have we felt the keene pangs
of deep distress occasioned
by this unholy crusade against
this Government how few
the family, that have
escaped this grate anguishe,
yet true to his principals
[illegible] may will do his whole
duty and will be the last
to bring disgrace on him self
by fleing his Country as your
neibor has don, I would like
to see him before he gose
to the army yet I trust
that we shall meet again
when this distracted land
shall know peace and
her sons & dotters can injoy
that peace [illegible] in its fullness
the news from the front is
good the war is drawing to

I sent $15.00 home to Elvira in the morning, and in the evening I received a letter from her with $20.00 enclosed for me, my health is some what better than it was, there will be a clearing out of the troops here pretty soon I may be sent to the front and I may be sent home to Vt I cannot tell which and I na be put in the invalid Corps but where ever I am I shall remember the loved ones at home. Write often from your unworthy Son

David M. Draper

Camp Lacy near
Marshal Oct. 23. d. 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I shall not be able to get home until just before Election for the reason that we have not Organized @ yet & probaly shall not in less than four days Military matters moves very mysteriously; every thing seems to be delayed & draged into the greatest possible Space If every thing continued (to move) on this Snailish way we shall not get away from here befor Spring.

I have felt tip top ever since I left home, have not had any occasion to use any Ready Relief, or Sloomers Anti Billious Pills, Lucky for me

O. W. Draper

# My Journal

From Wednesday Oct. 19, ~~to Sunday 23d~~

Oct. 19... Packed my Knapsack and left home early in the morning for Coldwater on my first trial of camp life found the company quartered in an old church; where I slept on a board wrapt in a blanket with my knapsack for a pillow.

" 20... Arose before day light. had good night rest, went out to breakfast with the boys under an old shed behind the church. although anything but inviting to the eye or taste yet there is a great rush to see who will get to the table first as there is not more than one quarter enough plates. so the last served has to await a great while. Expected to leave here to day for Marshall. got the teams backed up in front of the church to take us and waited for two

hours expecting every minute to ~~receive orders~~ to start when the Capt. came up and said we would not go till next day. Spent the day in drill and running round town. Went to bed early; when some drunken Soldier who had gone to bed over head spewed down within two or three feet of me all over some body's over coat & knapsack. O! the miserable disgusting effects of Whiskey I shall be glad when we get in closer quarters where the boys cant get it.

Oct. 21st. After breakfast formed in line and marched to the foster house where the Capt. treated the whole company that would drink and they cheered the Landlord, the Capt. Lieut. and Lack, our drill master till they were all so hoarse they could hurrah no more when we were marched back in front of the church and stood in the road waiting long hours for something

nobody knows what when finally we drew our Haversacks and rations for the day got into wagons about 2 o'clock and Started for Marshal where we arrived about 8 we all put up at the facey house, layed down on the floor of the ball room with our blankets without any supper

Oct. 22nd. Marched to our Camp which is a very beautiful place just such as I would choose if I were to make the choice Spent the day a cleaning our barracks which by the way are as nice and comfortable as any I ever saw Our bunks are constructed similer to births one above the other, filled with Straw, together with our blankets makes a comfortable place to Sleep I also notice to day quite an improvement in our commissary department. Victuals served in better Style, looks more like home.

For want of Space I close with Saturday O. W. Draper

Camp. Lacy

Marshal Nov. 5th 1864

Friends at home

This evening we received news of considerable importance to us and I think also to you so I improve a few moments that I am off duty to communicate them to you

Last Thursday we organized and ought to have received our Local Bounty. But Capt. Hall wanted to go to Detroit to get permission from his Superiors to give us furloughs to come home and had not time to pay us before the cars went out. So he took a vote whether he should go

or stay and pay us, and we voted for him to go. This afternoon he returned and says the arrangements are that we shall go to Detroit Monday and there we shall vote, from thence to some Camp of instruction I know not where to spend the winter. (Rumors have it we shall go to Pittsburgh others that we shall go to City point) and that after we get permanently Settled we are to have a furlow to come home. perhaps they are fooling us though. I am not going to be a great deal disappointed if I should not be permitted to come home at all.

Last thursday I drew Thirty three (33) Dollars Government Bounty and expect right off to get the rest of my Local Bounty, probaly I shall expres it home if I do you will hear from it in season. My health and Spirits are excelent. I have stood it in these open Barracks just 2 weeks through rain

and Sunshine and quite a Snug Snow Storm Standing on guard night and day without taking cold worth Speaking of enjoyed myself firstrate... Time passes off very rapidly noon and night comes on so quick I never get hungry. we have plenty to eat and drink now, although we lived here almost two weeks on pretty Small rations our evenings are Spent quite pleasantly with some few exceptions among which are tobacco whisky and cards. Plenty of good music both Sacred and comic, Sharp Shooting jokes and discussions on politics and Religion. On the whole I took like it better than I anticipated

Nov. 6th Sunday morning and Camp all alive completing arrangements for our departure for Detroit on the morrow Yesterday troops were forwarded from Jackson & other parts of the State, I guess a little fun is expected. but probaly we shall be disappointed

Called up in the night and receved the rest of my Bountz. Think now I shall not start it for home until I get to Detroit. May keep it till I come home on furlow

I am going to send my Boots home in a box with some others things belonging to the boys. You will find them at Jeromes Gifts. Mother will find enclosed 3 ten cent piece National Currency - that got with my Government Bountz as a memento to keep till I return. Also five dollars to use as she thinks proper

If you have a chance to send my Shirts and 2 or 3 boxes of those Pills when Roswell comes back you had better do it. But quite likely I shall be home in a little while But father will have to husk the corn without the help of Olney

P.S. You had better not write till you hear from me again

I have concluded to send 50 dollars in this letter. Think it best more to send it all in one letter Please let me hear from you

# Camp Lacy

Marshal Nov. 7. 1864

Dear father

Countermanding orders makes a different aspect in things generaly. Our calculations of yesterday are to day all knocked in to a Cocked-Hat. we packed everything and Straped them to our backs and formed into line all in readiness for a forward movement, when a telegram from Detroit sent us all into our Barracks again where we expect to stay till wednesday when they say we will ~~stay~~ start again

for Detroit. I cant say whether I shall be permited to come home before going South or not. but if any one get a permit I have reason to think I will. I would like to be there Election day very much. but circumstances are such that it is impossible. I do not think the Capt. is to blame for it. he says he has done his best to do as he agreed by us. But the Commandant of the State troops will not allow him to do so at present he says he has positive orders to give no man a furlough. It is a cause of much discontent I cant tell you yet where to direct. But when you do write all about David and where to direct a letter to him. It is now 12. Oclock night and I want to write one more letter yet so I will close

Yours as ever

O W Cooper

Soldiers Rest
Washington D. C. Nov. 13th 1864

Friends at Home

I intended to write you as often at least as we made a move So it keeps me writing pretty often for we make short stays. This afternoon at 2 o'clock we expect to start for City Point a distance of 200 miles by water. When we get there I will write you again. I write this as much to send this Photograph as any thing. It is our 1st Lieut. I wish you to take good care of it. Also this song for some one may happen in that can sing it. Algansee Boys all well but Corlan who we left at Baltimore with the Measles. I saw Mr Sage the other day he said he saw you Election day. That's all I've heard from you since I left home

Won't you write soon without fail
D. W. S.



CAMP SCENE.
From Photograph.

12

# Just before the Battle, Mother.

By Geo. F. Root.—Published by Root & Cady, 95 Clark St., Chicago.

Just before the battle, Mother,
I am thinking most of you;
While upon the field we're watching,
With the enemy in view.
Comrades brave are round me lying,
Fill'd with tho'ts of home and God;
For well they know, that on the morrow,
Some will sleep beneath the sod.

CHORUS.

Farewell Mother, you may never
Press me to your heart again;
But O, you'll not forget me. Mother,
If I'm number'd with the slain.
Oh, I long to see you, Mother;

And the loving ones at home;
But, I'll never leave our banner,
Till in honor I can come.
Tell the traitors, all around you,
That their cruel words, we know,
In ev'ry battle kill our soldiers
By the help they give the foe.

CHORUS.

Hark? I hear the bugles sounding,
'Tis the signal for the fight,
Now may God protect us, Mother,
As he ever does the right.
Hear the "Battle-Cry of Freedom",
How it swells upon the air;
Oh, yes we'll rally round the standard,
Or we'll perish nobly there.

CHORUS.

**500 Illustrated Ballads**, lithographed and printed by
CHARLES MAGNUS, No. 12 Frankfort Street, New York.
Branch Office: No. 520 7th St., Washington, D. C.

City Point Nov. 25th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

We arrived at this place on Tuesday last without accident and in a good state of health. City Point is a place I should judge before the war was not known a great ways from home. But happened to be placed on the James River where it is accessable by the largest closed Boats, and so near the seat of war it has become a depot for a vast amount of Government Stores. Besides being Gen. Grants headquarters. Gen. Butlers Lookout (a structure or frame work built up about as high as a common tree) is in sight of here where he can see into Petersburg and Richmond. We can hear more or less canonading every day in the direction of Butlers forces. We are encamped on an

Eminence in the rear of the first line of fortifications with a Corps of Engineers and Mechanics Gen. Benham commanding But dont know how long we shall remain here we may be sent to the front any day But feel in hopes we may remain all winter Some two or three days ago the Rebs captured twenty five hundred head of cattle within ~~eight~~ 2 miles of this place But we recaptured a few of them again Reports have it here that peace commissioners from both sides have met to negotiate terms of peace. if so we shall hear more about it. Some might think it quite a disappointment to go ten or twelve hundred miles to see the Elephant and then be turned off with only a glimpse of his Tail. But I dont allow myself to believe any thing else than that we shall see plenty of service things wear the appearance to me of preparations for another effort this fall

Boys enjoy themselves firstrate in their new mode of living. If we had some of your light Bread or warm Biscuit instead of Hardtack I should like it little better. But can live on what the Government furnishes, the greatest trouble with us has been to get that. the Officers want to make too much money off our backs We have not heard from Corlan since we left him at Baltimore with the measles John Wood is now in the Hospital here with Erysipilas in his face. afraid he is going to have a long tedious time of it

Rest of the Boys enjoying good health But it seems almost miraculous how we have escaped colds &c, Sleeping on the ground But the weather has been in our favor had a pleasent time to build our huts

We have not heard from home yet. I want you write every day until I get a letter and be sure to tell me all you know about David & where to direct him a letter

I feel more anxious about this letter business than anything else for with a word from home occasionaly I should get homesick after a while. Since I commenced writing this heavy canonading have commenced briskly in the direction of Petersburg but I must close this. Direct to City Point Va. via Washington D. C.

Co. A. Hall Dept. S.S.

O. W. Draper

Camp. Near City Point, Dec. 1st 1864

Dear father

I did not know last night when I wrote a letter to Orrin that I should have a chance to send some things home, consequently it becomes necessary for me to write again to day

John Wood has obtained a furlough of thirty days on account of the Erysipilas in his face and calculates to start for home in the morning I have three ambrotypes and calculate to get a Negative taken in the morning and calculate to send the whole of them

to you by him. I want you to keep all the Ambrotypes, and get as many Photographs struck from the Negative as you desire to keep and distribute among the friends. You will take the Negative to some Artist in Coldwater, (Chas Morrill perhaps is as good as any) who will strike them off for about 2 or 3 Dollars per dozen

My reason for sending a Negative instead of the Photographs is because they cannot get up Photographs here they have to send clear to Philadelphia to get them struck and then send them back here which takes a good while which of course is risky for we may move in less than a week, though it is not probable

John thinks of geting up a box of Goodies and sending it to us, if he does put in something in the shape of Butter Cheese Fruit pickles or whatever you can get best and contribute to the comfort of a Soldier. But Mother must not infer

from that. that there is no comfort here for a soldier. But rather to the contrary. I for one am enjoying myself hugely in perfect health and buoyant spirits. dont worry for me a particle. for I can say without boasting that I have worked myself considerably into the favor of the officers, got a goodly number of friends around me, who will not see me suffer without help.

Have not seen any fighting yet but have ~~not~~ heard some. Can hear the booming cannon every day; and one day I plainly heard the whistling of the shells. No news of importance to my knowledge, this is a very poor place to head news. But it is the general opinion among the small fry here that if Sherman is successful with his ~~campaign~~ campaign in Georgia that he will form a junction with Butler & Grant and then look out for news. But it is useless to speculate

Have not heard a word from home yet
Don't know who is to blame, But
if you haint written as many as half
a dozen letters I shall blame you
some what, You must write
You must write
If I have ~~received~~ had any letters come
to that Office just tell me who they are
from & what they wrote in part
Especialy about Davi and where to direct
to him. But I will close by giving my
address again. Q.M.D. City Point Va
Co. A. Halls Brdg. S.S. Mich. Vol.
Via Washington D.C.

Camp near City Point Va. Dec 17th/64

Dear Aunt

To day is the first that I have received a line from home since leaving Marshall I got a letter from Elvira Chuck full of good news which done me more good than a meal of victuals when I am hungry. I am heartily glad that She has got back there to live again where she can assist our folks in writing for I always love to read her letters. Also got that Box sent by Roswell Sift containg those Pill and letter from you and Father and

Mother. I was much pleased to hear from you as I have felt very anxious about your business and am sorry I cannot help you more now but if Father can manage to raise the remainder of the needed amount I think I can replace it in a few months, as I am, and have been for some time drawing more than 16 Dollars per month. But cant tell when I shall get any of it. If every thing goes on smoothly and Government ever get acquainted with us enough to know that there is such a Squad of men as Hall Portf. S.S. then we shall stand a chance to draw two months pay between the 1st and middle of January. But as things are now we cant draw anything but rations to keep us alive. I think we are on the eve of the turning point with us. We are going somewhere where we shall be known. and you must not be surprised if that should be or disappointed if it should not be

Michigan. we stand something of a sight to get back into the State, But probaly a better one to go to the front

Mother must cheer up and not allow herself to worry in the least about me I am well, engoying myself tip top Perfectly satisfied and confident of returning home when this cruel war is over

Got a good position in the company and on the right side of the Officers could not consistently expect or even ask for a better site. all I ask is for cheerful letters every week from home

You will probaly see John Wood before you get this. I sent by him a letter by him to Father, and Orrin and some Ambrotypes. He intends to get up a Box of goodies to send us if so throw in something a little Sorghum molasses would be first-rate if you can deal it up right

There is no news at present to write But I think you may look

for news pretty soon every thing seems to indicate to an inexperienced observer a pretty general engagement
The 6th Corps under Sheridan moved from the Valley to the front of Petersburg. they camped over night near us and we found among them Co. E 9th V. V. Regt. in which we found Frank. Nichols, Jary Becker and the Boys that went to W. C. to enlist had quite a visit with them. wrote a letter for Ichabod Clark to his wife
When you write tell me if you ever got a box of clothing I sent from Washington or anything else I may send you
And direct to City Point Va.
Co. A. Capt. A. L. Hall. Ind. S.S. Mich. Vol.
Via Washington D.C.
Write often
I would like to get a letter from Esther
Yours as ever
D. W. Draper

Wish you a merry Christmas one & all

Camp near City Point
Sunday Dec. 25th 1864

Dear friends at home.

Last night I received a letter from Aunt Rosie (dated Dec 11) and Mother also containing a few lines from Cousin Esther for which I am a thousand times obliged and hope she will do so often. But I had quite a strong notion to give both Aunt and Mother a severe scolding for writing such a sympathizing letter. But when I come to receive another today (written Dec. 18) from the same source only written in a livelier mood

I made up my mind to forgive you this offence. I know full well the feelings that prompted your pen to scratch such kind words of sympathy. But I cant see how they are going to put down the rebellion

The prospects has not been so favorable to me since the first year of the war (as it is at the present time. Sherman cleaning out the southern part of the Confederacy with perfect ease. And with the new Call for three hundred thousand mor men Richmond will be ours shortly. Even now we holds the Rebs. tight and when we come to get the new men into the field we can whip them with one hand. Every man from Generals down to privates freely expres strong confidence that

the rebellion is truly on its last legs. and it seems to me that I was going to see the end of it and get home inside our year But don't look for us this winter I done wrong in telling you that there was even a prospect of our getting back. I think now we could have done it if we had had some one sufficiently posted in matters that was interested in our welfare but now we don't harbor such a thought a moment

We have had considerable to do to day but still we found time to prepare a Christmas dinner and about half a dozen of us surrounded a board fairly groaning beneath a heavy burden of delicious delicacies (but more groaning than Delicacies) Such as

Salthorse Sowbelly Hardtack
and slosh mitte a can of Oysters and
some Boston Crackers enjoyed a
holyday feast. only wishing that our
poor friends we left way up in that
wintry State of Michigan could fare
as well as we. I cant understand
why you should pay 3½ dollars
express money on that box when I paid
2¼ dollars in washington when I started it
I think they took the advantage
You have not said as you ever got a photo-
graph that I sent you of our first Lieut
As for those Ambrotypes I sent you I
thought they were so poor that no one
would want them. I intend to get some
Photographs taken yet to distribute
Tell Lane I intend to write her next
Received a letter from David &
have written him two letters
write very often and the dont
not get homesick. Tell me all about
the taxes. what you got for Pork &c &c
Yours sincerely Bro O. W. D.

Defences City Point
Jan. 9th 1865

Aunt Keziah

Father Mother and all the rest of the folks at Home.

So daz I received a letter from you which was very acceptable as I had not had one from you in some time. Begun to think you had forsaken me altogether I think I have had four letters from you in return for I presume to say 5 or 6 times that number. all I ask of you is just to write as many as I do and no more

That Negative You Spoke of
is now forth Coming
To day I got it from the
Artists and done it up Ship
Shape for transporting at
the first opportunity. I think
now I will send it by Capt
N. S. Watson who is going to
start for Michigan in a few
days to Recruit our Thinned
Ranks in Conjunction with
Lieut. John A. Wood (Supposed to
be Lieut. by some) And quite likely
will be some time if not now
A Negative is a Sad thing to send
it is so likely to get injured
It must be handled very Carefully
not touched with the fingers
only on the edge and not even
lay it down without laying it on
paper. I feel Almost Ashamed of
it on account of the position

that the Artist got me. if they had let me alone and let me placed myself I should had a better picture But ~~not~~ I dare not wait for another for fear we may have to leave without any. as we are under marching Orders We may leave any hour and may stay here two months Every thing is uncertain here. But this is as it is and if you dont like it you must take the lefs of it

If Capt. does as he agrees You will find it at David Bowers Grocery Coldwater probaly as soon as you get this. Can get as many Photographs taken as you please and if Mort. wants one Claim his in return. the same with all the rest

We are having quite warm weather But subject to sudden

Changes once in a while we get a reminder of what you are enjoying in frozen Dixie. But on the whole it does not seem much like Winter.

Health is good as my picture will testify.

Have not seen a sick day yet while many of the boys have been taken to the Hospital.

I am glad to hear that Esther is enjoying herself so well. Hope she will keep me posted in the affairs of the little folks and larger ones too. Write often oftener oftenest

Say about once a week

Abner W. Draper

P.S. Let me know immediately if you get the picture all right

dont fail

City Point

Jan. 21st 1865

Dear Father

By chance Cole Abbott happened along to night to stay with us he is on his way home on a furlough he will leave to morrow and I have concluded to send that negative by him because he can fetch it nearer home than Capt. and then I shall feel as if it was safer for the reason that Capt. will have so much on his mind that he would be liable to forget it. Cole will leave it with William Turner (P. M.) Reading or Bayswood Corners as you like

They will send it to you if an opportunity presents itself. If not you will know where to find it. If you should see Cole you can find out all you want to know about me. If he can he will come and see you.

Write Write Write

Olney

Defences City Point

Jan. 23d. 1865

Dear Aunt

And when I addrep
you of course I mean all
the dear ones at home & once
more I square myself with
pencil in hand to acknowledge
the receipt of another kind
expresion of your remembrance
of unworthy me. And believe
me a letter from you is doubly
welcome coming as it does laden
with such heartfelt expressions
of good will and Succep besides being
the very Anamnesis of my
honored parents. A good thing

Dont know Ransom's given name

Cole. Abbott has just gone home on a fur lou
I sent that Negative by him.
You will find it at Mrs. Turners
It is not a very good one

for them to have some one to assist them in their writing and none the less for me, for I am confident that I should not hear from home quite so often if it were not for other eyes than Father's or Mother's

Hope you will not get weary in writing often and keep me posted in affairs at home

We are having very easy times this winter think very likely we shall remain here until the Spring Campaign opens when you need not be surprised ~~to~~ at hearing anything. Our chaplain was quite good for going to North Carolina a while ago and next Spring may find us there yet. Can't tell much about it. If we do go we shall probably go with an Engineer Corps so we should not have much hard fighting to do

If you draw the money or even get this letter let me know immediately

I should like to know what you were doing there especially on Edgarsee about the Draft: and what John Wood is doing! What luck he has recruiting. How the horses look, and how the fodder holds out, & if the Purdy Mare is well this winter. Dont think me too inquisitive but just give me the particulars. I am writing on the table and the Cook is pounding Beef onit for supper and jiggles so I can hardly write By the way I would relish a warm meal Cooked by your own hands (not the fire) not because I dont get any warm meals. for I have not eaten a cold one since I went up to Bermuda Hundred. You may think it a big Yarn but it is nevertheless true I have come down to eating after a Colored mans Cooking

Enclosed you will find an Order for that Money at the Beacons I would like to write such orders all day But it seems that there ought to be more for me in the Treas We are not going to get any pay until March. If you have a pair of socks that you can Spare I wish you would put a wrapper round them, leaving the ends open and direct it to Defences City Point Va Hdqrs Gnd. S.S. I would be much obliged These Government Socks wont last a week The object of leaving the ends open is because it will not cost near so much postage. Of Course you will send them by Mail

Got that Box you sent. I found it up to the front with the 1st Mich S.S. Where some of our letters go. Every thing was in good order except the Cookies got wet laying out in a storm while up to the front. Butter pronounced by the Cook to have been made by one that knew how

Olney W. Draper

Lot c letter from Wm Ross yesterday Col Lee in Baltimore Bill is all right from Carlan.

U. S. Christian Commission.

Defences CITY POINT, VA.,

Feb. 4th, 1865.

Dear Friends at home all

With a vast amount of pleasure I perused your partnership letter of the 22nd Jany. which came to hand to day It was a little over two weeks since I had received a scratch from any one the longest that I have been without one since the first. But I think I get all your letters. The mails have been very irregular this winter on account of the ice They say it has not been so cold in the region of the Potomac for many years as the present winter. The weather here is most delightful

almost warm enough for vegetation to start – one can pull off his coat and lay in the sunshine like a Blue Racer in April and feel just about as ambitious

This is one of the finest countries or perhaps I should have said Climates to live in during the winter months that any imagination ever conceived. But have no idea that it will be so pleasent the whole year. I am glad Aunt Keria that your matters are satisfactorily adjusted and are snatched from the hands of a wicked extortioner and made secure. I would liked to have had rendered substantial aid by way of a few Lincoln Skins but matters were different with me than I had calculated upon We have not got any pay yet and prospects poor for some time to come But I loocked ahead

for just such a time and came prepared I made up my mind that if it took all my wages to make me comfortable that it should go as free as water. If one comes out of this scrape even he is doing pretty well. The Peace excitement is raging pretty high at present down here. Thousands of dollars are at stake on the conclusion of the war between this and the 4th of March. Its my opinion somebody will win. But I fear the Peace effort on the part of the south is more to unite the Rebels and nerve them up to another desperate and final struggle. Still hope for the best. Must confess things looks more favorable than ever before. We are waiting quite anxiously to hear the result of A. H. Stephens visit to Washington. I believe he can effect as much as any man in

the South

That Box is all right and contents pronounced delicious by as good judges as the Potomac Army affords P.S. just D will close my letter for D don't think you will expect me to write as much as a whole family

My love to all enquiring friends

Olney

Just got in from Roll call and thought D would write a little more Last Sunday D went up to the front to make Sage, Tanner and Almond Abbott a visit. found Sage out on the Picket line, But went where he was. and just got back behind the works when they commenced shelling on both sides and kept it up for about two hours when D had a fair view of an artilley duel

O.W.D.

Camp near Parks Station
Feb. 6th 1865

Dear Parents

We have been having another little tramp down towards the left of the Army and as there is a little fighting going on in that direction I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that I was all Per. Simmons yet. Last Sunday Feb. 5 about 2 o'clock P. M. we were ordered to Strike our tents and rig ourselves in light marching order The troops at City Point all met on the Rail Road and after manouvering two or three hours which I suppose they Call Military we started Arrived at the same point where we made our first raid in the evening and laid down for the night. Next day about noon we started again and after marching about fifteen miles in a circuitous rout we again halted behind some Breast works not more than five miles from where

we laid the night before; which was done as near as I can calculate to deceive the enemy. This place was vacated a day or two ago by the 6th Corps who together with the 5th has made a raid on what is called the South Side R.R. and we are here I suppose to hold these works while they do the fighting. I cant help pitying the poor fellows that have to fight now for the weather is bitter cold I think as cold as we have had this winter. Our boys suffered enough for human nature without grumbling a word Standing by those breastworks in the rain and cold, but the thought that we were favored so much above others just as good as we who besides enduring the rain and cold must face the bullets too; was sufficient

We have great reason to feel thankful that our lot has been cast in that portion of the army that it has But I find it is the opinion of almost every one that the fighting is pretty much done. It seems the peace Commissioners have dispersed without accomplishing as much as we had hoped still about as much as I expected I believe the way has been opened that will lead to peace in a short time The boys are doing well none very sick, The exposure was a little too much for some My health is first best. Excuse Briefness. when I get back to City Point I will write more particular Your Son Ol

Defences City Point Va

9 Oclock Wednesday Feb 28/65

Friends at Home

I write you again thus soon to let you know that I am well again so you will not give yourselves any useless anxiety about it Sunday I was pretty sick but yesterday I missed a chill and to night I am almost as well as ever and at the same rate I shall be as well as before in a day or two And I think even better. It will prove a good thing probably as I will not be so liable to be sick in future

Pay and want to buy a watch out of it for I stand in need of one very much and keep a little by me of course for emergencies I think by this time you can tell me all about the Draft Why the lucky ones are &c. I have no news to write this time nothing further is known about the evacuation of Petersburg than what I wrote you yesterday or at least come to the knowledge of common folks But it is evident that some important move is in progress on the part of the Rebs. But I cant find the man that thinks they will stand much of a Campaign Night before last four hundred deserters came over And last night there was a continual firing on the picket line but wheather it was Rebs coming over or fired to prevent them from coming by the

We are not attached to the Engineers as we heard and earnestly hoped. but in confident hopes yet that we may be but there is so much figuring among the leading men that it is hard to tell what will be done. But shove us around as they may they have not a great while to do it in. We cant complain for very few One Cease men have been allowed to lay around as long we have

I have got some Money to send you when the proper time comes but I have not yet decided how whether by Mail or Express If by Express it will come prety soon but will write first. If by Mail it will be longer before I send it I shall be able to send very much because we only got about three months

rebs themselves is more than I can tell as I have not heard any news from the line to day. The rest of the boys have all gone to bed so I will close

Good Night

Okey

O. K.

P.S. Tell Vide I have not got a letter from here in some time but she will from me pretty soon So look out dah Ise Goine to Shoot

Soldier

Defences City Point

March 5th 1865

Dear friends at Home

Although I have not received anything from you dated this side of Feb. I And have answered three or four that I expect you are going to write; Still I am going to try again And Shall continue writing whither I get any from you or not because I Cannot believe for a minute that the fault is with you But rather in some careless delinquent Post Master. I dont allow myself to feel anyways uneasy or worry about it in the least or given to vague Specu-

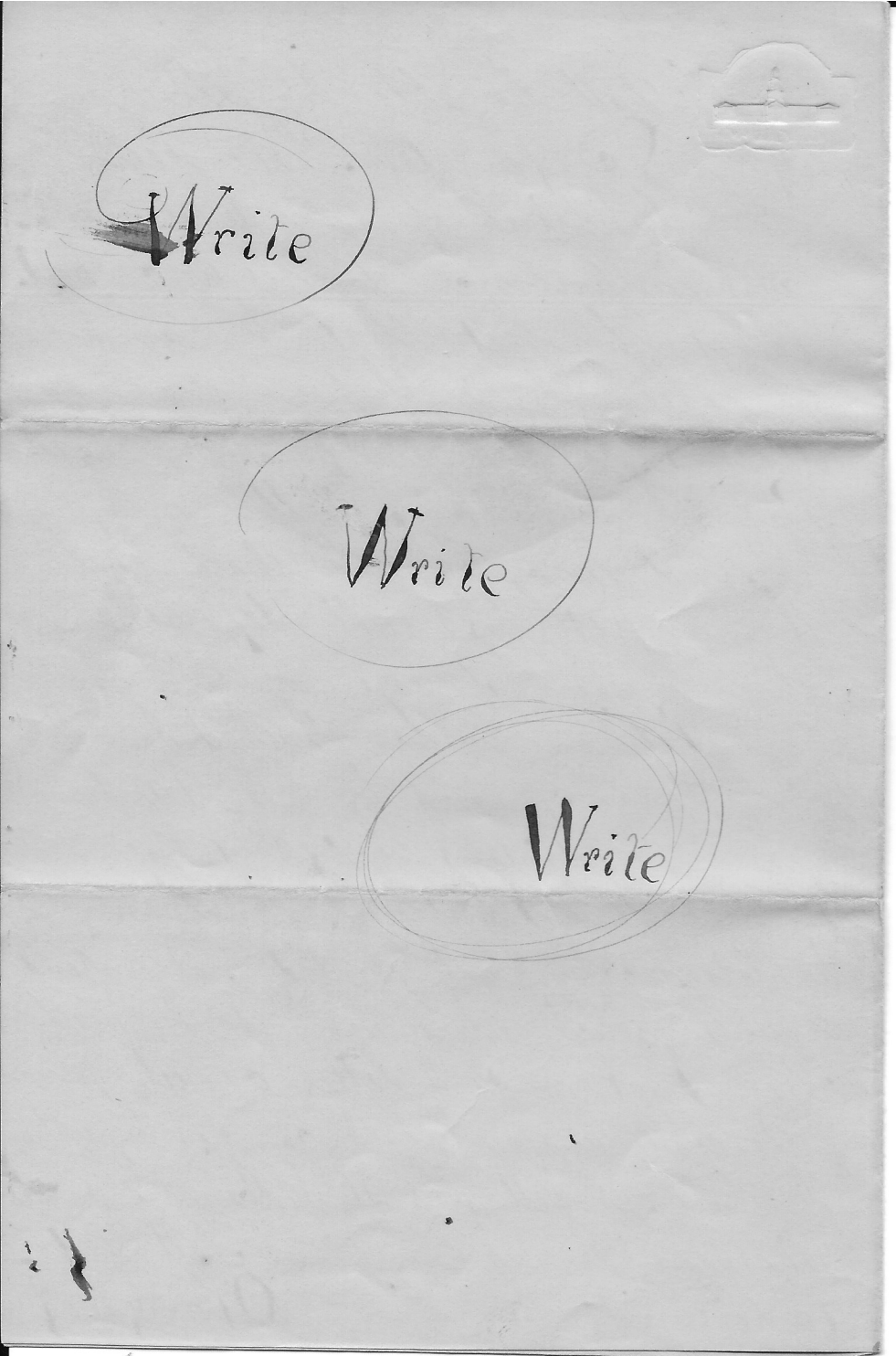
lations

as to what might befall you so as to prevent writing. But still it is a great satisfaction to hear from home and serves to pass off cheerfully the many hours that it takes to fill up a year. But how fast time flies it seems but a day since leaving home. but what a multitude of events has crowed themselves into so short a space. at the same rate and I think we can soon count on even a still greater and more rapid rate as the season advances and the traitors will be compeled to submission. If Sherman is successful there can be no doubt about the coming out of the affair

No news of importance at present what is going to be done with us is still unknown: I think I

shall be able to tell you
more in a few days. We seem to
be on the brink of events of consid-
erable importance to us as a Bat.
About the best that I can hope
for reasonably is that we may be
attached to the Engineer Brigade
Possibly something better may turn
up. And may be we shall realize
the worst. It all depends on
the decision of one or two men
Our Petition to be attached to the
Engrs was approved by Gen. Benham
and his Adjutant and sent forwarded
to the Head Quarters of the Army of
the Potomac. But I did not intend
to write much this time so I will
close. Must write 2 letters a week for a
little while and see if I can get any of them
Inclosed you will find 20 Dollars and I will
send more some future time. Tell Vide
to write

Olney W. S


Write
Write
Write

Defences City Point Va
Wednesday March. 8, 65

Dear Father

I thought this morning that I would like to start a little more money so it would get there the same time that the other did that I wrote Sunday in which I put 20 dollars. In this I shall only send 10 Dollars. Am not decided yet whether to send any more or not. I want a watch. Need one very much If I should make a purchase probaly I should not have much more to spare. May possibly send some more at a future time

The news Continues good Sherridan has Captured Gen. Early and his command and now to appearances are pushing for Linchburg which if he gets and can hold will be a heavy Stroke on the Rebs While at the Same time Sherman captured the whole of Gen. Haygoods Brigade except one Battalion

I dont expect this will be any news to you by the time this reaches you but one cant help noticing such good reports

Last Sunday night after I had finished my letter to you I received your letter and one from Jane. Was sorry to hear that Aunt was Sick. hope this will find you all well

Your dutiful son

Olney

If this reaches you I want you
to write immediately and mention it
or anything else you may receive
for probaly you will get something
most every mail for a while now

Olney

Camp of 1st Mich. S.S. in front of Petersburg

March 14th 1865

Dear parents Aunt and Cousins

Yours of the 5th Came to hand last Sunday night And would have answered it immediately had not circumstances hindered Sunday I went to see some boys that enlisted from our town for our Battalion. but through the cunning - and dont think it would be out of character to say - Hellish devices of some whose business it is to get others into the service and save their own heads; was forced into the 1st Mich. S.S. Well as a matter of course they felt hurt because they wanted to go with us besides the idea of being fooled. But as it happened

it was just as well for when I got back to camp about sundown I found our tents stripped and everything packed for a final move. On inquiring I found we had orders to report to the Commander of the 5th Corps with the idea of consolidating with the 1st Mich. S.S. We started off at 1st. night and arrived at Meads Station and layed down in the woods for the night. Next morning the Capt. reported and we marched up to the Rest about a mile and a half Have not found out yet what they intend to do with us, whether we shall retain our organization or be split up and put in different Companies. If the latter then the question arrises what will be done with the Officers and Non Commissioned men Justice would demand that they would be mustered out, But it is getting to

they will do what they please with as many

Great rejoicing here last night on the reception of the news of Sheridans victory near Lynchburg Cut the Canal and captured several boats of Ammunition and Medical Stores and all the Rail Road Communications leading from Richmond. It is my opinion we shall soon have the Rebels where they will have to charge our works or do worse. And the could not please us better than to attack us it is just what we want or at least next to throwing down their arms. If they are going to continue the struggle longer I wish they would pitch in if they will attack us I am confident of our ability to thresh them wickedly But it is doubtful in my mind whether the Rebs will fight very hard any more

they are too badly disheartened by defeat Last night the Rebs charged on our lines a little to the left of us but did no damage instead of firing on us about 200 of them rushed into our lines and give themselves up. which is a pretty fair specimen of their spirit for the next Campaign. I shall not have time to answer Esther letter now I got a letter from Davis but dont know whether I had better answer it now or not for he said he thought he would go home in a few days All well as usual those socks are all right direct. 1st Mich. S.S. Co. A. ~~1st Brig. 1st Div.~~ 9th A.C.

Correct Direct. Co. A. 1st Mich. S.S. 9th A.C.

P.S. Send Photograph of best boy in the Regt.

Camp of 1st Mich S.S. in
front of Petersburg
Sunday March 5th 1865

Dear Parents Aunt and family

It is Sunday and one of the pleasantest of days We have had nearly two weeks of beautiful Weather causing vegetation to start up dressing this once beautiful but now desolated Country anew. Battlefields which but a few months ago were dug and tore up in every Conceivable shape already begins to redeem itself from the awful curse that has swept over them. Our Camp is so situated as to give us a good view of Rebeldom as well as our own lines Back in the rear nearly half a mile on an eminence

in a neat white house confiscated for the purpose it is the Head Quarters of Gen Wilcox Michigan Best Son. Right in front is Petersburg which I should judge was quite a place but nearly forsaken hardly a living creature to be seen stiring around the City there was two or three Cows grazing around there the other day but some of the boys out on Picket shot one of them. I think Harrison Purdy done it. I have not had any Picket duty to do yet and dont think I shall have very soon. I did think the other day that I should get home But like all my luck I find I am elected to serve my time out to the end But my faith is strong that that will not be long, The way I thought

of geting out was when they
come to consolidate the two Companie
of course there was mor than a
complement of Non Commissioned
officers and they could not reduce
them to the ranks without some
cause or provocation so I figured
to get mustered out But I am
put on the new rolls with some
others and a few reduced to the
ranks and some will be muster
ed out Johny Wood is one of the
lucky ones I dont know as he
had any particular help to get
out But rather seemed to be his
fortune to have everything
work in his favor. The last and
best of all for him was a Lieut.'s
Commission come to him just
at the time we were consolidating
which helped him considerably
I want you should pay John

Wood Nine Dollars out of my money that is going to him in some deal betwixt us. He has been very friendly ever since we have been down here. I will give him an order on you for the amount I shall probaly send a dress Coat by him and a letter Seth was here to make me a visit yesterday. he looks very healthy and rugged. Both sides as near as I can find out is maping troops heavily on the left near Hatchers Run going to be a tear down there before long I dont believe we are going to see the heaviest of the fighting although we are in front of the doomed City When you write let me know if you get any money or pictures or any thing else, for you may get something in most every letter.

Ohrey

Camp of 1st Mich. S.S.
in front of Petersburg
March 26th 1865

Dear friends at Home

Just Six months this very day since I swore to faithfully serve Uncle Sam One year and I feel as fully resolved to day to stand by what I pledged as ever I did. and feel greatly encouraged as to the final result Our first Six months has been comparatively easy very little of the hardships and dangers known and experienced by old Soldiers only just nicely seasoned up with such varieties. But what the next Six may bring forth is know only to Him who doeth all things well. We have but just

entered upon active service
and hardly that But we are
at present holding the lines in
front of Petersburg where we are
liable to be attacted any time
when Lee sees propper to climb
our works and we fervently hope
he will do it every day in the
week as it would be the Quickest
and Cheapest way the Rebels could
be whiped Yesterday morning they
made a rush on our lines about
a quarter of a mile to the left of us
a little before daybreak and so
completely surprised our men as to gain
a temporary advantage taking one of
our forts and capturing the garrison
and turned the Guns on our men
They got pretty well round behind us
and things looked one while as if
we would all be gobbled But our
men soon sent the renegades flying

in confusion back to the "regions of Black despair" as I think it might well be called with the present condition of their affairs. And then such a slaughter as attended their retreat has scarcely been excelled during the war
Our loss is put down as I have heard it estimated by Officers that had a chance to know at 400 killed and wiping. And the Rebs. loss at fully 4000 this estimate may not be exactly correct. But the odds was tremendous I think they will hardly undertake it again. Only one Company of our Regt. was in the fight and they volunteered to go and act as Skirmishers. None of them got harmed But our Adjutant came very near it, a piece of shell struck him and had it not been for a testament in his pocket it must have hurt considerable. The rest of us was subjected to a severe

to a severe Shelling from the Rebs Batteries in front during the whole engagement which lasted from a little before five until Eight oclock An hour or two was spent by the boys rummaging the Battle field and bringing off little trophies from a Gun down to a finger ring or an Officers Button It is said one boy cut off an officers finger to get the ring The rest of the day was spent in burying the Johny dead over to their lines under a flag of truce. A number of Women came from the city and seemed to recognize near friends among the dead It has been very quiet along the lines since the scrape It has learned them better than to try to break our lines and what they will ever do or can do is more than I can imagine. 15 days will soon pass away to day since I have heard from home just Bear that in mind please and write 3 or 4 letters and start them right off all well

Yours

Olney

Camp of 4th Mich S.S.
near Petersburg
March 29th 1865

Dearly remembered friends

Once more I date my letter "Before Petersburg". But it is hard telling where my next will be dated. No doubt we are on the eve of great events Every thing indicates an important move just at hand Sheridans Cavalry has been passing here for the last two days (Saw Albert Sift and had a talk with him yesterday) in the direction of the South Side R.R. While Grant has massed a very heavy force there too and all under march-

orders. with Sherman's forces ~~co~~
within supporting distance
And Grant. Sherman. Sheridan
and Mead. in consultation altogether
at City Point means something
which when rightly interpreted
I think would be Rough Work
And I notice it is hard telling
what part we have got to play
No doubt the 9th Corps (the one we
belong to) will be left to hold the
lines from Petersburg South to the
Yellow House Station but whether
the Rebs will think best to attempt
to break our lines and thus attack
us and we do our fighting right here
or whether they will evacuate
and we have to march into the
City. Last night we had four
days rations issued to us in anticipation of any move we may be
obliged to make

I should not wonder if you heard news before this reaches you In regard to our Company matters after figuring and twisting in all shapes and consolidating us in one Com. We are to broken up and put in different Companies in the old Regt a few in every Com. And all our Commissioned Officers will be mustered out and go home and leave us to work out our own salvation But we care very little for that, for there is not one of them that good enough for a good private. And feel in hopes that we will get under some officers that can go through the Company drill without making a dozen blunders. I can not tell yet what Company I shall be in Boys health is pretty good mine in particular is first rate

I Got a letter from you Monday the 27th was very glad to get it as it had been over two weeks since I had heard from you

Sell Mort I have answered all that I have received from him and that it has been a long time since I got his last

Also tell me the reason Elvira does not write any more I used to like to get a letter from her first Kate Have nothing more to write now but will endeavor to keep you posted of my whereabouts Write often and dont get frightened if you should write two some weeks and Direct to Olney W. Draper

Washington D.C.

1st Mich. S.S. 2nd B. 1st Div 9th A.C.

Camp near Petersburg Va.
April 1st 1865

Dear Aunt & Parents

As I have an opportunity of writing and expect to have a chance to send it right there by John Wood I thought I would embrace it to let you know that I am well and all right. That very night after I wrote you my last the Rebs made another attempt to break our lines ~~but~~ at the same place as before but with even less success. They commenced the attack about Ten o'clock in the night. Every Fort opened within a minute after the charge commenced. I was awakened by a 32 pounder which is planted within four rods of where I sleep

We all rushed to the Breast Works where we were exposed to about 2 hours severe Shelling which did but little damage One shell killed 3 men who happened to be away from the works a little. The Rebs dreadfully want to break our lines near Fort Steedman. It appears to be about their only hope or their "last ditch" I hope. We occupy a very safe part of the lines except ~~the~~ one Fort of the Rebs which rakes us pretty rough The nature of the ground is such that I hardly think the enemy will ever attempt to charge them

I am not assigned to any Company yet in this Regt but expect to be to Co. D. However you will not direct to that Co. until you have further orders Unless they change their plan again I shall still have my old Capt over me as he expects to take command of that

Co. I have seen several lists of the Drafted men in the whole County. I am glad Mr Wakeman is so well favored as to escape Still it would not be any worse for him than for others. I have heard that George Larkin is going for Ed Olsen for $1800 It may be a sore job for him but if he is luckey he will make a thousand Dollars in a little while. I want you to pay Dan Wood 5 Dollars for me if you please I mention it again in this for fear you did not get the other

I just got a letter from Dave this morning. I get a letter once in about two weeks It seems very curious some of the boys get one every day and you direct yours correct too. I have not time to write much this time so I will close Yours as ever Olney

Camp of Head Quarters of
2nd Brig. Near South side R.R.
15 miles from Petersburg
April 5th 1865

Dear Parents & all

You will remember my last was dated on the R.R. Immediately after sending it away I got one from Aunt dated March 30 & I stated I thought we should guard the Road But in less than fifteen minutes we were ordered to report to Brigade Head Quarters & have been here ever since
So you can see by that how much a Soldier knows what he is going to do before hand

As of course I can't tell you how long we shall remain here Reports have it that we shall have a good time of it They say the 1st Mich. has done so much hard fighting that it shall be favored now & let us do guard duty But as likely as any way in less than 24 hours we shall be under way for the scene of conflict But I am inclined to think not. I believe we have got enough after old Lee to eat him up when they get things in the right shape Grant is Capturing Prisoners Canon & General Officers so fast that it is going to reduce the enemys forces so as to make him powerless in a little while

For the past two days I have been out on company with

~~about~~ a squad of men for the purpose of hunting up Stragglers from the Confederate Army & Bushwhackers & telling the Citizens if they want protection to come in and take the Oath of Allegiance We find no true union people here but the Blacks & you cant find one of the opposite class among them Yesterday noon we stoped at a very wealthy planters house (the himself is in the army) and the niggers Baked Hoecakes for us for about two hours with plenty of Molasses we made out a hearty dinner

You must excuse a short letter this time for I have a number to write & some how dont feel like writing

Yours truly

Rhey

Camp Somewhere in Va.
" " " " "
as near as I can calculate
" " " " "
April 15th 1865

Dear Parents

Yesterday morning we pulled Stakes & buckeled on our armors and started out to seek a new Camp where we might pitch our "Moving Tents" not exactly a days march nearer home in a literal sense, but happened to be about 3 miles in the opposite direction. but still every day does bring us nearer home & Events that transpire on some days I think brings us a month nearer that happy day

Brigade Head Quarters moved up the Rail Road about 3 miles and

took our Regiment with them
And everything at present indicates
a long stay We are ordered to
fix up nicely adorning our Tents
and Streets with evergreens of Pine
and Cedar. You would be astonished
to see our Camp Pole cast as
clean as a house floor & to see
what shapes the boys will twist
evergreens into. Such Soldiering
as we are doing now is not bad
at all, but they keep us at work
we have got to go to drilling
again and have dress Parade
It seems like old times at City
Point only a little more so
I Cant see any more
fighting in Virginia unless it
it should be Guerilla's & Cant see
much prospect for that
must Certainly look for the
Speedy Termination of the Confederacy

And with it the fighting if indeed it has not already Caved

I think we have good reasons for expecting to be home in time to help in Harvest. It look a little now as if Gen. Grants promise that he made when we were at City Point would be fulfilled that we ~~in~~ we should all be at home by the fourth of July. My Tent is within 10 rods of the R. R. track where we see every day 8 or 10 trains passing towards the front with Forage, Rations and Munitions of war & towards Petersburg loaded with Johny Rebs. Some as Prisoners of war & others going to their homes peaceful citizens once more. Boys belonging to our Regt. that was taken prisoners in that Charge on the 2nd have all come back, having been released when Gen. Lee surrendered. They were in the center

of Lees army & saw them surren
They say the Reb. Soldiers Cheered
as heartily as ours But I may
as well Stop. I cant get any news to
you until a long time after every
body has heard it. It is
raining very hard to day
and is leaking on my letter
so I will hasten to seal it up
and get it into the mail bag
Direct to Co D, 1st Mich S.S.
2nd Brig. 1st Div. 6th A.C.
Washington D. C.

Love to all
Yours
Olney

I get my mail very irregular now
a days dont get many letters, you cant
write too often O.D.

Alexandria Va.

April 24th 1865

Dear folks at Home

You see by this we are on the move, or rather have been, with a prospect of a few days rest again. But how long we can not tell for when we think we are going to have a quiet time & begin to cry peace & safety then sudden destruction cometh. But since the surrender of the best Generals & best Armies of the Confederacy we shall look for the reverse of that prophecy and expect when we say peace that it means just what the word implies. & unless Lee's & Johnston's men are totally reckless & disregard their Parole of honor I know that it means peace. & in the event of their attempting to renew the struggle I can hardly conceive how they are to get the material together again necessary to carry on a war that would withstand our forces for any length of time. It is impossible

Well but I will not write any more what you already know. But try to tell you something that you dont know. Although perhaps not any thing of any general interest, still it does interest me & therefore I judge it will you

Thursday the 20th just as we had got our Camp in good trim & fancied for ourselves a little quiet we received marching orders. About 2 oclock we were

joined by the whole Brigade & after marching the remainder of that day & next forenoon we brought up at City Point where we went on board the Transport Columbia Bound as we supposed for Washington But instead we landed at Alexandria where we were joined by the rest of the 1st Division & went into Camp yesterday. We had an unusually pleasant voyage which the boys enjoyed as much as it is possible for soldiers to do with the accomodations they generally get Of course the object of this move is unknown to all but a favored few. But if we dont land in our own State before many weeks then most of the Boys & Officers too will be greatly disappointed. We were told so at least by every body between here and Petersburg, but there is no positive evidence in all that I dont allow myself to ~~[illegible]~~ believe it for fear we may turn up in some extreme Southern State some morning when I wake up But I must confess that I can see no evidence of any such thing But a few days will tell & I know of no other way but to wait, & give myself no uneasiness about it & you must not either

I saw William Ross at City Point but had only about five minutes to talk with him He was going to his Regt His Corps is going to take the place of ours on the South Side Rail Road

Seth is all right & Henry Whittier I got a letter from him a few days ago He too was all right although he had quite an adventure with the Rebs

He was with a foraging expedition which was attacked by the enemy he was wounded in the hip & taken prisoner but made his escape & got back to his Reg. within three days His advise to the Rebs. was for them to repent for Shermans Army was at hand. & according to all account, I guess his preaching had good effect—

Got a letter from Elyria a few days ago but have not found time to answer it yet but will soon. Thinking perhaps you would rather get shorter letters and a little oftener I will close before I get a long one wrote Write often & direct as I have told you before

Yours as ever

Olney

May 19 1865

Dear father and mother I
wright to you hoping to fin
your all in good helth as
this lives me on the recovar
of a faver in the hosspitle
at prasant Dear futher and
mother I wod have written to
you before now but I wes
not fit to wright to you
for we have got a greet
deal of tossing about the
wather has been vary hot
here and its been vary bad
for the sick here but
it has got achange for
the better it is more
colder than we expected
so no more at prasant from
youre son truly Daract
your lattars as be fore

I was sick I thought I could not write so got a man to write for us but it is your satisfaction I hoppe to be better in a few days you must worry about me if you dont hear from me very often for a while

I wish you would slip a dollar or two into your next letter it would be worth a million Answer

Olney

Direct C. D. 1st Mich S.S.

2nd B. I. D. 5 A.C.

the kingdom of Christ is not yet set
neither can be till the nobleman return
rist is said to be a nobleman
ne into a far country to receive
kingdom and to return. and then
set up. then shall the kingdom
the dominion and the greatness of
kingdom under the whole heaven
given to Christ and his people for
er and for ever more
Jews thought that Christ
to be their temporal king.
is they was disappointed
put Christ to death
saste said art thou the king of the Jews
the Greeks saith have

delivered me to me
what hast thou done.
Jesus answered.
mi kingdom is not of this worald.
it is in nother State. earthly
kingdoms must remaine until
the time apointed for me to return
then will come in the glory of
mi father. and will sit down
the thrones of earthly kingdoms
and will set up mi own
kingdom. and will rigin king
over all the earth in that day
if mi kingdom was of this world then
would mi Servants fight. that is now
not he delivered unto the Jews. but
now is my kingom not from hence

in other words not from this time
my kingdom is not yet set up
but are given in a gospel age
you have my spirit and word and
you must obey my law.
or you shall never have entrance
in to my everlasting kingdom
when it shall come to be admired
of all them that love my
appearing and kingdom
Christ will judge the quick and the
dead at his appearing and kingdom.
Christ says. ye that have followed me
in the regeneration. when the son of man
shall sit in the throne of his glory
ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones

Judging the twelve tribes of israel
now let us see when Christ
will set on the throne of his glory
when the son of man shall come in his glory
and all the holy angels with him.
then shall he sit upon the throne
of his glory. we say Christ is not
on the throne of his glory. nor cannot he
until his kingdom shall come and
his will be don in earth as it is
don in heaven. when the great
Esperating day shall come and Christ
will take to himself his great
power and reign. then shall he set
upon the throne of his glory
and shall send to many the lord god
shall give unto him. the throne of his
father David and he shall reign over
the house of Jacob for ever

end of his kingdom there shall be
no end.

Peter says we have
not followed cunning devised fables
when we made known unto you
the coming and kingdom of Christ
for when was this made known?
in the transfiguration on the mount
when the kingdom appeared in miniature
~~to wit: what actually~~
his garments was white and glistening
representing the kingdom in all
it beauty and glory

we see then the kingdom is in the
future

Christ taught his disciples
to pray saying thy kingdom come.

and when it does come
the will of the lord will be done in
earth as it is in heaven
we find that the kingdom
is still in the future after the
signs are given which are to precede
his comming. the sun and moon
are to be darkened the stars are to
fall the powers of heaven are
to be shaken. now learn a
parable of the figtree when his
branches yet tender and putteth
forth leaves ye know that summer
is nigh. so likewise ye when ye
~~shall~~ see the things come to pass
know ye that the kingdom of god
is nigh at hand

found [illegible] the time will come
when they will not endure sound
Doctrine; they shall turn away
from the truth. and shall be
turn unto fables
but watch thou in all things
~~search the scriptures~~
that you may be ready to communicate
sound Doctrine to others
and stand in live before the Son
of man when he shall
come in his kingdom
and glory
as was prefigered in the
transfigeration