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Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin, circa 1862

William M. McKinney

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And such things have had a great influence in producing and keeping alive that great prejudice, known to exist to such an extent in the South against the North. Such misrepresentations, doubtless induced many a young man that knew no better, who placed implicit confidence in the words of his superiors, to leave his quiet home and take up arms against his native country. It is no uncommon thing to hear men say through this region, that "if we had only known you were such men as you have shown yourselves to be, we would never have voted as we have, nor have done as we have. People are really and truly deceived in us, and in our treatment of them and their property. No person is molested, when found at home attending to his own business,

Instead of destroying property, we protect
it; and the people are now having
confidence in the strength of our
governments and the justness of our cause.

But I have written enough of this
kind of matter, now for something
else. I have not been to the city
yet, nor do I now know when I can

get there. Military rules are very strict
here now and one cannot get out of
Camp for an hour even, without
having his pass approved by at least
half a dozen Generals, and I do not
propose putting myself to so much
trouble. I am still in command
of the Company, the Captain at
Barracks, and will not know how long

we will remain here or where
more to next. Have not had
a mail for a week, I wrote you
last from Bowling Green, which
I suppose you have received. When
you write next, direct as follows,
15th Regt Ind. Inf, care of Col. Warner,
15th Brigade, General Wood's Division, Tenn.