

1862

## Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin, circa 1862

William M. McKinney

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and not feel penitent, when the whole world  
was made public, penitent! he should feel  
more of shame and remorse!! I do hope  
the perpetrator will be amply repaid in his own  
conscience for any offence he may have committed  
I presume the plaintiff to have been, ask what the  
meaning of this is, and what the purpose of this  
means to be avenged, though it be twenty years  
hence; a bad paper to cherish, will eat the soul  
entirely away before that time. I am sure that  
more rejoiced at my safe return to camp,  
without having to appear before the General to  
answer for my absence without leave, than  
I was myself, I was really expecting to be read  
out of the service, and perhaps disgraced, as many  
of my friends, especially the good Matie, on whose account  
I had to travel far and of my proper route.

When you speak of Lewis's conduct I am  
quite at a loss to comprehend your meaning,  
and that Matie's behaviour should be found in  
Lewis's conduct, is impossible; your must be joking, she pretends  
to be entirely proof against such things. I can  
assure you, my dear Aunt, that, although the afore-  
said Lieutenant felt not a little sad at parting  
with so many kind friends, he shed no tears  
about fall forward march!

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