

1-28-1862

## Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, January 28, 1862

William M. McKinney

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Camp Wickliffe Jun 28<sup>th</sup> 1862

It's night, dark night, the rain  
falling in torrents on my canvas house,  
while I alone, sit listlessly, half sleeping,  
half waking, when the shrill notes of the  
bugle denotes the hour for retiring. Once  
aroused from my dreamy mood, from sitting  
in reverie over the day and hours just past,  
and of the enjoyments I had left, and thinking  
thus, to myself, I said, though perhaps aloud,  
I'll write, if for nothing else than to employ  
the hour that hangs so heavy, that moves so  
slow. For 'tis so melancholy I would give  
my time to night, those terrible blues,  
it is indeed terrible, when one becomes tired,  
disgusted with everything. But what to write  
~~to~~, is the question, and to whom to write  
is another question. I'll think, to S. I  
no, I have written to that individual, and  
another before an answer, will not do.  
Will then to — no, that will not pay,

would only receive a prosy epistle in return, not worth the perusal, or an answer. Well then, who shall receive the sheet after it is written? Shall I write at all? Yes, I'll write, and direct after it is written, and if the one to whom I shall then conclude to send it, sees fit to read and answer it, all right, if not, all right anyhow. Perhaps, I shall send it to some one, to whom I have already written, and from whom I have not yet heard, well, if I do, what matters it, I am altogether independent. But then I could write better, if I knew to whom I was writing, so then I will say I am writing to Cousin Mattie, whether I ever send it to her or not. Perhaps I may get knocked in the operation, but what does that signify, suppose I should, I would not be the first individual that had got himself into that condition, and I have yet to hear of a single case proving fatal, though often the patient suffers much. But then I have no fears as to that, since I have been very reliably informed,



I have neither feeling heart or  
conscience, yet a sure sting on the  
pain part of the subject. But then  
what will she think, or say, when she  
receives another letter from me before  
the answer to the first is received?  
I do not care what she thinks or says,  
~~if I choose so to do, I will send this to~~  
her, and ask no pardon either. I'll not  
put my name to it, so she cannot  
prove I wrote it, however much she  
may suspect. Besides, I think I am  
now well enough acquainted with her  
Judgship, to know, that it will make  
but little difference whether I waited for  
an answer or not. She knows well  
~~that there are times, in this, as~~  
well as, in every other kind of business,  
when a man wishes it was not  
himself. And that is just how I am  
to night, I never had the blues so  
bad in my life, I cannot tell what  
the trouble is, but I only feel miser-  
able. I am not homesick nor lonesome,  
I have only got the blues, and want some one  
to talk to, therefore must write.

Jan 29<sup>th</sup>



Wednesday Morning

Cousin Mattie,

I have just  
been looking over the miserable foolish  
stuff I wrote last night. It is certainly  
Teris-Comico - of course you will not  
be able to see what I mean, but that you may see what  
humor your cousin gets into once  
in a while, and how he usually gets  
better, by thus gaseomading awhile  
on paper. If you have not  
answered my former letter, do  
it immediately, and if you have,  
and think this stuff worth giving  
heed to, answer soon.

the morning, except that I have  
not got the blues as bad as last night.  
What Regiment does Lieut Lomb  
belong to. Do not let any one  
see this letter, but burn it.

Your affectionate Cousin  
Wm McKim