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Camp of 15th Ind, 15th Brigade, Gen Wood's Division

Near Nashville, Tenn March 16th 1862

My dear cousin Mattie,

Your letters of March 3rd & ____, were both received in the same Mail, two days ago, and now at this, the earliest opportunity, will answer both. I have been so very busy during the past two days, preparing Pay-Rolls and getting my Company paid, that I have scarcely had time to breathe until this morning, else, I would have answered them as soon as received, and kept you as much in my debt as possible, "for favors received", that is if my letters should come under that class of wares. I finally recognize your letter, though you seemed not to have been, as you say, in a better writing mood. You however failed to inform me, what the trouble was, whether you had a fit of the blues or not.

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I was pleased to hear, that for once, you had thought enough about you, to behave yourself properly, at our old Aunts. I am sure she will give you good credit for it, and perhaps use it to offset some of your old accounts, which she, doubtless, has kept noted against you. If you carry your good resolution into practice. I shall expect to see, on my return from the war, a perfect Model of perfection, a quiet, silent, peaceful, demure, young Lady, looking very dignified, a perfect "bud of perfection." You must not speak of "rompings," when you are talking of becoming sober. I have now finished one letter, now for the other to Criticize. Since you name me Critic, I must keep up my reputation. This letter seems to be written in March but as the date has been omitted, I, of course cannot be positive about it. You will soon be informed, when I get tired of your letters, I'll bet a month's pay against

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One cent, that you get tired and stop first. I am expecting ~~them~~ to hear, by evry letter, that you are ready to stop the correspondence. I do wish you could possibly find something else to do, some other way to amuse yourself and kill the time that seems to hang so heavily on your hands, beside writing to me, when indeed, by your own acknowledgement, it is so very irksome. Am however, much obliged to you for kind favors. I received a letter from Cousin A. E. when yours came, she did not speak up as though Sam was so very bad. I do begin to think that my Buckeye Cousins are rather delicately constituted. Hoosierdom is the place to raise strong and athletic men. I have roughed it around so much, that I am able for almost any kind of life, can live and thrive on any kind of fare. Aunt Angie's brother B F Leoman called to see me in Camp this morning, I have not been to his house.

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I still expect to be with on 4th of July-feel confident the war will be over by that time. As to "Lionizing," I am quite sure you would have a good time, in making a regular "Lion," out of as gentle a personage as your Cousin. But who is "Cousin A.W." I know of no such relative, please inform. I received a letter from Cousin Minnie when I did yours, have answered hers. I am sure you will not be offended because I answered hers first. This makes the fourth letter written to you since the 4th inst, do not suppose you are much ahead yet. Will not make this one as long as some others, have some variety about them. Shall expect a letter from you next mail. My love to all. Your Cousin

WMMcKinney