

MS92_9_7_09

Louisville Ky Sept 30th 1862

My dear cousin Mattie,

Yours of the 8th inst has just been received- and I hasten an answer. I received two letters from you at Nashville as we were marching through but our communication was then cut off and had been for some time and I could not answer-neither had I the time as I received the letters at 11 P.M. and marched at 4 AM the next day. We arrived here 5 days ago- having been on the march (32/22?) days in succession-marching about (690/650?) miles- living part of the time on half rations and part of the time on nothing but green corn- we have had a rough time and some fighting.

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Gen Buell's entire Army is here now and about 60000 new troops in all about 150,000 men-all of which will soon move out- Sent again after the Rebels. It is manifest that Bragg and generaled Buell this time-I only wish we had a leader worthy the brave men in the field. I am getting very tired of so much marching to so little purpose, we could easily have taken Bragg and his entire Army. I suppose we will have to make another campaign over the entire South. I am still in for it and will hold on till the war is over- if I do not break down- I am afraid of the rheumatism this winter-I have some syptoms evry time I am exposed march. We had to leave all our baggage at Bowling Green-and I hear that it has been

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destroyed by the Rebels & if it has I lose about [\$]100.00 worth of baggage- besides my Sammul-for which I would not have taken [\$]500.00. We are without any tents or baggage. I am writing this short letter to you sitting out in the sun writing on a rough board-you will excuse it's brevity-and style. I would or could write you 50 pages had I the time and conveniences. We have had some fighting-a great deal of marching-and but little to eat. I will write you again as soon as I am more conveniently situated

My love to all

(signed)

WM McKinney