

MS92_9_7_12

Camp of the 15th Reg't Ind Vols
21st Brigade 6th Division 14th
Army Corps-Army of the Cumberland.
3 miles south Nashville Tenn.
Monday, December 1st 1862

My dear cousin Mattie

Hours-days- and weeks have I been waiting for a letter from you-but none has come. I as much expected a letter by this mornings Mail-as I did my breakfast- I got my breakfast-but no letter. "Dear-dear what can the matter be- Oh dear what can the matter be"-such ejaculations as these might have greeted your ears-had you been near enough- to have heard-indeed so loud were they-that had you been listening- perhaps you might have heard them where you are. We now have a daily mail-and it does seem that if you had written-I should have certainly received.

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I am fearful something has occurred with you-am almost afraid to write until I hear from you-and am anxious to hear of tidings from your brother, but I will write anyhow. Since I wrote you last- we have made one days march-are now on the Murfreesboro Pike-and likely to remain here some time. We are having rather a gloomy time-the weather is cloudy & cold-with occasional rains storms. We are not as well equiped as last winter-our tents our old-thin-full of holes-almost worn out-will not keep their rains out-we have no stoves to keep warm have to sit outside the tents around log fires-and suffer our eyes almost smoked out-then when it rains-have to stay in the tents- and half freeze. Soldiering this winter is not going to be much fun I assure you-round the way things are commencing-not much fun at any time or any place.

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It does seem to me that the weather is colder & more disagreeable down here than at home-colder winds and more changeable. But do not think me complaining so long as I have good health-I will not (murmur?) at anything and I never felt better in my life than at this time. I only hope that I may remain in as good health during the winter. Our boys are standing the Campaign splendidly-I have not had a sick man in my Company for two weeks-but the new Regiments are suffering a good deal. The 97th Ohio Regiment in our Brigade-is half sick- all look bady. We are to be Reviewed this afternoon at 2 P.M. by Genl Rosecrans will all have to turn out in our best- and show off to the best advantage. Ah! I wish you could witnessed one of these grand Military Reviews-it is indeed a grand spectacle-something worth seeing-you would then know what a Grand Army looked like.

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I visited the City on Saturday-but little to be seen but soldiers and Army trains. It presents a fine picture of a City besieged-heavy fortifications surround the entire place-upon which are planted

heavy pieces of Artillery-entrenchments are thrown across almost every Street-and behind there are planted Artillery-roofs & tops of the highest and finest private residences in and around the City are prepared for riflemen. Citizens cannot get out of the City-no provisions are brought in the city except for the Army -and such cannot-by the laws of war-be sold to citizens. Now you may wonder how the inhabitants live-so do I-many are really suffering for want of provisions-how they are to live through the winter-I know not. The City is now surrounded by the entire Army of Rosecrans-and whatever the Country has produced this season-is taken by the Army-we have to send twelve miles into the country for forage now. Misery and want seem to stare the people of this miserable Rebel City in the face-I pity none but the children-the men did all they could to bring this war on and since it began-that women have done all they could to keep it up-they are the bitterest-the most Rebels we meet. Last spring when we were here-the women would insult us in the streets-they are not so bold now-but as spiteful as ever- I think before the winter ends-they will be [starved] into a better humor; nothing like starvation to humble the willful and rebellious.