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Camp of 15<sup>th</sup> Reg' t Ind Vols near  
Murfreesboro Tenn March 22, 1863

My Cousin,

Your "notes" of 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> inst were both found in my tent today- awaiting my return from Nashville- whether I had gone on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst I believe the letters came yesterday. I have had a rich and very (funy?) time-went forth on business but principally for pleasure. But I must tell you of the adventure to day. The passenger train left Nashville at 7 AM to day- the train was composed of four passenger cars-six or eight freight (and?) express cars and one open platform car for the train guard-consisting of one Company of Infantry. When about 8 miles from Nashville- the train was attacked by about 40 guerrillas- firing at us from a thick cedar thicket and not more than 50 or 60 yards from the train. Our guards returned the fire and a good many Officers fired at them with revolvers-none of the passengers were injured- the Captain of the Guard was severely wounded and two of his men slightly wounded. The train did not stop- but the way the bullets rattled against the side of the cars was a caution. I enjoyed the affair largely- had a fair sight of the rebels and as it was not very serious- I enjoyed it largely.

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There were several citizens in the car I was in- agents from the North-when the firing commenced- it was decidedly rich to see them slip off their seats- crunch down in the bottom of the car half frightened to death- and see them slipping off their boots and slipping their wads of "Greenbacks into their socks on the bottom of their feet and drawing on their boots- heaving heavy sighs. ha! ha! ha! It did me good to see them- had to laugh right out in their faces. I did not know but what I would get a "parole"-but did not succeed. There has been considerable skirmishing and some rather hard fighting along our front lines within the past few days- but you will see accounts of these in the papers if you read closely. I should not be surprised the enemy were foolish enough to attack us here before many days- if they do- they will be the most whipped community you ever heard of. I feel confident that we are fully able to meet them and in better conditions than ever before- I am quite surprised at your remarks concerning my "beloved" - (you/your?) will be cousins- you ought to be ashamed to talk so- I will not be called "bachelor cousin" longer than I can help- give me until the war is over

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as a young man-and (missing portion of the letter) after that- if I can not a (missing portion of the letter) man-then call me "(bachelor?) (missing portion of the letter) I wrote to cousin Minnie (missing portion of the letter) ago- poor girl- I fear she will (missing portion of the letter) well again. It is very strange (missing portion of the letter) does not get well- he must cheer (missing portion of the letter) and do something- go to Indiana (missing portion of the letter) spend the summer. Have not heard (missing portion of the letter) from Aunt Angie for some time (missing portion of the letter) do not know what can be the matter (missing portion of the letter) Enclosed I send you that Phot' of a m(missing portion of the letter) who says he will send you another (missing portion of the letter) he gets better looking.

Excuse this short letter-as I have a (missing portion of the letter) thousand and one things to do (since/soon due to missing portion of the letter?) I have been absent three days. will write you again very soon- Love to all.

Your Cousin

(signed)

WM McKinney