

MS92_9_8_03

Home April 28th 1863

My dear cousin Mattie,

You have doubtless heard ere this time-that I was at home. I started home on the 10th inst on a sick leave- had been sick for three weeks before I started- was first attacked with bleeding at the lungs- and had three attacks before I started home- and on the day I started- commenced bleeding severely as soon as I got on the cars. The train I was on was captured by Rebel Cavalry about 12 miles from Nashville- and although I was bleeding at the time-the miserable rebels marched me 15 miles that night- then halted and paroled those who would accept paroles- through the advice of some Surgeons that were along I accepted a parole. The Surgeons told me that in the condition of health I was then in- that it would cost me my life to be marched farther as a prisoner and then be placed in confinement- so I paroled myself-though I do not believe Gen Rosencrans will recognize the parole as binding according to the terms of the Cartel for paroling prisoners.

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I got back to Nashville on the evening of the 11th and started for home on the 12th arrived here on evening of 15th completely used up. I have scarcely been out of the house since- I am better then when I got home- yet I am very weak-my lungs sore and painful- and have a severe cough. I am taking, a regular course of medicine and hope to be better soon. If all things have moved along as I hope they will. I want to visit you within the next two weeks. All the rest well- excuse this writing-for I am so nervous that I can scarcely hold my pen. Write me as soon as you receive this.

Your Cousin

(signed)

WM McKinney