

MS92_9_8_06

Newtown Ind Aug 5th 1863

Cousin Mattie-

Yours of the 29th nlt received yesterday evening- though scarcely able to sit up this morning. I will try and answer it. For more than two weeks past- I have had the chills and fever evry day-and heavy night sweats evry night. I have taken a vast amount of medicine- and yet evn get nothing to act upon them and break them up. The physicians say they are hectic chills-caused by debility-bad blood- and a generally diseased system-and very difficult to get clear of. If I do not get them broken up soon-they will break me up entirely. Yesterday afternoon I had a slight chill-but about five hours of high fever-last night could not rest for coughing-spit up some blood during the night- this morning I am so weak and dizzy headed. I can scarcely move about. I suppose I will have another chill this afternoon. I am a great deal weaker and poorer in flesh than when at your house. I am not worth a cent to anybody-and worth less to myself

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I cannot find any physicians that seem to know anything about my disease or who treat me with any success- all they do-is done by way of experiment-they saying-that perhaps such and such results will follow-well I am getting tired of being experimented on-and that to-at the expense of my life- I am not now able to travel-if I was-I should start out to find some one that seemed to understand my condition. I have taken medicine enough during the past month-to either kill or cure a dozen men-and all to no purpose.

I am now staying with Lizzie in town and have been for over a week- her husband is in Ills. on business-but will return the last of this week. I wish I was back in Ohio now- you need not be surprised to see me step in one of these days- if I get the chills broke up and get able to travel. I am still in the service. I heard the other day from my papers- they were not drawn up correctly in some particulars and were not approved-as soon as I get able to go to Indianapolis. I will send forward another paper and try it again- if I were only able to go to my Reg't I could soon get a resignation put through.

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I should like to have been at your house while Renn was there and while you and her were putting away wheat in the barn- you must have been a beautiful pair of ruddy looking lasses- I presume the fun of the business soon wore off- and it was too much like hard work to suit either of you. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves satisfactorily over my juvenile letter that Abby was so kind as to make a show of for your benefit-all right-you know I am not easily scared or plagued- could have enjoyed a laugh at it with you-had I been there. I had a long letter from Aunt Ann a few days since-she wants me to come to Dayton and try her Doctor. The folks at home are all well-except Father- his ankles are so sore that he can scarcely walk at all- Excuse this poor apology of letter-I am so unwell that I am in a poor condition for writing-cannot think of anything-have no ideas-Write me soon again.

Love to all.

As ever
(signed)
WM McKinney