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Camp of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ind Vols - 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade-1<sup>st</sup> Division-  
21<sup>st</sup> Army Corps- Department of the Cumberland  
near Murfreesboro- Tenn- March 3<sup>d</sup>, 1863

Dear Cousin Mattie-

Yours of 20<sup>th</sup> nlt containing the long looked for Photograph received this evening. I reply on sight. The "picture" pleases me much- looks very natural-just as I expected. am really pleased with it- though I will not refuse another and a better one if you will send it. I am going to Nashville to morrow-if I can (preme/frueme/prucml?) a pass-to look after some of my Company-who are there sick. Will try and get a few Photographs taken-and send you one. Have not received Aunts and Emma's pictures yet-they were sent with a man belonging to the 25<sup>th</sup> Ohio-and that Reg't is at Nolensville- some 20 miles from here-and I have thus been cheated out of my pictures- I only hope they will wear his pockets out so badly he will get tired carrying them and forward to me. I wrote you a short letter the other day-since which time-nothing strange or startling has transpired- and of course have no news to write now-wish I had-for I am at a loss to know how to fill this sheet\_\_\_

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As usual will have to make up my letter by "rehashing" yours and taking particular notice of your sarcastic and very "knowing" sayings. Speaking of "Bachelor Cousin" reminds me of the fact that I received a letter this evening- the same time I did yours- from a "gal" I had not heard from for nearly 2 years- and it was so nice, tender and conciliatory-that were the "Bachelor" out of the service- do not think you could call him by that“(ajus/cyies/cjus/crjns?)” title long. ha! ha! ha! How does that suit you- Cousin mine- would it not be real “phunny” to hear of the nuptials of old bachelor Cousin and a fair young Miss of seventeen summers. ha! ha! and it may be. I tell you she is an angel- a perfect beauty- I have carried her "picture" clear through the wars- it has been my constant companion in marches and in fightings- was with me and next my heart at the battle of "(Thane/Yhang?) River"- it is the talisman that carries me safely though. You did not know it- was in my keeping when I was with you. I know you did not or you would have been trying to get it-just as you did that one I burnt up at home-do you remember ha! ha! ha ha-how you tried in vain to save that one for our dear "old Aunt Angie"- but failed most signally ha!ha! Would you not be pleased to see the picture of my fair "Dulcena". No, No, you would not look at it if I should present it to you-would (tuss?) it from you in Contempt. But you may see her some day- will you hear her name-no I won't tell it to you ha! ha!

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I am (wary/very?) I did receive a Valentine – (indeed?) I looked far over from your Ladyship. We deal in nothing but “left-handed compliments” in the Army, they grow spontaneously in this climate and county – does that kind suit you, if not I will try and change my “time”, for with all my accomplishments you know I am a Musican – and can sing or talk to any time that suits the (lenrer/heuren/beurn?) best- ha! ha. I am a little nervous to night. Ha! ha!

ha! wait till you see me – gossip you had better, by that time, you can “woman palaver” me as much as you please. I’ll be married by that time and used to such “(hagere/brague/bragere?)” am much obliged to “(we/me?) girls” for their small talk. This the (timed?) best-suited to their (Daugues/Vangues?) – slip off the easiest. “We girls” own use it faster than “boys talk” even “spin” it and in small but lengthy threads. Besides it is more fitting the “mental (Culabere/Culabre?)” of “(we/me) girls” than “boys talk”. “Ah! for the special benefort of “your sex””. ha! ha! Well spoken in your own defence. A good apology surely for want of capacity – to use “boys talk.” And your company was nearby Ladies- a fine and very interesting assembly- no doubt – a vast-amount of “weighty talk” and an matters of part “import”. Did I call you “mean” certainly if I did. I did not “mean” half I said or said half I “mean” which is it? I am a very plain (orphan?) man – and say what I “mean” and “mean” what I say only when I don’t. I think I was (fodimate/fortunate?) in saying of you – what was never said of you before.

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"Honesty Hill"- honesty now that is is nice subject to write upon to a man in the "Yankee Army" you might as well look for a (tcup/deup/duep/deep?) fresh water in the middle of the Ocean- as talk of honesty in the Army- it is an entirely foreign subject- not know here- not congenial with this climate. But "Conscience" yes plenty of "conscience" here- vast amount of it- a surplus- we have plenty of that commodity here- but no use for any of it in the Army - it is not in demand- what does a soldier- want with "conscience". I left mine "to home" with that "gal" I wrote you about. Ah! that "evil spirit" will be two of them when I make you a visit- wont be (house?) be (lannted?) though- the motives I mean those who are not "evil spirits" will have to flee for peace somewhere else. Yes, I am a good judge of "Car time"- will not have to be pushed out of the door more than six times before taking a hint- am not quite so dull of comprehension as you might suppose- just wait- and see if I do not make you a "tremendous" visit when the war is over. It will be one of the great occasions at old Camp McKinney when the "distinguished" personage arrives. Uncle R L is correct-the war will soon be over-at least- within a twelvemonth- then look out for old broken down soldiers-very worn and careworn and "Wild"