Wis  Dr. James Theodore Reeve
Mss  Private Journal— with 10th Wis. Reg.
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Private Journal
Camp Holton Near Milwaukee

Friday Evening November 1st 1861

Some time since, when I left my quiet home for the train, my goodwife put into my trunk this little book in which I was to keep a kind of diary. Well as usual, I have procrastinated putting off any commencement day after day until now I am getting quite domesticated used to camp life. Let me see, a little retrospection may be very properly best, an as an introductory my commission bears date Oct. 18th from that time until I left to report myself at Camp as being ready for duty. I have a most distinct recollection of the greatest confusion, a general turning up of every thing. Several separate at parting with articles of furniture endorsed by association. The breaking in of strangers to see what we had to sell for nothing or give away, nearly limits backing head previous efforts to settle up a business which had gone along for about one year without a general settlement and just here it occurs to me to record any con
Action was a practical one. Not such a pursuing is bad policy. And then a final good by to very many good personal & professional friends. But the greatest struggle has to leave one with whom seven years of the sweet happiness of an earthly nature I have ever known have been spent. But at last it was all done. We were separated, and I retired myself in Camp that very coldly received by the Col. as also by the Lt. Col. & Major, and at once entered upon duty as Captains Surgeon. My first office is Captain Surgeon has been where the ground amount of work, still stands own principles, and now expects things as did the next day. Yet now when the 8th of October and to day is the 1st day of November, I am just getting fairly used to this kind of life, sleeping in these little 9½ square tents on earth. How great the change between Civil & Military life. How often I wish loving voices to loving letters and almost feel that this sacrifice if comfort I have made has been greater than I can bear; but then Laura, bless her, does not refine but sustains me in it all. O this cruel wicked Rebellion.
Which we are striving to crush—how many heart-bounds it caused to ache & bleed, age & how many more into bleed before we see the end how can tell save that who holds the destinies of nations in his hands. He doth all things well.

That furlough which I received, how often do think of that with comfort & satisfaction, it was a complete surprise to Laura. She was pleased to both of us because it was to—the discomfort of getting home were memorable—especially the ride from Appletown in that heavy Emigrant wagon—but that was of no account.

Things are moving along pleasantly. There is a certain kind of charm in this military life. Albeit the discomfort are neither few nor slight yet present discomforts are probably not even a forfeit. I am pleased with my associates in most respects. Though I would that my more immediate associates at least were men of spirit which I fear they are not, Dr. Mitchell however is a member of the Episcopal Church. Our Chaplain who was elected a day or two since from among the Chaplains will I hope be a faithful man & do us good.
Here is not the man whom I would have chosen; it is not at all probable that he would have been the one elected, had he possessed talent for the place from which he was taken. The final vote I am told stood for Capt. Coffin 7, for Rev. Mr. Blake 5, and for Rev. Mr. Blaine 1. Mr. B. confidently expected to be chosen.

It had been with us for about three months already, that expectation, I felt sorry he was so deceived as to his chances. Though, I cannot help feeling them any better men for the place. The second man named was from Racine, it was a friend of Major McIlvaine. I told Mr. McIlvaine of Mr. Chipps had the place but then I know it is now my duty to sustain Captain Coffin. I hope he will prove better than any years lead me to anticipate. Camp life is not I am thoroughly convinced at all favorable to growth in grace. May God grant me strength to prove faithful to my profession of love for him.

I have seen quite a number of friends since I came into camp. Among them Rev. Phelps Coleman, Robertson & McIlvaine. Their visits were bright spots.
Yesterday I received a letter from Laura, which tells me of the good health of herself & Mary. They are safely in Egypt with friends.

Yesterday also I had quite a trial in reference to pay. I have been led byero to suppose that I was to receive as part of my pay the wages of a soldier taken which to pay a servant and that I was to receive an allowance for servants clothing & for forage for horses. But I was further led to believe that I was allowed these perquisites whether I actually kept the horses & servant or whether I dispensed with them as I have done. But when we came to receive our pay, we were required to sign a certificate in which occur these words: that I actually owned & kept in service the horses I employed the servants for which I charged, for the whole of the time charged. Not one of our officers so far as I know & I think I know of all has kept any servants thus far; or it may be that one has kept a servant a week or 2 & only one or two have kept horses. Yet every one, without exception signed their pay rolls & received their money. The pay masters evidently expected us to do so for our pay accounts.
were all made out by him filled in with things for horses, wages & clothing & Rations for servants and this too when he knew perfectly well that we did not keep these things. When I went to the pay table which was not until the room was clean of all but Dr. M'Cormick, Mitchell & Summervil & McConnell, I said that I could not conscientiously sign such a certificate. They were all evidently surprised & tried to convince me that the requisites were due as a part of my salary & that because I had not needed these horses & servants I had consequently got along without them was no reason why I should not receive pay. That the State expected it & even the paymaster said that if all the Regiment he had paid off he had found but one who had failed to receive money for all these things when it is well known that all the first but very few have them, because for the first month or two or while we are in the States we do not need them, and even this one subsequently tried to obtain the pay he at first did not take. He further said to me that he had no authority to alter the certificates but
If I would allow it to be filled up & sign it, he would pay it & ask no questions. He even showed me in the Army Regulations one place where the pay of the men is

recorded in feet, also mentioning every thing. And according to a certain sum, said Regulations in that place paying nothing about not keeping horse or servant &c. Still I could not see it to be right to sign such a certificate. When he did this, the consequence was that I received some $38 less than those who signed the certificate. I have been spoken to by quite a number about it to day. They all regard me as foolish & say it was my right that the certificate was a mere form & promised that I will get over such troubles. Possibly I may still I cannot see as yet but that I did what I should. I think I ought to have the money to make the salary & sufficient one, but cannot think its right deliberately to certify that I have kept Servants & horses in service & further to describe said servants when I have had as such things. I have

it is true kept a horse, but he is not such as I want with me. Consequently I left him at home for sale & because I had him not with me have been obliged to pay traveling
fees, but I could not consecutively charge for him— not having kept him in the
fees. I have thought this matter worthy of this full care because
I may wish it for future reference—I intend writing about
it to Lena, to see how the matter looks to her at that dis-
tance. So how often I miss her counsel. If it can right so
I cannot see how it can be otherwise is it possible that
setting into the Army to actually plaintiff conscience for is it
because there are so few with tender conscience who get
into the Service?

I was down town this afternoon to paid for my food
each meal, to the tune of $40.00 which seems to one to be
just about $20. more than they ought to cost. Yet every
thing in the military line is charged for himself in the same
style. Sent letters to day to Mr. Westford also one to Mr. Butler
asking him to send me more bedding.

Camp Abercornbe.

Near Shepheardville Ky. Nov. 16. At Carl we are in an
enemy country—or at least in a country where there
are enemies. Last Saturday we struck our tents in
Milwaukee and left for Louisville—travelled from 9:00.
mett Sunday at about 7:00. at which time we arrived in
Jeffersonville Indiana having made no pause, save for
Our needs to the necessary delay at Chicago caused by transferring baggage from one depot to another. The commissioning officers were invited to take tea at the Merchant House, but I was not feeling well enough to eat. In Chicago I saw Charles Stewart and Nancy Green that was. She was at the depot looking for me. This is the most familiar face that I have seen. I wonder sometimes how long it will be before I see another.

At Jeffersonville we ordered to encamp in this place. So spending the second night in the car we started on Monday morning. The commissioning officers taking breakfast at the Louisville house. Jeffersonville seemed to me one of all forlorn places the queer forlorn. Mr. Heades, Mitchell, really started on Saturday evening to get forlorn supper. We went to the principal hotel at about 1/4 before nine & asked for a meal, but were told by the landlord that the women were all in bed. Therefore we could get no supper. Every one seemed asleep. Almost every house was dark. Finally we found a miserable Dutch grocery saloon open & for some crackers & cheese. I regained of the women at what time people generally went to bed in that town. It was told that they were up pretty late that night expecting to see the regiment's parade. She said she depa-
and it must be half past nine O'clock! And then in the
morning the people who were up when we left abt about
7 O'clock were all a sleepy looking set. We were leaving
for our boats to enter a slave state & fight battles here for the
preservation of the Union but from the inhabitant of
Jeffersonville as far as I could see we received both od
cheers, a wave of the handkerchief or a token of commendation
of any kind - Shame upon the place — The whole
Regt save a few who had gone over with the baggage to
guard it were sent down the River to Louisville at once.
A good joke we had when the Col as we were crossing the
ford to that we were crossing the Ohio & thinking we were on
the Potomac as we turning away from there, he called out
to his men for 3 cheers for the friends we had left before
the Maryland shore. They were given with a will as one boy
always gives cheers and as they died away the Adjutant spoke
to the Col reminding him of the mistake. The Col was
mounted at the time & as he comprehended the mistake he
threw himself from his horse in a wonderfully quick manner
and the laughter of the whole crowd - I remarked to
him that it was all right for our friends on the side
ance there, hardly deserved to be cheering us. We were well treated in Louisville, when we took breakfast. Which aside from the large proportionate number of Negroes behind the ear eastern city. About noon we reached our friend's camping ground which is on the line of the Louisville & Nashville R.R., 18 miles from Louisville & on the Salt River. a very pretty place, surrounded by a very pretty country. As in the physiography of the country, it is a right circular country I reckon. We selected at first, a very pretty ground which was entirely level, but a little rain convinced us that we had better get a dryer location. Accordingly yesterday we moved it a few rods to higher ground but where the camps cannot be laid out so compact a shape.

I have heard a great deal of Southern hospitality, especially of Kentucky hospitality. I have always been anxious to see something of Southern life, but I am very afraid my opportunities will not be good ones. Though here the people are very kind. Last night I went out with Coffin & spent the night with Dr. McKay, who is a fine representative of a gentleman. We were very kindly welcomed & invited to come & stay. Our conversation ran such as to make
as feel at ease. The Dr. is a strong Union man, has a son who is a Sargent in the Union Service. The Dr. has been in practice here for 30 years. Has a fine farm & is a slaveholder. There are very many slaves here, but all look contented, well cared for & happy. I am anxious to form my own ideas of this peculiar institution & believe I can do so candidly. A day or two since a few of us went out to the Pamprite (Soda & Sulphur) Springs, where we saw a witty & communicative colored gentleman who accorded us for a while with a history of the springs & of the titan. Out of these, also of the packets which nearly carried every living away. Dr. Mitchell asked him who was his master. There he replied that he remembered that he owned himself. I thought this a good opportunity to gain a little information. Consequently I ventured to ask him such a question, as this "Sure now you don't feel any happier or enjoy yourself any better as a free man than you used to do when another man owned you, do you?" His reply came promptly, in a Yankee way but with deep feeling: "Well now massa let me ask you a question. Do you feel any better to be your own master & able to do your own pleasure than you would if another man owned you. You were cour-
sulded to do as he bid you." "O yes, I said, but here that has been
my condition always. I have never known any other state but
that of freedom, while with you it is different." "Yes massa
say be, I know it but I have tried both conditions & therefore,
freedom
was any manner or condition that someone is more sweet than
it would have been had I never been in bondage." He further
said to me that his wife & children were slaves, that were they
free be would not remain here, that he was continually in
anxiety lest his good master should die or some other change
happen by which he would be separated from his family or they from
him. Though his massa was so hard to separate families by sell-
ing a part, I was very guarded for I would not make a slave
contented. I only seek to know the true feeling condition of
these unfortunate race who I often think are more despised by the
North than by the South. I was talking of this slave with
McKay. He mentioned him as a zealous church member
but as a shiftless worthless man, mentioning that his owner
or rather his former owner or the three owners of his wife and
children had given the farm of a good farm to acres of all were
clear and on condition that he would support his own wife & 3 chil-
dren, at he was unable to do. Poor slave, oppressed by the South
desired by the North, his lot is truly a hard one—certainly
in his present condition for freedom and self-government a great
responsibility rests upon those who hold them in bondage.

God in His own good time I am convinced will free them. How
or when we know not. Perhaps this war may give to the
institutions of slavery its death blow—possibly it may only
turn to strengthen or establish it. One thing seems certain
to me, those who own or keep slaves do so with good
consciences. They know no feeling like that of guilt, because
of their positions. I shall watch carefully through guilt.

The have been changes with this climate. In Milwaukee
Convent of us was indispensable. Here they have been thrive
while a number of the time events have followed them. To day however
it is more chilly. A fire in the Hospital, where I am
writing, feel comfortable. Other fire places I see are a heating
institution. There is very much more wood here than I suppose.
The country is not so settled. Around us almost in a circle
rimming over hills or humps as they are termed here leaving
us in a valley. Black & white walnuts abound. Peach is
tasty. Fruit is not plenty though many peaches are raised.
The Persimmon grows wild in abundance, is palatable.
When fully ripe as it is now & I can tell may be eaten freely or is somewhat nourishing. They is growing upon many of the trees here the Mistletoe, & gives them a very peculiar appearance. I examined one of the trees to day & was surprised to find that the growth was from a swollen & seemingly unhealthy portion of the tree a kind of fungus it might be called, yet not like a fungus either for over it the bark seems healthy. The tree I examined was an oak tree, all the leaves are dead & mostly gone yet the Mistletoe looks fresh & fresh as in Midsummer. The new sprigs I collected were 2 or 3 inches in length, the appearance of a single sprig is not very unlike that of young white geese though it is common. They grow from these swollen parts of the tree in branches, growing from the swollen limb in all directions. The smaller branches them to the eye as a distance a green mass of say 8 to 12 inches in diameter, while some are much larger & they appear very singular & attractive. This afternoon Mr. Thaxter & myself took a little tour about the country so as to understand it geographically & calling on our way home at the springs where we encamped a portion of a Regt of Kentuckians. Their camp is Camp Washington. Major Gauld is now in command. Their soldiers are very much smaller than every way inferior, no
appearance to ours, who is here highly complimented. It might
for the first time our sentinels are armed—a precaution
adopted probably because the sentinels of Co. K. which
guarding a Water Tank & Telegraph office some 3 miles away
from here, were fired upon last night. About 40 of the Ky
soldiers guard the P.R. bridge here every night. For though
the general sentiment is that of Loyalty, yet a few secessionists
could do vast damage. Several of the bridges of the R.R.
have been destroyed by Rebels. Who have also stolen & are using
the southern end of the road. Buckner is thought to rather
known to be at the head of a large secession force at Bowling
Green some 55 to 60 miles from us. Our boys are anxious for
a brush with the enemy. We expect to be called into a
fight before long. Probably within a few days the Rebel Buck-
ner while commanding the Ky. State forces had an encamp-
ment just across the river from us within sight of this camp.
I believe.

Shepherdville Ky. Nov. 28. Friday has been Thanksgiving Day.
in Ky as in many other States. As to our Thanksgiving Day it
is a memorable day. At least it has been so ever since the
occurrence of a remarkable event in my life history.
The events occurred 4 years since—how different the circumstances of to-day. Then the nation was in peace and prosperity. While to-day she is torn and distracted by a cruel and wicked rebellion. I am feebly trying to aid in crushing—feebly I say yet with my whole might. It has seemed little like even Wisconsin Thanksgiving. There were religious services in town, but I could not conveniently go over. Everything has been so very dull and quiet that I have been really quite homesick—-I sent you a little Gleam of Sacred Poetry. "Hymns from the Land of Latrobe" in it the date Nov. 22. It reached me on that very day. I hope my little package reached her at the same time. I spent that evening again at Dr. Kaye—I am very much pleased with the Dr. with the M. C. If they represent Southern people I do not wonder that Southern Hospitality is notable, yet I am not pleased with the Kentuckians generally. They are very kind to us—in winter we out to dinner—give us every attention in their power—but about many of them there is a sort of Coarseness which is unpleasant. I think this remark is more true of the ladies than of the Gentlemen. Yesterday we took dinner with Rev. Mr. English a Baptist minister, an extensive
It is somewhat worn out by being a necessity. I do not know how justly I have entirely unjustly, but he is in a great need of gold. He is a tight place, being largely interested in slave property in an adjoining Co. to this also in real estate in Louisville. He might be confined for ever or to join the secessionists, and being largely interested in property in extreme Southern Ky. Wh. might be confiscated were he to assume himself a Unionist. As it is his policy seems to be to keep one committee. He speaks freely of slavery, feels as if he would have been better off if he had never owned slaves, but having always owned them & never been accustom to waiting upon himself even in the smallest matters until middle age at least, he feels as though he could not get along without them. Says he feels very much attached to them, would resent any injury to them or to his own family. & so I have no doubt of this attachment between master & slave. An attachment existing upon both sides. He took dinner at Dr. W. Keys the other day and this attachment was shown by Mrs. W. K., a little slave some 5 or 6 yrs. of age, equally a pet of hers & both parties act very much like mother & child.
I am thoroughly convinced that slavery is a curse to the people. Children are brought up in habits of indolence, unaccustomed to work where themselves were in the slightest degree. Everything they call when their servant, even when they are little children. The result is they are unfit for self-government—unfit for anything we need personal exertion. And the slaves—naturally indolent and careless—leave everything to chance. This country is naturally a free one. This village like the rest in the state for ages—yet everything lies between carelessness and want of thrift. The stock of every kind is the poorest I have ever seen anywhere, for no possible reason but because everything being trusted to these hands is neglected. Good northern white labor would in a very short time change the face of everything. As a specimen, Salt Run on Wh. we are encamped is here as wide nearly as the Fort at Green Bay. Has an excellent stone bottom, with a abundance of stone that last on the whole length of the river, a single cable bridge—here it is fordable. Elsewhere on woods where there is a vast deal of travel it is fordable over—log houses are common. Carriage of any description are rarely seen. Horseback riding is universal.
with perfectly 2 or one small horse, and on the wagon horse, the negroes usually ride or drive with a single line on operations in wh. I can see no possible advantage or convenience—Shepherdville is a town of very ancient appearance. It does not seem as if a building had been erected in it for the last 10 years—Mr. Ethington believes that Ky will before long be a free state. It certainly seems to me that such a state condition would be to the state a great prevailing blessing, yet perhaps not immediate—For the people are unfitted to support or help themselves.

Bacon Creek Ky. Dec 24. I don’t write much in a journal I perceive. Much of the time since the last entry we have been quite busy. We left our encampment at Shepherdville on the W. The Reg. was relieved by the 3d Minn. state. which has been in the field a shorter time than we have. Since then they have been much divided to guard different R.R. bridges & important points. They had the Belgian muckets. The dead horses, a miserable lot of muckets were they that were were were furnished with I think less than half of them, I think would go off at all. Very many of them would break at the hammer or lock on the pins fired endangering the lives of those around.
They declared their determination to attack them rather than proceed southward with them. The determination of the Indians was wiser. I was made aware that our Ricks should start on the Sabbath, but I will not undertake to say that it was not necessary—only it seemed not so to me. We 3 Mississippians received us on Saturday & our Ricks started on the following morning. It seemed to me that Monday morning would have answered as well but I may not have known all the circumstances. As it turned out however it might as well have remained for when they got to Rolling Rock they had to wait until Tuesday before they could cross the river. Stetchelps himself was left behind in charge of the sick. There being all expenses for marching some 50. Much of the baggage was left behind and the order being to start at 8 the next morning the whole day was consumed in getting ready. Packing up we went to the depot at 8 the next morning. I waited the entire day for transportation but no train came for us. So at night we went back to town. I remained until Wednesday morning. Tuesday evening the I went to O MIskips. It was a lovely night, so warm that we all went out.
and sat on the Porch in the bright moonshine for a long time. That night’s sleep was a wonderfully refreshing one. I had been feeling quite unwell for two or 3 days, & much so that I feared I was coming down with a fever. I took Quinine & Opium liberally however I knew it off, but was completely tied out by the labor of Sunday & the waiting at the Depot on Monday. Monday Even I went to the Angelina (publishing) but got no refreshing sleep. Next night rest therefore was a perfect luxury. Well we started on Wednesday morning - got as far as Rolling fork Mils. and found the bridge which had but a short time before been washed away was not quite completed. (The waiting for the completion of this Bridge was what detained us at Shepherdsville) so we waited there again until evening when our train was run over the bridge the 1st one taken by an engine on this side & on we sped. We reached Elizabethtown about 9 P.M. Four miles before reaching Elizabethtown we passed through a magnificent tunnel several hundred feet in length cut through the solid Rock - a kind of granite apparent. Mr. (Mr. Mitchell, Lieut. Lowery & myself) were
acknowledged to ride through it on the engine so we had a good view of it by means of the head light. The scenery along the R. R. for some 10 or 15 miles before reaching Elisabeth town is wild and grand in the extreme — the road was of a heavy grade before reaching & town — a grade of some 70 feet to the mile — a portion of the way right on the side of those cliffs or as we would call them mountains — on the one side the valley lay hundreds of feet below you — on the other the rocky hill were as high above you — several ravines too were crossed by bridge which seemed to be elevated two or three hundred feet. Perhaps appearances were deceptive but it looked a wonderful way down — the side reminded me of the scenery on the western end of the N. Y. & E. R. We reached Elisabeth town late in the evening — the镁 being out a few hours in advance. A portion of our men remained on the cars all night. The balance of them we took to the Court House, Court Houses are handy institutions in these times as we found out at Shepherdville, when we wanted quarters for our sick men. I had as sound a sleep as I ever had on some tent in one of the baggage cars. In the morning we went up to our new camping grounds, “Camp Harris” about 1/4 mile from
The town. The Camp was finely located near the residence of a man who was thought by many to favor the secession party. The Camp here is in the woods and is beautifully located. The troops stood the journey well & the sick list diminished instead of increasing. Our regiment has been brigaded with some Ohio regiments, to wit the 21st, 21st, and the 33rd. Temporarily under the command of Col. Gill of the 21st. We are in Gen. O.M. Mitchells Division. Gen. Me. is the well known Astronomer of Cincinnati O.

Elizabethtown is a very pretty little place of some 2 or 3000 inhabitants, but wears an ancient aspect. The plan of the town is somewhat singular. There being in the center a public square, around which the principal buildings are erected. The square itself is intersected at right angles by streets. Near this place was born Abraham Lincoln, our chief Magistrate. There is much bustle in the streets but it seems to be all occasioned by the presence of army wagons & soldiers. The limits of the business of the place must be very small.

The men enjoying themselves as men in that most magnificient manner. Weather, warm & sunny. When suddenly on Monday last the 17th the order...
came to be ready for a march at 10 AM. Dr.Marker went to see Dr. Blackman (Prof. B. of Cincinnati) who is our Division Surgeon. In reference to our sick. I came back hoping we were to leave them in care of Dr. B. who would see them provided for. So I was preparing to leave with the Regt. (Dr. Mitchell was detailed away the day before to see to some sick in the vicinity of Nolin) but as after the Regt. was getting in motion Dr. Blackman rode up & requested me to remain in charge of the men. So I was left again with no instructions only that I was to send such as I thought best to Louisville & rejoin the Regt. with the balance. Where they were going to I had no idea. Dr. Blackman seemed wonderfully confused, & utterly did not know what to do. I had a time with the men. Three of them I sent to Louisville, where I got to the depot I found no Dr. B. to further I found that he had made no provision for transportation of sick, as a matter of favor the conductor took them. When I got back to camp I found that there was nothing for the men to eat but dry crackers, Dr. B. had told the nurse where to go to get any thing he needed but when the nurse went there he found they knew nothing about it. By dint of perseverance t with the assistance of Dr. Mitchell was returned in the
Evening we got a half supper and in the morning he picked up a breakfast I never knew how. and at 8 o'clock we struck our tent, I went to the depot. There Dr. Mc. was offered by Dr. Blackman to stay for a time in a temporary hospital he had established. So I came on with the main about 20 in all. At 10 o'clock we found the rearguard had gone ahead. So on we proceeded to this place. About 4 miles back we passed the Brigade. On the march - I immediately got out of the tent and sat up on a short time had our men comfortably established on the banks of this little creek. Then I went back about one and a half miles. I found our Rebs preparing to encamp on a ploughed field away from water. I represented to them my location and told them of its advantages over the ground they were on. So they came here to encamp just back of where I pitched my Hospital tent at first. Our new camp is called Camp Jefferson. It is located near a small stream on a gentle slope of ground. The location is probably the best of any in the Brigade. The weather up until the day before yesterday, for about 10 days had been the most magnificent I ever saw at this season. Fine clean
day — with a little frost at night — not sufficient to freeze in our tents — and the moon in all her loveliness — it was splendid, but a change has come over it all — Saturday it was lowering & threatening — Sunday it rained hard nearly all day — and yesterday it was cold & very uncomfortable. The thermometer stood at 24 above zero — but somehow it seemed colder than that cold night at Shepherdsville — when the thermometer went down to zero — to day it is warmer again. 

Muddy — the soil is of a heavy clumpy nature — the mud is muddy — I pity the balance of our Brigade who is principally encamped on ploughed ground — I pity the men to who have to come to the creek — a long mile for water — we are fortunate in being so located as we are in reference to this great desideratum — Palmer's absolute necessity a running stream.

Dec 25 — A Merry Christmas — I hope the good friends at home have been having to day — It has not been so very merry here — though the boys generally have been permitted to roam about & enjoy themselves — a privilege they have availed themselves of largely — They all seem in good spirits to night — To day at noon — all of the Medical Staff of the division were requested to meet at Division Headquarters.
When Gen. Mitchell met us & talked over the interest & wants of our department—the principal question in his mind seemed to be as to whether it were better or not for the men to have straw in their tents. For my own part, I say I have discarded straw from my tent & suffer no inconvenience in consequence—all very well Gen. Me., for the fine camp bed, which forms a portion of your furniture is very preferable, but try it a few nights on the ground if you please. The Gen. tells quite pompously about having nothing to do—he got for thought, but gentlemen say he "I am no egotist—I am a very modest man"—I hope he will find something to do in successfully directing us to victory—He thinks we are to have a long & tedious war. Returning to camp we had a splendid dinner with Capt. Hillige, such a dinner as I supposed it hardly possible to get up in Camp. Capt. H. is one of the finest men in the West, & his is the Company—the men are the best behaved, the most peaceable & contented of any in Camp. Many of the men complain of having insufficient food—they never complain but have insufficient to spare. Soldiers rationing, on Wh we are living seem to come rather tough. Hard bread, mayb be something, but it is hard, & our coffee would be better if made well.
and sweetened with white sugar & flavored with cream, but brown sugar or even molasses without milk. Even, go’s down after a fashion I think we will learn to eat to live.

We are now located 65 miles from Louisville on the Louisville & Nashville R.R., Green River is 8 miles from us. We are the rear for the present. North beyond that point the road is in possession of the Rebels—They are stationed on the South Side of the River. Our troops on this side with a few thrown over daily as Peaches. It is thought we will advance in force when the bridge over the river is rebuilt—It having been destroyed by the Rebels—the bridge over this stream has been twice destroyed by them. It would puzzle them somewhat I think to destroy it. Now there being 10 of our Regiment stationed at this point.

To day I met Dr. Bogue, Surgeon of the 19th O.R. He is a nephew of Mr. Underwood of Green Bury.

One thing seems strange to me—we here see but very few neat gardens—Very much less in proportion than we saw in Shepherdsville. Possibly their “owners” have been frightened to fear them Southward. Everything about here denotes shiftlessness and want of energy as it did in Shepherdsville.

Sam B. Still in camp at Bacon Creek inactive.
have however removed our camp to more elevated ground. The boys call it a retreat as we have moved about 1/4 of a mile backward. We have been having much rain of late & the roads are terribly muddy. To-night we are having a thunder shower. It has rained nearly all of the day & last night. A forward movement of our army will be almost impossible, if indeed it at all enters into the plans of our General to advance it. I almost doubt. I almost begin to fear for our ultimate success. I do not believe our army is in as efficient a condition now as it was 2 or 3 months since. To me it seems to be daily becoming more inefficient because men living in the way soldiers do, almost constantly in the mud & with so little to eat, it is difficult to encourage them any longer. Men in the army not receiving pay. I fear some are losing health & life. My only wonder is that there are not more deaths, though they are numerous enough. Our own Regt has been favored with better health than many though I fear it must break down if the state of things continue. Our sick list is now about 18 in Regimental Hospital and 45 sick in Quarters.
out of a total of 914 enlisted Men & 38 Commissioned Officers we now have the smallest sick list of any Regt in the Brigade The 37th Indiana (in our division) has been particularly unfortunate about a week ago they lost 5 deaths & in one day Dr Blackman visited the Camp & found fault in some way with the management of matters which led to some words between Dr B. and Col Hazard the CO of the Regt & in the course of Dr Anderson the Surgeon of the Regt & the Chaplain of the Regt got mixed up in the matter. The CO ordered the Dr[B] out of Camp & had him escorted out by a file of Soldiers with fife & drum. The CO also placed the Chaplain under arrest. Dr Blackman of course reported the matter to Col Furniss commanding the Brigade who put Dr Anderson & Col Hazard under arrest. Dr B. has been arrested lately by order of Col. Swift our new Medical Director. I think he was not arrested but suspended—Col H. is to be Court Martialed. I understand that he is no favorite with his commissioned officers. Col. Chaplain thinks however that he has the right of that the matter that of Dr Blackman as Medical Director had any fault to find or orders to give excepting the facts he should give them by an official order in regular Red Tape style. What will be the result I can
not tell of course but it has made a considerable of talk. It has been severely commented upon by some of the papers. Dr. Blackman has resigned of it. We are very glad we had him as a man & doubtless he is a very able lecturer & practitioner but she was entirely out of his element & evidently did not know what to do very few of the time. His successor is Dr. Scott in a Surgeon of the Regular Army & seems to take care of his thing systematically so far we like him. Gen. Mitchell talks largely about making our Division the most effective & best disciplined of any & then asking for to be placed entirely in the advance. Just here the Col. has come into the tent with another proceeding from Gen. Mitchell to give whiskey to all those on guard.

Last week I was up to Louisville in charge of some sick - 27 from our Regt. 10 from 2d Ohio 7 from 3d Ohio 20 from 24 Ill. and 78 from 37th Indiana. I was much interested in visiting the Hospital but the treatment did not seem to be so very scientific one. One of our patients had typhoid fever. The hospital steward merely glanced at him and directed a table spoonful of clear brandy and

...
declared necessary. So far he said that was all the treatment they gave any of their typhus cases—A.)
ble, thorough. Of clean Brandy very good—Regardless of delirium or of any symptoms that might
cause them that of Reminded for which they gave Opium. This treat-
ment he said was a very successful one—Perhaps so
but it did not seem a good one to me. In the
Hospital where I was in Crescent Hall, there were some Lady
Volunteer Nurses—Capital ones I should judge—But not
Permanently connected with the Hospital. One lady
in particular I noticed as being very decisive and
judicious in most respects but she gave Whiskey
to every poor soldier who came in it seemed Seem or wished
for him—One thing they brought in excellent food
Whether such was the case always I do not know, but the
Hospital Steward told me they paid 40 cents per day to the
man who had the contract for feeding them, an allowance
which ought to provide them abundantly but with the best.
In another Hospital (not the Physicians in attendance\nmaking his daily round with a handful of powder. His notion
of the patients seemed an exceedingly careless one.
me name at the paitying with 2 questions. “Have you dreamed? Or you cough much?” And to each the directions seemed the same “Take one of these powders.”

There are in Louisville some 70,000 General Hospital in which I saw two but far from 100 sick soldiers. Some of our boys have returned this week. They say they were not well cared for by the Surgeons; that in many cases, they received no treatment or notice of any kind for days. Nothing is certain they came back not at all benefited by the treatment they received there. In a day paper Louisville Journal contains an article of 25 who have died in Louisville Hospital during the last week; one of them is of our Regt. I took this one last week. Apparently not very sick, he had been some time ill with Bronchitis, but was only confined to the bed at all. While in camp, I learned for certain to D. & B. Ambrose & Co. in Louisville. It was a very unpleasant day & I never got an Photograph. They were both good ones, but I hope this will be pleased with them.

Col. Chapman's wife is in Louisville the day them to see her to morrow. I wish my wife was there too. My boy Richard is very sick & cough, has been ill for about 2 weeks and
St. Mark's was prescribed for him to night and since he may not recover. Boys seem to break down under the hardships of the Camps. St. Mitchell's boy was quite sick for a long time so finally went home. St. Mark's boy has been sick for some time though not confined to his bed & he goes home on Monday. Nearly the same business has attended the boys of all the Officers in Camp. I hope my boy will eat well but if he does I shall have to send him home for he will not be fit for service for this winter probably.

The night before last (Jan 15) I had quite an adventure. In the shape of a professional visit out of Camp. Said visit being ostentatious attendance upon a Miss Walker—a lady of intelligence. It would seem odd at first to commence private practice again but the experience I am gaining will I hope be of great benefit to me if I ever do again practice my profession in private life.

Jan. 24th. Very suddenly & unexpectedly my boy was taken worse. Shortly after I had finished writing the above and before the next morning dawn he died. He had been ill for about two weeks with the common fever so prevalent in Camp but did not seem seriously sick.
at all notice that evening. Then we did not think he was in any immediate danger only Dr. Markham said he was afraid we would lose him. Not thinking as he afterward said that he would not live a week or two longer in any event. He seemed to have a kind of fit in the evening from which he only partially roused into consciousness. His name was Richard Houlet of Alma, Jackson Co., Wis. Poor boy! he is buried by the side of young Parker of Co. B. Who died in hospital a few days previously. I have learned since his death that he was subject to fits and spells. That in his life was sometimes despairs of "spells" which came on suddenly as did the closing one of his life. He had been with me twice about two months but had been fit for duty little if any more than half the time. He was sick a long time in Shepherdville with measles. I have it to conceive me that I did not urge him to come with me, but rather persuaded him to the contrary after he had been with me a few days. I before leaving Milwaukee. He joined military as a soldier but was rejected because of being under height. He had a brother


I have felt very badly to lose him in this way. My conscience reproves me because I was not faithful to his spiritual interests. He was one of those billions seemingly stupid and indifferent ones. So that it seemed hard to say much, but I was not doing my duty. God grant me more of his Spirit to enable me more to show it in my life and conversation.

The Army is a hard place morally. Still, this is only in truth an additional reason for why those who love Christ in it should be faithful. I often ask myself am I advancing in spiritual life or am I retrograding? I have but little outside help but I know that Christ is ever near and knows all of my wants. May he can at easily supply them here as at home.

I have been thinking for a few days that I might be recalled from the Army. God Harry seems to recommend the recall of the State Assistant Surgeon. I shall be long to go home until the close of his war, but I know of my position that I would wish in the Army. To one of its Medical officers that position I would like for two reasons - to do my little to
help in putting down this rebellion— and to gain experi-
ence in my profession, but in this latter I am some-
what disappointed. I think it will benefit me largely
but it is different, very much so from what I anticipated.
This morning at Surgeons Call we presented for about
150 or 160— men but there is a want of the Declared
number of limited articles of medicine & Surgeons call men be-
named through with two in time for reports. Surgeons call
at 8 o'clock, Reports to be completed by 9 ½ o'clock. Every
is to procure, 6 Marks having to treat the Battalion (Sommier
& Simpson) this gives us say one minute to each man on
an average (The Hospital Steward says he put up 163 Prescrip-
tions this morning) I do not all like this place which Red
Falls decides to be the only one. It seems to me like making
the getting out of a report to be the great object, not the
caring properly for the sick. There has of late been very
much sickness in camp, not much of it serious being
very serious. Diarrhoea prevail to a terrible extent. I
think nearly half of the whole Regiment is thus troubled. The
cause may be traced generally to the food & habits
of the men. One great cause was the need of flour to
The men, as they had no conveniences for cooking, butter was made into a sort of pan cake with salt water, cooked in grease—nothing more nor a particle of anything to cause it to rise. It made many of the men terribly sick for a while, in some causing great dysenteries. Then to the men seen to have little judgment. They expected until they became sweaty, then when they got to their tents, possibly threw off their overcoats and coat off suddenly, giving the perspiration towards causing diseases of the lungs or bowels; and they are careless too in their tents. Much of them have fire places or stoves in which they have fire. The consequence is that the tent is very warm when they go to bed, they feel very comfortable, but before morning the fire has gone out; they get cold. I think 6 or 8 in the small tents. The air gets to be very impure—especially unless they have a few tules near the top of the tents. And to this may be added carelessness in reference to personal cleanliness. Many a camp becomes very indifferent to their appearance. It has even so strong a notion as the preservation of health of life will cause them to keep themselves and their tents and tents clean. To this they must be ordered positively by their Commanders.
Sunday Morning. Jan. 24. We are up early this morning in consequence of an order of Genl. Mitchell's that all commissioned officers shall with to their columns immediately after Reversal I am glad of the order for my part at least it need not affect me unless wise, in fact my position is a wonderfully independent one, in one sense to have any control whatever over my movements, K. isq in speaking of it the other day said that he had no right to order me, I am not particularly charmed however with freedom from responsibility nor am I free in a moral sense, the moral responsibility of my position is as great as if I were legally under the control of the Regiment's officers——

March 29th — a long pause only and one which covers many interesting events. We are now at Menefeesboro Texas in Camp Parole. I am sorry I have so neglected to keep up the Diary, but we have done much marching & sitting has been part of the time out of the question all of the time relieve, I will try & give a brief retrospect. We remained quiet at Bacon Creek until Sunday Feb. 9th. when quite late in the evening Genl. Chapin received a sudden summons to head quarters, not long afterward Short after Short was head
going up from the different regiments composing the division. Soon Col. C. returned with orders for an advance. Early the next morning with the intelligence that division was assigned the honor of the advance. They went up short after short from one regiment also. There was but little sleep that night for we had much to do. Sack to despatch of medicine, to pack hospital stores to look after. We started on the morning of the 10th quite early leaving behind 180 men on the sick list with Dr. Mitchell, Geche, & about half the hospital nurses in charge of them with the full expectation that they would all outtake us in a day or two or a few days at most. Some of them including Dr. Mitchell & Geche did not outtake us until we were at Nashville some weeks after, and one of the nurses alas will meet us no more on earth. Poor Koehlert. In his death I feel as if I had lost a friend. I liked him much. He was but little sick when we left but soon rapidly down. I died at Elisabethville. When he was sent by Dr. N. 1... One first days march was about 10 miles, passing at Maumfordville. What had previously been the advance, and making the first permanent encampment on the south side of Green River. The only federal troops on this side previously...
having been. At Manassasville we passed the Gallows. Willich’s Regiment who a few weeks previously had so defeated the Rebels, killing their Rebel Col. Perry. Close to their encampment & in a beautiful pile surmounted by one solitary noble oak, enclosed within a sandy ditch. Outside rests the remains of those slain in that battle, their names being inscribed on a massive granite slab. From hence we crossed the River on the Railroad Bridge, a Pocahontas looking structure it was. I forget the height but believe it to be 125 feet, certainly it looks steep. I crossed on horseback, it looked an immense way to the water. Immediately after crossing we came upon a long line of earthworks the work of the Rebels to protect that side of the road. Our camp was a mile or more from the bridge up the River & almost directly across from the 1st Wisconsin, who could be plainly seen. Green River is a rapid stream, of considerable width & with very abrupt banks in many places almost perpendicular. Our stay here was to be a short one—On the morning of the 13th we again advanced this time headed for Bowling Green a distance of about 40 miles. The first day’s march was made slow because of obstructions in the road. In the shape of fallen
The work of Rebels by W. they evidently thought great to retain our progress. Thanks to efficient efforts we were not greatly retained thereby as was proven by the fact that we made 78 miles that day. Our route in the morning led us to visit the scene of the battle between Wilkes' troops & those under Col. Terry, whose dead horses with several others were still lying on the field. One fellow belonging to the Division picked up there a very good Revolver. There was but little of interest then for a few miles but it was not very long before we came to one of the most barbarous proceedings of the Rebels. In all the route from Green River to Bowling Green there is no running stream the country being dependent upon ditches or Ponds. The were numerous along the route, and etc. The Rebels evidently supposed to be necessary for an advancing Army to use this water the more especially as their obstructions were in their estimation calculated to delay us very considerably. And they resorted to the plan of driving animals of different kinds principally broken down horses into these Ponds & slaying them there, in some places putting as many as from 3 to 6 in each Pond leaving them there to putrefy - and this was not the work of individual soldiers acting without authority but was done by order.
If the officers commanding - Gen. Howard - I was done October 7th. But upon such proceedings in Civilized Warfare, it is a disgrace to the Cauver & to the Author. We camped at night as Bell's Station, near to the still burning ruins of a Railroad Station house, destroyed by the retreating foe. It was quite late when we camped but we pitched our tents and threw a few blankets on the ground soon forgot our weariness. In the night it stormed, and I waked in the morning to find myself lying in a water bath. But the morning was a fine one for marching. We pushed on in good spirits. After a rapid march of a few miles we made a long pause, perhaps two hours or more. We was now fatiguing more rapidly and we had no water for some time. About the rest of the distance to Bowling Green was made without a pause in double quick time, which was a very severe operation for the men, they being burdened with their guns, cartridge boxes, knapsacks, & the combined weight of which is from 5 to 60 pounds. The men bore it bravely, being excited by constant reports of fighting & skirmishing ahead. We found not to be true the fighting all being on our side. Our Artillery, Lourin Battery, it is true, was firing at the enemy but received no de-
The Bridges we found were destroyed. The upper Road Bridge being still running. The Confederates being on the retreat. Our advance, saw parties of the Rebels across the River and fired at them. It is said that we killed seven & caused a wonderfully quick retreat. We camped near the River - that night I expected an attack - indeed, we had reasons to expect fighting at any time after leaving Green River. Why many an attack was fully expected. I can hardly define my own feelings with this constant expectation of an approaching battle - They were not those of fear, but there was a strange mingling of dread & anxiety, interwoven with not a little impatience. We almost took the form of wishing for the expected contest. Then I was first told that we might expect fighting & told in such a way that I felt the importance or expectations had a basis. Here was for an instant a terrible feeling of depression, almost a wishing that I wasn't there, but then feeling was gone & to a slight degree. I presume however a very slight one. I felt that ex-Standing or anxiety for conflict of war, I have read as being the feelings of a soldier in or just before battle - we had no fight however to our victory at Bowling Green was as bloodless one.

The whole Army was in motion again at a very early
from the next morning Sat. Dec 15, some Regiments as early as 2 o'clock preparing to cross the river by means of a ferry a mile or more below town. Only a few of the troops crossed thus however, while to the last word came back that we were in complete possession of the town. Then went up again wild shrill wild & joyous - the shouts of a victorious army for Bowling Green has been largely fortified & had been largely boasted of by its Rebel occupants as impregnable. It was the place too to which we had been looking forward for months as the Battle field when perhaps many would be called upon to lay down their lives in defense of their country & their flag. Now it was burnt without bloodshed - Our route to this ferry led us past a wild & romantic spot - where quite a large stream, almost overrunning the name of River - perhaps quite as large as our East River bursts suddenly by two heads from the base of a perpendicular cliff perhaps 50 or 60 feet in height. Some of the boys descended to the water by a roundabout path & found it warm. Our route lay close to the edge of the cliff - there was no more cooling that day after the announcement of victory but we all went back to our camps with colors flying & with Band playing patriotic airs - The next day was the Sabbath.
but it gave us no Sabbath day rest. In the afternoon we crossed over to B. C. on a temporary foot bridge built upon the remains of the P.B. Bridge Wh. was 7 ft. long. The banks on the south side is Rocky & some 50 feet in height, nearly perpendicular. One baggage was all carried over by hand at immense labor, for the path up the cliff was long & slippery & in places too narrow for two to walk abreast. I think I never saw harder work, but at last it was all done. The stuff carried in rushed into town & I camped out on them that night. I got wet before morning & wakened to feel that this style of living was worse than any thing I had ever before experienced. The next day I explored the town, a gloomy one I never saw. Naturally beautiful it was now nearly desolate. Every Where stone houses, dwelling houses & buildings of all kinds closed & desolate. The surrounding hills have been shorn of their beautiful groves to give place to fortifications of which there are ten. The one our College field (so called) because it was once the seat of a college. Wh. was destroyed by fire but Wh. was at the commencement of the war being rebuilt, portions of the structure serving as a part of the fortifications) is esteemed the most formidable. The work endures several acres. To me it did not seem either so formi
able or so scientific a work as that upon Baker Hill on the N. Side of
the river. The place in good times had a population of between three
and four thousand; now perhaps little if any more than half that
number. A considerable of Union sentiment was manifested. Then
were a few sick Confederate soldiers & many hospitals. I was
told that between 3,000 & 5,000 were buried there. Many of them being less
than two feet under the surface. If twice this must make the place
frightfully offensive in hot weather — One of the saddest sights
in the way of destruction of property which I ever saw was the
ruins of the depot & engine house, in which were some 6 or 8
engines, a neighboring building had been filled with commission
stores — with five cars. Some thousands of bales were destroyed by fire.
Cutlasses of almost all imaginable makes were plenty. Large
quantities of provisions were also burned — yet much fell into our
hands. Oil for a time was our only means of subsistence.
On the 18th we moved 4 miles southward & encamped until the
22d. When we pushed on — Marching all day through a furious
rain storm, with water over the roads in many places over shoes
deep, in a few much deeper. At night we reached Franklin in
Southern Ky. & quartered for the night in deserted buildings. Many
of the men thoroughly shivered. I found quarters at the house of a
Mr. Smith, who himself seemed inclined union-wise but whose wife was
of Southern sympathy having two brothers in the Southern Army. The
next morning was the Sabbath but the men marched on. This day crossed
the line & landing in Tennessee fairly in Dixie. That night
I stayed with a Dr. in Mitchellville - a very intelligent gentleman
who talked candidly & honestly avowing his sympathy with the South.

He represented the feelings of many, as having been true to the
Union until the state formally seceded, but who newly felt that their
duty was to the existing government which they heartily sustained. He thinks
this class will heartily return to the Union if it gains the ascendency
again & seemed to intimate that many whose feelings of honor bound them
ever to take up arms against us would gladly return to us. But not
until we reestablished the power of the Government.

The next day's march which was a very long 0 had one brought us
near to Nashville, where we encamped until 30 crows the next morn-
ing. When the camp was active to move ahead expecting to enter the
city. This was on Tuesday morning, July 25, but we were not to en-
ter Nashville that day. Negotiations for the surrender of the city were
never fairly undertaken were still going on. One pocket having fired
in Edgefield two days previously, the City Authorities in common with
all the citizens were perfectly panic-stricken over the fate of Davidson.
Nashville immediately sought our forces formally to give them possession of the city. The Confederates having all fled. This day Tuesday Nelson forces came up the Cumberland in Transports having with them one gunboat. The Confederates having against the urgent remonstrance of the citizens destroyed both the R.R. & the Pike bridges both of which were very fine ones & the combined cost of both were $400,000. We waited until Nelson landed his forces & then set fire to his transports. The landing on Country was on Thursday the 27th. When we marched right through the city encamping 4 miles below on the Furnaceford road.

The passage through the city was an extremely interesting one, because of the various emotions displayed by the citizens on a few being glad to see us. Many appeared indifferent but most seemed bitterly to lament our presence, some even to the breaking of hands and to tears. Few deluded creatures. We seek to do them good but they despise us. I hope they will learn our true character.

We remained in camp 4 miles South of Nashville for some weeks. I made some visits to Nashville, saw some of the wounded from Fort Donelson etc. but my stay there was
not a pleasant one as I was quite ill for a time with the very prevalent Camp Depency. On the 25th of April March in front forward again to Murfreesboro, I being then just able to move, but being benefited by the operation and I have found that almost all the soldiers suffering from Camp Depency are.

At Murfreesboro which is a quiet pleasant little city of some 3000 inhabitants, nothing recession in their sentiments. Our Chaplin was appointed Parson Marshall. We brought our Regiment into duty as Parole Guard to make them believe they were to remain for some time. They therefore took great pains in setting up the Camp which was pleasantly located, adorning it with every means of making it altogether the finest camping ground I have ever seen. I was often made homesick there by the tones of the old home clock so wonderfully like the tones of the bell of my own dear Church in Deer. Now one of our best I must believe Captains resigned his commission because of sickness Capt. Phillips Capt. K. The resignation was accepted we parted with him with regret.

On the 25th of April the Regiment moved forward for Shelbyville. I did not go with them because Col. Chaplin's wife expecting the Regt. to remain at Mr. Telegraphed her husband...
that she was coming to him. The telegram having been received
the day previously, the Col. therefore requested me to return to Nash-
ville to bring her forward to Shelbyville. At this time I started back
arriving at Nashville on horseback. The same evening Mrs.
C. came. The next evening she was Saturday 8 on the Sabbath.
To Chapin himself having obtained leave of absence went
to Nashville I met us. Mrs. C. had with her two children. To
the Col. could find no carriage to take them to Shelbyville. Presby-
torays $40, we being unwilling to do he took his wife and
child in the buggy in which he came from Munfreesboro, leaving
one child at the St. Cloud. I with myself as a body guard
on horseback again we started back on Monday afternoon.
Riding that afternoon 16 miles & stopping for the night in a
fine mansion owned by a kinder lady who has two sons in the
Second Army, but who treated us well. I had that afternoon
severe attacks of Cholera Mortis. Suffering much I took
hence a feeling unable to ride in the morning. I was able
indeed to sit on my horse, but taking my breakfast on
ride on to Munfreesboro. Where we took dinner. Wine being
a cup of tea or a nap. In the afternoon we pushed on
it made Shelbyville, a distance that day of 46 miles.
feeling much better than when I started. I was looking for my supper, simply another cup of tea. As we reached the camp, we arrived only to find the regiment under orders to move at 5 o'clock the next morning. So her long journey gave her but a very short visit. We left her there, telling her money.

Tullahoma is a very pretty little town somewhat smaller than Murfreesboro, but having the rare virtue in this country of being loyal, our presence being greeted with all demonstrations of joy. We greatly pleased the men. The leading man whose views were eminently sound was a Mr. Porter. It is said he is the elector for President of the Southern Confederacy. The people of this town showed their sentiments to their dislike of the Davis rule by nominating for the office one of their own citizens, giving to him a majority of all the votes cast.

On the 9th of April we advanced to Fayetteville, a small town in S. Tenn., where we remained but one half day, but pushing on a long forced march brought us into Huntsville, Alabama on the 11th. The place was taken completely by surprise. Gen. Mitchell having made prisoners of the citizens, along the road to enable him to accomplish this, the capture of this city is one of the most important
Exploits of our divisions or at least so it seems to me, we continue the Memphis & Charleston Rail Road. The great Bossy Brigs R.R. communications between the Eastern & Western Armies of the South. We captured here some 250 prisoners including several officers among them Capt. Morgan a brother of the notorious Col. Morgan. But what was more important by far we captured I believe 117 good Engines & a large N. of cars, a valuable Machine shop &c. The loss of this road is more damaging to the rebels than the loss of thousands of prisoners we had fore the capture of the cars proved of much service to us. Gen. Mitchell & his human energy bringing them into immediate use. The next morning after reaching Huntsville the expedition of which I was a member, were sent out beyond Stephenson some 70 miles to the back and beyond the junction of the Nashville & Chattanooga R.R. to destroy a bridge there. The object being to prevent the rebels from throwing a force up this Nashville Road to get into our rear thereby troubling us of which there seemed danger as the rebel were at the time of our capture of the city rapidly sending reinforcements westward to the Army near Corinth. The expedition was an entirely successful one. We returned in safety the next
mornin having Captured on the way other Enquirs I am short nothing but one man (from our Regt. from C. J. Knopf & Little) who was reported missing but who in a day or two found his way into camp. Now we found that another expedition had gone Westward as far as Decatur about 20 miles, vacated the Tennesse river and place they hold.

April 28th. We have remained quiet in camp until this time a part of our forces being as far Westward as Issacville a part of them (from our Regt.) as far Eastward as Bella Fanta. I was out Westward this week as far as Courtland. This is one of the most beautiful cities I was ever in and now in the height of its beauty. Roses & flowers of very many kinds known to be known abounded filling the air with fragrance. Everything looks very forward & inviting. A day or two since I dined some Strawberries ripening. I like this city of 4000 or 5000 inhabitants. With its finely tilled walks its splendid avenue & its beautiful gardens adorned with boxwood & evergreen hedges. I think in times of peace I could be well content to dwell in so beautiful a place. But now even the ladies treat a Federal Soldier with a scorn & contempt that seems very unladylike. We are to leave to-morrow.
April 27. Sunday. To day we left Vicksburg going eastward about 50 miles by rail. Where we came to a bridge lately burned by the rebels, since our expedition of the 13th. We crossed on floating bales of cotton we proceeded to another one mile from Stephensville where is another burnt bridge. Where we crossed in a ferry boat. This being how tedious work gave us a nights rest. That night we were advanced into Stephensville.

That afternoon I accompanied two of our companies on a squad of cavalry some 6 miles through the woods where an ambushed party came home on two before had fired where a scouting party of cavalry killing one man dead body was still lying in the road, but not finding the rebels we returned to Camp.

April 28 - This morning we were startled by the lookout messengers having come in reporting the rebels a few miles distant advancing on us in force. We were quickly formed in line of battle a couple of miles from town and for some hours we awaited the expected attack. We of the medical staff in the meantime selecting our ground and making all necessary preparations to care for the wounded.
but the attack did not come, and about noon Col. Sill who up to this time was in command ordered our reg
tac back to town, it having at first been in the center of the
first line of defense. But while on the way back we were
over by Gen. Mitchell who ordered us to about face. I insisted
of standing longer on the defensive changed the programme
to the offensive moving us forward 12 miles to Bridgeport,
where we anticipated a battle with the enemy part of
some 3 or 4 regiments being there stationed, but they made
no resistance or at worst an exceedingly feeble one. They
fleding in confusion. Our men poured in several batterys
making it seem a little like a battle. The enemy's artillery
was across the river which is here divided by an island.
In their retreat they fired both bridges thus preventing us
from pursuing them, though our men rushed across the
first & main bridge putting the fire out from it. I was eager
to see the battle & got as far forward as possible. So that
the one solitary shot from the enemy's artillery came quite
near to me, giving me the pleasure of seeing a cannon ball
in the air. In the flight the enemy left some camp equipage
provisions &c. We fell into our hands, also a number
If prisoners were 40 I believe they also, thankfully abandoned their two pieces of Artillery though between us a large branch of the river was flowing and there were no pieces we received, evoking for the purpose in an odyssey. We also received as a trophy their flag. The first return on the 1st day, only a portion of our regiment were there, until the close of the firing because awaiting supply of provisions. I had ridden on to the head of the column.

May 22nd Returned to Stephens

" 6th Returned to Bellefonte."