Memphis, Tenn. Sept. 8, 1862
Monday.

Dearest wife,

I have been here since yesterday and return tomorrow. I did not feel quite well for some days at Helena, and to get away from the court that made me nearly crazy, I went up here to have a couple of days rest. I am better now. I met Shrieve here and have been with him altogether. He brought me your dear letter — I am so glad Francis is getting better. I thought it might have come to St. Louis, but await news from Curtis. All the idle rumors about his removal I knew to be lies. Maybe the troubles in Kentucky might cause our Army to be moved in a different direction. I am anxiously waiting for news. — If you have a pleasant use of the horses, keep them by all means.

It is the biles that trouble me, and my blood is hot. I have several boils on all parts of the body. I shall soon be entirely well again. I am so happy at knowing you so comfortably situated. Love to all — your ever devoted

[Signature]
Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent developments in our country. The situation has worsened significantly, and I believe urgent action is needed to address the underlying issues.

I have been closely monitoring the events and have noticed a significant shift in public opinion. People are growing restless and their dissatisfaction is escalating. It is crucial that we take a proactive stance to prevent any further deterioration.

I understand that this matter is complex and requires careful consideration. However, I urge you to consider the impact of your decisions on the overall stability of the nation. The current situation demands immediate attention.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten signature]
Office of the Chief Quartermaster,

ARMY OF THE SOUTHWEST,

Helena, Sept 12 1862

Dear wife, I received today your letter of 7th inst - that is quick. I am glad you are so well and Francis improving. Also that Herman enjoys his horse so much. I got the letter Elzy brought, but don't remember about a parcel. I sent you father's picture but cannot conveniently find Christiansen. I will try to get that letter from Chicago - there is nobody could get hold of it. - Mr. Shen will be in St. Louis in a week or so, and he having many good friends there I have asked him to try to sell the gray team for me, as I think it is rather useless, and you can as often as you please send to the best Livern stable and take a drive with the children. I expect Stephens will come
down here to see me very soon, and he will probably call on you on his way. I shall be very glad to see him.

I am quite well. Dennis has a little fever. I have heard nothing as yet from Carl Curtis or any of them. I think he will come back here, although everything is so uncertain.

Love to all!

Your affectionately,

[Signature]

[Name]
Helen. Sep. 26th 1868

Dearest wife,
I feel rather lonesome since Steve left. Curtis and all of his staff, Charlot and nearly everybody is gone - the days grow cooler and fine, and I long very much to get away from here. Still I must have patience. I am keeping very quiet yet in my room and do not see anybody on business. My doors open directly out on the river and the air is charming. I hope in a few days to see Shine here again. I have not yet had a single word from Charlot or any of the Curtiss' family, which is very strange. I hope to God you are all well. I see by the newspapers the weather is getting cooler in St. Louis. Let me soon hear from you again. Ned Milton went to Saint Louis yesterday and will have seen you before this time. Now good bye, dearest wife - may we soon meet again and be happy with the children.

Yours loving
Ferdinand
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Monday, July 21, 1863

Dear wife, arrived this morning all safe and am already ordered of to General Rosecrans Army. I leave tonight and have to report to my old friend from Dubuque Col. John W. Taylor, the Chief Dr. Mr. of that Army. It is very likely he will put me in charge of river transportation at Nashville. Or perhaps it will have to follow Rosecrans on his marches. At all events I am glad enough to come to an old friend. Kiss the dear children thousand times from their loving father. Love to Wilhelm and wife and all the family.

Your affectionate,

[Signature]
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 22, 1863

Wednesday.

Dear wife, I did not leave yesterday not being able to get ready. I start today at 12 o’clock with my 3 clerks, Eddy, Reid and O’Keefe. Asmhee has not arrived yet. I enclose Franks letter to father about the death of his son Axel, which moved me very much.

Dear wife, I am now starting out again for a long absence, of which I did not dream when we parted. But cheer up — it gets every time harder to leave, but when we next meet it will be all over with this war. — Let us be patient meanwhile and thank God for all the comfort and happiness we have enjoyed thus far. Think how much others have lost.

Kiss the darling children from your loving

Ferdinand
Louisville, Kentucky.
Thursday, July 23rd
7 o'clock morning

Dear wife,

I left Cincinnati yesterday on the "Major Anderson" and had a delightful trip down the Ohio River—arrived here this morning—leave in 15 minutes with railroad for Nashville, where I will be at 6 o'clock tonight. I write in a hurry just to let you know I am well and how I get along.

Love to all

From your

P. R.
Winchester in
Tennessee
Friday July 24, 1863

Dear Wife,

At last I am at the temporary end of my journey. My orders were to rejoin in person to Col. John V. Taylor, Col. of Artillery in person at Pulaski, Tenn., then Headquarters of the Army of the Cumberland. We arrived at 6 last night at Nashville, 185 miles south of Louisville, thus crossing the whole State of Kentucky from north to south, and a beautiful State it is, picturesquely wild and full of rich valleys, all in full crops of corn and grain. At this I was much astonished, as I had always thought the country was "devastated." But such a never ending garden of waving Corn and Oats and Wheat already gathered, I have never seen. At Cave City, some 80 miles south of Louisville, I was only 10 miles from the famous Mammoth
Cave, made more famous by the visit of Richardt and his black picture of it.

Nashville is a large city, beautifully located on the broad Cumberland River. But here it looks more like war; all has a faded, dirty, neglected look. We stopped at the "best" hotel, the St. Cloud - $3.00 per day, and nothing to eat - but the rooms and beds were good. At 5 o'clock this morning I left Nashville alone - my 3 clerks remaining there until further orders - this time the locomotive had a kind of fortress in front - a large car built of heavy timber with shooting holes for the infantry - intended to clear the road from guerrillas. From Nashville to Sullivan is 75 miles - it goes through the battlefield at Stone River and through Murfreesboro, and the
whole road is a succession of forts, rifle pits, camps and barricades—all the railroad bridges are guarded, and here again I am in the center of real earnest military life. Headquarters have lately been moved from Tullahoma (a dirty town with a pretty name) to Winchester, 2½ miles farther in the front and closer to the enemy's lines. This is a charming place, hilly and high over the River. It used to be a famous southern summer resort, and was also known for its higher educational institutions. From here we have a splendid view of the whole range of the Cumberland Mountains, on and behind which the lines of the enemy are located.

Colonel Taylor received me with much joy. I had a good
dinner and shall have a long talk with him tonight to know where he will assign me to duty. I am tired — it was so tremendous hot in the car, and we were delayed some 4 hours on the road on account of a slight accident we met with.

I learn here that Nin is in Nashville — what a pity I did not see him last night. But may be I have to return in a day or two.

Now love to all — I long to hear from you — but feel glad I am at the end of the long, tedious journey.

Your loving

[Signature]
Nashville, Tenn.
Sunday July 26th 1863.

Dear wife, I left Colonel Taylor yesterday noon and returned by Rail to this place, where I will stay and wait for further orders. Taylor is very anxious to have me as the Chief Depot Quartermaster here, which place is now filled by a Quartermaster of the Regular Army, with whom he quarrels continually. But it may take a week or two before he can work it around, as General Rosecrans now is here and nobody knows when he will return to Winchester. But even if this plan should fail, he is anxious to give me a good place.

It seems to me such a long, long week - I can hardly realize that it is only a week ago today I left New York. I am tired out of travelling and have a severe cold in my head - so it pleases me well enough to lay quiet for a few days.
I have heard nothing from you as yet—
but cannot of course expect any regularity
until I get some fixed station. Address
your letters now direct to here, as I
will take a P.O. box tomorrow. Even
if I then should move, I can have the
letters sent directly after me.

What have you and Wilhelme and wife
determined to do in regard to travelling
or moving? You must of course all
follow your own wishes, as I am now
too distant from you to take any part
in such consultations. You must all
do what you like best—as it is probable
enough that I shall get no leisure at
all until the war is over.

Tell me all about your country life—
do you all pass the days as when I was
there? How are the children enjoying themselves
—did they get the swing? Have your
mother and sisters spent any time out there
with you? What has been done to
Christensen—but it is useless to ask
all these questions as your letters and Wilhelm probably already tell a good deal about it. I think you and Wilhelm could agree to write me a letter every second day— I mean upon the one day, Wilhelm the next, and Christiana also, so that I could know how you get along every day— even tho' it is only a few words to let me know that you are all well.

Kiss the children from their loving Papa.
Dear wife, Day before yesterday I had an introduction to General Rosecrans, by Mr. Shine, who is yet here to my great comfort. I had a long and very impressive conversation with the General, who seemed to like me well enough. In fact I know from what he said afterwards, that he has already formed a great opinion of me, and said that I was entitled to a Chief Quarter-mastership. On leaving him he said to me: "Perhaps you will have to go with me when I go — but we will see!" If this should prove to be the case, then I will soon take Taylor's place, as he is anxious to retire and perfectly worse down. Meanwhile nothing will probably be done until the General has gone down to Winchester, which is expected to take place every day. Rosecrans is evidently a very superior man — he deserves
from a Swedish family which settled here some 200 years ago. I was very much pleased with him — he is frank, open and quick and seems to be free from those prejudices so common with officers of the Regular Army.

Meanwhile I feel very lonesome and lost. The weather is very hot, and having nothing at all to do — but few whom I know — nothing to read and nothing to play — the days are very long. Added to this comes the cold in my head, which would prevent me from enjoying talk or reading or playing if I had it all at my command — and thus I feel anything but comfortable. How I wish I could lay quietly on the grass under the large trees at Glen Cove — even the rain would please me — here it is all sunshine and dust.

I hope soon to hear from you. No letters from anybody have come as yet — but I think a day or two more
must bring me some.
I had left my new boots outside my door last night to be brushed, but they were gone — stolen — this morning. The landlord will, however, pay me the value. I think I shall move out of the dirty hotel today and room with Thine in a comfortable private house.

Goodbye dearest — love to all

From your affectionate

Ferdinand
No. 7.

Nashville, Tenn.
Wednesday, July 29, 1863

Dear wife, At last I have done waiting and my immediate future is carved out. General Rosecrans has ordered me to remain here as Chief Depot Quartermaster in the place of Capt. C. H. Hodges of the regular Army. For a few days I am going to work in his office to become initiated and then he will leave and I will have full swing. I need not tell you I feel proud and happy — as much as this can be the case under compulsion and away from my own. This position is next to the Chief Quartermaster of the Department, and is a more extended and important place than the same in St. Louis. This is the Depot for the whole Army, over 100,000 strong and Rosecrans’ main reliance. I can thank Shane for most of this honor — he has daily and warmly pressed
me upon the General's Notice, am
Roosevans himself taking such a sudden
fancy to me, he has thus at once made
me jump over 63 other Quartermasters,
that are on duty in this Department.

So I stay here and can take good
care of myself - I have plenty of Quar-
termasters at my command and need not
work as terribly hard as in old times
in Helena. I will get a horse and ride
daily, and go out of the famous Sulphur
Springs, 1 mile from town and also use
the same for baths - an establishment for
that purpose being near the Springs. As
yet we have had no mosquitos here at all,
and very few flies.

This much for today - I know you
will all be glad on my acct., that having to
be away, I have got such a honorable and
at the same time, pleasant position.

Love to all - as yet no letters
have arrived.

Your loving

Ferdinand
Nashville, Tenn.
Thursday July 30, 1863.

Dear wife, I have been all day in the office to become initiated in the new business, and I have no doubt it will not give me much trouble. It is very likely that the entire control will be given me on the 1st of the next month.

I long very much for a letter — it is now nearly two weeks that I am in the dark about you all. I rather expect that Col. Taylor has letters for me, which have not been sent up yet from Winchester.

I am hunting (and have others out hunting for me) for a good boarding place. I want a sleeping and sitting room, and will take meals out of the house. You can hardly form any idea of the style and magnificence of the residences here — Nashville was always considered one of the wealthiest and most refined cities in the South — its public buildings are truly grand, and the Capital of white Marble.
on the top of a hill, is the
grandest building I have yet seen.
Here the military Academies were established,
which many years ago, where most of
the southern gentry is educated - preparatory
to the rebellion. This explains also why they
had so much better officers than we. The
house I am in at present, belongs to a Dr.
Jennings. He is immensely wealthy. He
and wife (they have no children) left this
city a year ago and are now enjoying themselves
in Europe. They left a magnificent home in
charge of their 8 negro servants, who now
manage the house and take boarders. Every
room is furnished with solid rosewood furni-
ture of the most stylish kind - statuary
and splendid bedding. The house is like
all southern residences, very spacious,
rooms very large and high, verandahs
likewise - but most of it will of course
soon look devastated, the negroes of course
neglecting the house materially and only
working just enough to satisfy the
struggling boarders—all gentlemen
that don't care very much anyhow.
It is really a pity, but what does the
doctor care? he is rich enough, and glad
enough that he is away from the war
troubles. That is why I do not want
to stay here—it is comfortable enough,
but there is too much of a crowd around
me. I want to have my own room,
and hope to succeed today or tomorrow.
I wish so much you may all have
been enjoying yourselves in the same propor-
tion as I have had a tedious time of
it since we parted. It has been two very
long weeks—but now it will go better
when I get something to do. Kiss the
dear children—love to all

from your

[Signature]
Nashville, Tenn.
Saturday August 1, 1863.

Dear wife,

I have no letters yet. This is the ninth
I have written - but perhaps I will get
one tonight. This morning Capt. Hodges
left for the North, and I am now in
charge of the office and have my hands
full. I long to hear from you very
much - I feel well, the nights are
pleasant and cool. Love to all from
your loving husband.
Nashville, Tenn.
Monday Aug. 3d, 1863.

Dear wife, Today I received the first letter since I left—Whipple's of 28th July. From the same it seems to me as if some letter had been sent previous, which I have not seen, however as yet. I am happy to learn you were all well and satisfied with your quarters. It is of course utterly impossible for me to say whether I at all should be able to leave this post even for a single day—I doubt it as long as I have my present charge, which requires personal presence day and night. I had a letter from Desh yesterday. He was then at Memphis on his way to Vicksburg—Uncle Will's son John is there sick, was taken when Vicksburg surrendered, and Desk goes down to fetch him up home. Do you remember one of my former clerks, Ed. Milton from
Dr. Burke. He died suddenly the other day in St. Louis. Dick writes that Bill takes good care of the house—he is somewhat scared at the enrolling officer lately came and entered his name on the conscript roll. I do not think however that it amounts to anything.

My wishes and aspirations for the farm grow stronger and stronger—I am of course lamed for the present in doing anything myself. I shall however write to Fillis in a day or two and hear what he and Neil can or have to say in the matter. Weather continues very pleasant here. Love to all.

From your devoted,

[Signature]
Nashville, Tenn.
Wednesday Aug 5, 63.

Dear wife, yesterday I read your dear letter of 29th July and today one of 26th. You will know by this time that I am not in the field, but very comfortably settled here, so I hope you feel more quiet. I feel in fact better in health than I have for a long while - perhaps it helps me that I got something to do.

I do not think you have such a very bad temper. If you are impatient once awhile, it is simply excused from the provocation I unfortunately often give, and perhaps the condition you are in causes a natural nervousness and irritation.

We must bear with each other, old wife, and we have after all lived very happy long years with each other - perhaps the temper wears away as we grow older and wiser and fonder of each other. No human being is perfect, and I do not think we would like each other half
as much as we do if we did not mutually
have some faults to remind us of our weakness
and how necessary it is to lean on each other. If
you think back on the first years of our
marriage you cannot help seeing that we
after all get along better and quieter than in
those days. It would be a burning shame if I
should exact a perfectness in you when I know
myself to be so ugly in many respects, without
being able to conquer myself — for I always know
distinctly when the bad temper is over me. All I
desire is for you to be yourself and to forgive
me when I am not myself.

I am so glad that the children are so
happy and thriving. If you feel happy and
pleased, then by all means stay as long as
you possibly dare. Have you no courage or
desire to fix yourself permanently in New
York until this miserable war is over and we can
plan and move together? Suppose you all
laid your heads together for some plan of that
kind — I can easily dispose of the house in
Athens if you do not care to go back
there. You could send a furnished house in
New York (they are daily offered in the papers) and
I can get Dennis to pack all our linen and
trunks and bedclothing and China and send to you.
Think over it.

Your loving

[Signature]
Nashville, Tenn.
Thursday August 6, 1863.

Dear wife, I received your dear letter of 31st July and also William's of 30th. You cannot complain that I do not write, as I send a letter most every day. I am glad to see you enjoy yourself, and if you dread to trip to St. Louis, do not go there by any means, but even if it costs a little trouble and some sacrifice to get most of what you want, on to New York, let us do it and make up your mind to stay. Bill and Ellen must then come on to N.Y., so you have no trouble with servants. A furnished house is easily found, and by fast express line all your traps could be there in 4 or 5 weeks. I could then rent the house - or sell it. Think well over it and consult with Wilhelm and wife. The travelling expenses would pay for all the cost of packing and transfers. I think it is worth while
to consider earnestly. You would then have all your family near you when your time comes and be better prepared for the final start for our country home. I wrote yesterday to Sills all about my plan and he will look out for me.

Perhaps Wilhelm would consent to go out alone to St. Louis, and with Dennis help see all your things well packed and shipped—though I do not consider it necessary. Dennis and Deck will do all I ask them to do, and do it well. Tell Wilhelm that we should like to know where the big army is, which the Seattle would bring into Kentucky as soon as Vicksburg is fallen. Bragg is on the other side of the mountains, but has enough to do simply to keep his mutineering forces together. Invasion of Kentucky is planned out. Love to all from your affectionate

Ferdinand
Nashville Farm.
Friday August 7, 63.

Dear wife, I read today your letter of 2nd. and, so now it begins to move more regularly.

Was very busy during the night fitting out an expedition for General Burnside in Cinoti, with whom I exchanged a dozen telegrams directly yesterday. You ought to see the telegraphing I have to do every day to all points - all the business centres right in my office. I have nothing else to say but to send you my love - feel happy at the thought that you all feel comfortable and the children enjoy themselves.

Your loving

[Signature]

To be more sure address
P.O. box 494.

Nashville Farm.
Dear Sophie, Today I have received no letters, but hope to get a couple tomorrow. Nothing new here. It has been exceedingly hot for a couple of days, but I keep quiet at my desk in the office. Enclosed I send you a check for $200, I have endorsed it to Blen so that he can draw the money without you having to sign anything. This is my usual remittance from Steve — so I hope you have funds enough at present. Next Monday I am going to move to the house of a very pleasant family, Dr. Ernie, Surgeon at one of the Hospitals, where I get the Backparlor fixed up as a bedroom for myself. I then take my meals at a Restaurant opposite the house on Cedar Street. I will then have it all for myself, without being bothered with the many boarders around. In Ernie's front parlor is an excellent piano, and the family (from
Switzerland is very musical and intelligent.
Shine is at present down in the front
visiting General Rosecrans - will be back
next week.

Love to all from your affectionate

[Signature]
Assistant Quartermaster's Office.

Nashville, Tenn. August 7, 1863.

Sunday.

Dear wife, This morning I rec'd.

Wilhelm's letter (No. 7) for which my best thanks.

I sit all day in my office and have up to this hour rec'd a dozen dispatches that craved immediate attention. Rosecrans works night and day, and as far as I can judge I think he will move forward in a few days. I will tell you of an interesting episode that shows what military life means.

Thursday afternoon I got a dispatch from Genl. Burnside in Cin.: asking me if I could help him by sending 3 boats convoyd by 2 gunboats some 300 miles up the Cumberland River into Kentucky, to meet with a large command which he would send from Ohio on a most important dashing expedition.

I told him at once Yes, and that the boats should be all ready next morning for his further
orders. I sat all night at work. 250 men were working like madmen the whole night by torchlight loading 300 tons of commissary stores and 2,450 sacks of corn on 3 boats. At six o'clock in the morning I had the gratification of telegraphing Burnside that the expedition was all ready waiting for the orders. At 7 o'clock he telegraphed me that the river up in Kentucky had fallen 2 feet, making it impossible for the boats to go, as they drew more water than there would then remain in the river, and so at 8 o'clock I ordered the whole work undone and the boats were all unloaded again. Everybody says that such a night's work has never before been done at this depot - we had regular meals served for the men at the levee and served them besides with Whiskey. I went "kiting" as they say, and the nothing came out of it, we have anyhow showed what we could do.

Love to all

from your loving

[Signature]
Nashville Farm.
Tuesday Augt. 11. 1863.

Dear wife, I rec'd this morning your N. 8. and wish I could be with you under the large walnut tree seeing the children enjoy themselves. Yesterday and today the heat here has been very excessive. I moved yesterday evening to Dr. Erwin's house and slept there last night. This morning the orders came for Lt. Colonel Hodges from Washington to relieve Col. Taylor as Chief Or. Inf. of this Departmt, so I expect now to be officially announced as Chief Dep't Quartermaster here, which will fix me permanently here until the war is over unless I should be relieved for some unforeseen reason or other. You will of course let me know what Mrs. McRostock says. I feel so sorry that there is no prospect of my being...
with you when the time comes—so much more anxious am I to wish that you would arrange it so as to stay in NYK surrounded by all of your family and Crissy. So far my health has continued to be very excellent—next month they say is usually cool and delightful here. Did my bosom-studs remain with you? I can not find them in my trunk and expect I left them behind—that throws some shirts out of use—but then I have enough anyhow. Good bye love, and think of your affectionate

Ferdinand
No. 17

Assistant Quartermaster's Office,

Nashville, Tenn., August 13, 1863, Thursday.

Dear Mina,

This morning I see Wilson's No. 9, (6 Aug.) letters ought not to be so long coming here, and I do not exactly understand what makes them come so slow—they ought to be only 3 days on the way. Ann will have to have patience about that draft. I bought it at State Savings Assoc. in St. Louis, and did not get any duplicate—only Original—and it would be a good deal of trouble to send from here as I do not remember neither the number of the draft nor the name to whose order it was drawn. You will find Ann will sometime or other get an answer. I am glad to see Ann is going to leave. We are impatiently waiting for Col. Hodges—he has not come back yet nor answered any of the dispatches I sent him.

The heat continues—still the nights are cool and pleasant. I do not see or hear of much that it could interest you to learn.
I am in my office from seven o'clock in the morning until 11 in the night, and only leave it to go to meals. Being away from you all, I would rather be busy from morning till night, than have a spare time without knowing what to do, as I do not care to go into Seesek families here. Once in a while I take a Buggy ride with Lt. Irwin. I get along fine, trade with all the Quartermasters under my direction, and have quietly assumed a leading position with making them jealous anyway — the fact is, the more I get around the more astonished I am that I do not find more brains and ability with others but that they somehow or other submit to me. You shan’t now say that you don’t have a conceited husband! I expect Shire will return tonight from the front — he is a great comfort to me when he is here. I am often lost in wonder at the perfectly romantic destinies that always bring him and me together. — Love to all,

Yours dear, Ferdinand
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,  

Nashville, Tenn., August 14, 1863.  

Friday.

Dear wife, I have just this time to send you a greeting and say I am well - my office is just as crowded as can be; I received yesterday 200,000 dollars to pay accounts here, and everybody is pushing to get ahead of his neighbor. So good bye!

Your loving,

[Signature]
Copy of Lillies Letter - Extract -

Milwaukee Aug. 14, 1853

Dear friend -- the other letter concerning the "Paradise" was as you can easily imagine a piece of extraordinary good news for both Priel and me and we have gone to work instantly -- I in hunting up good chances at Real Estate Agencies and by Talking to old settlers and Priel is making a trip to Greenbay and back to Madison and Teraport and looking over the whole country within any thing like a decent distance from this place. He will be back Tuesday or Wednesday and then we will take a ride of 20-30 miles West to explore some more. Priel and I are delighted with the prospect of having you here within a more or less long grasp. We both agree with you on almost every point given in your letter, except that it is not only desirable, but necessary, after our making the necessary inquiries and explorations, for you to come here and judge for yourself in a matter of so much importance for the future welfare, good humor,
et of yourself and family. You have got to cave in and come up to this stipulation which we make with all due respect for the sound judgment & sagacity of your brother. It is pretty certain already for various reasons that you will have to give up the idea of selecting a place on the shore of Lake Michigan, but we will do our best to find a nice place on a beautiful country lake. You will soon hear more on the subject. Pst! won't have answered both letters, but he left a few hours after the receipt of the second letter. — Alex. Sible
Dear wife,

This morning I read Crissy's dear letter of 10th Aug. (No. 12) for which you must thank her very much from me. I shall keep the musketoes back here as she now so handsomely has fulfilled her promise. You must have got quite a batch of letters while Allen was away, as I write pretty regularly—I am 8 letters ahead of you as you can see by the number. Krauseh don't get along at all—he and Dennis have been quarrelling, and I am going to drop the whole matter and let the money I have spent, be lost, without risking anything more. His patents are all good, but he himself does not amount to anything—he expects everybody else to do his duties, and the man is not made who can work with him.
I will let both be lost and have nothing more to do with him in the future. He costs me thus far 6000 dollars, and that is enough to lose for friendships sake. I have anyhow the satisfaction of having done all I could for him and he can accuse himself of the poor result. I want to get my mind relieved of any further care, and hence I consider the loss as a gain.

Good bye, dearest wife, love to all from your devoted

Ferdinand
No. 21

Assistant Quartermasters' Office,

Nashville August 17, 1863.

Dear wife, This morning I read your letter of 12th (not numbered). It is queer that it takes such a long while for my letters to reach you. You must have it about as hot as we have it here - it is nothing but perspiration the whole day long, but the nights are very pleasant.

Last night Col. Hodges came back from York - he goes to the front. Withering and I then expect to get my fixed orders as Chief here - I am glad to say that he was very much pleased and gratified with the way in which I have managed business here during his absence. So unless Rosenmans should have any other favorite to put in here, I am sure I am the man, and Hodges does not want anybody else. Please send me yours and the childrens pictures, as I have nothing with me here.
Unexpectedly, I got a dispatch from D. Howes yesterday from Louisville— he is on his way down to see me — I expect he is disappointed in his business calculation, and I am glad he is coming, for I need some more help.

Else nothing new — Kiss the dear children and much love to Wilhelma and Cristie. Your devote

Ferdinand
Assistant Quartermasters' Office,

Nashville August 18, 1863.

Tuesday.

Dear Miss,

I read today Wilhelm No. 14 of 12 “and send this letter with Mr. Bancker, Col. Hodges, Chief Clerk— he goes straight this to NYK on a leave, but I am sure this letter will reach you quick— I am well and busy. Till Wilhelm the war does not seem any nearer to me than a year ago—they have big armies yet in Rebladom and until they are entirely overpowered and annihilated, we have war. You must remember their armies now consist of men, to whom soldier-life now is a profession— who have no homes, no business, no kind of occupation to return to to make a livelihood—and they are sure to be fed somehow or other as long as they keep together in an armed body.

Northern part of Ohio, say in a radius of 50 miles around Cleveland, is one of the most charming countries in the world.
and densely settled with large and splendid finished farms. If Wilhelm comes that way, he better take a look around.

I see Curtis with some staff offices are in Washington—I wonder what he is doing. I had a long warm letter from McAllister the other day—he is Chief of the State of Michigan with his pleasant office and home in Detroit.

I have no answer from Silas yet. Expect it soon.

Good bye dearest!

Your affectionate

[Signature]
Assistant Quartermasters' Office,

Nashville August 19, 1863.

Dear wife, Your dear letter of 13th inst. (A.B.) came this morning. Well, if you will rather go to St. Louis, then let it be so — after all, you will have a snug home there with Wilhelm and Crissy, and Bill and Ellen will be longing to see you back. I was only afraid of that long trip — but if you take it easy and take a good night's or two rest at several places, maybe you won't feel it so hard. When you get back to St. Louis letters ought to reach you in 2 days — in fact, if I leave now with letters here this morning I am tomorrow morning in St. Louis — the distance is really very short. The boys must then commence to learn again, though I should not care to send them to the same school. Herman must also resume the piano — if not with Mrs. Shoafotte, then with somebody else. Perhaps her time is over when you are back. Desk has come back with you.
He says that Bill has not called for any money yet. Col. Hodges left for the front this morning. Col. Taylor arrived last night and left for the East this morning - he is very much broke down and has resigned. I expect it will be accepted. I did not see him. While I remember it, Col. Hodges Chief Clerk left for New York this morning and will return within a fortnight. I wish now you won't send my pocketbook to his house with a little line. I hope you'll send it to him. If he is at home and he will do so with pleasure. Here is his address:

Mr. Bauscher (wrong)
Mr. Bauscher
41 Montgomery St.
New York.

He is an excellent clever fellow and thinks a good deal of me (as do more!)
Last night Dr. Phipps came along leaving
his young bride in April St. Louis. He is now busy paying the Fishmen off, hundreds of whom besiege my door from morning till evening. I have in the last few days paid out some $25,000 dollars.

The everything goes with the same monotony — only I have to keep my wits pretty well together — bothered all the day. Shine came from the front yesterday quite sick — bad water, food and lodging brought it about. His wife mustn't know anything about it.

Goodbye, love.

Your devoted husband.
...
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,

Nashville, Tenn., August 20, 1863.

Thursday.

Dear wife, I got Wilhelm's letter of 14th (No. 16) this morning, also one from Billy, of which I make a copy on the next page of that part that refers to the farm— you will see how earnestly they have gone to work about it and I know it will gladden Wilhelm to hear the thing is started. I will keep you posted in the next letters if I may get on same subject. I get again conciliated to the idea of your going to St. Louis, especially when I learned of your tumbling, jumping, ride in the farm wagon. This is all you will get from me today— feel well and hearty. Love to all.

[Signature]

Your affectionate

Wilhelm will see I have good friends who jump about instantaneously as soon as I merely hint at my wishes.
Dear [Name],

It was a very happy time for me, and I was very grateful to be able to see you.

[Paragraph about a happy time and gratitude]

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Nashville 22 August, Saturday

Dear wife, Yesterday I read W. thes letter of 16th. and (No. 17) for which many thanks. I have been so busy and bothered that I feel very unfit for writing much more than to tell you that I am well and getting along very well. That is all you will get from me today – goodbye! Love to all.

Your loving,

Ferdinand
No. 26

Assistant Quartermaster’s Office,


Dear wife, Yesterday and today I had no letters and have written but very little myself. I will now tell you that I have got exceedingly comfortable, fired since I told you I lived in the Doctor’s house. This was well enough, but the Doctor always being out, and being rather poorly off himself, I was not so well pleased as I thought I should be. Then I got acquainted in Capt. Irvine’s house with Mr. Wilkowski, a Pole, and his wife, from Berlin in Prussia. He is very rich, and has several brothers here and in Louisiana who are wealthy planters. Somehow or other we like each other almost at first — they are both about of our age, have been married some three years, have a fine little daughter, and are very musical — altogether just people to my taste. They live in a magnificent large stone house on Vine Street, and invited me cordially to come and live
with them and select any rooms I choose in their house. So I selected a finely furnished bedroom back of the 2 parlors - from said room one door opens into my washroom, with hot and cold water and marble basin - the other door opens into a bathroom also with hot and cold water and shower bath. a water closet is also there - so I have every comfort at my fingers end. I take breakfast and supper with the family, and take my dinner at a restaurant near by the office. In the evening there is always some company or other, a good cigar and good wine - so you see I live like a prince. Whenever I have an hour to spare, I take a ride or a drive in this most charming neighborhood. I have made up my mind to take all the comfort I possibly can get, and thus avoid if possible the effects of too close a confinement which last year brought the sickness on me in Helena.
I drink a good deal of Sulphur Water every morning, and feel very well altogether. Mosquitoes are now plenty, but I am protected by a good mosquito bar.

Today the weather is suddenly cooler—the hot spell is probably broken—it lasted unusually long—although from all you write and what we see in eastern papers, I think it has not been as hot here as with you. Nashville is altogether known as a very healthy place.

Love to all from your devoted

[Fermentand]
Ich möchte Ihnen danken, Frau von Seemann, für Ihre freundliche Geste.

Dankbar werde ich sein, wenn Sie mir Ihre Unterstützung geben.

Und ich freue mich auf unser Treffen morgen.

Dies Problem ist jedoch sofort gelöst.

Ich werde Ihnen in meiner Absurdität helfen.

Ich werde nicht unbedingt diesen Weg gehen.

Es wird sicherlich nicht einfach sein.

Es wird nicht leicht sein, aber ich werde es tun.

Ich werde alles tun, um Ihnen zu helfen.

Ich werde mich bemühen, um Sie zu unterstützen.
Nashville, Tenn., August 27, 1863.

Thursday.

Dear wife, I have your dear letters of 20th, 21st, and 22nd, of 20th. It has been so unnaturally cold (but splendid air!) yesterday and today, that I have caught a severe cold—else all right.

I enclose notice of Ben's Samuel's death—what a blow for his poor wife! Some of these days I shall write to Crissie—but you must all excuse me, I am using the pen from morning until evening, and feel but very little like doing any much more with it.

Good bye and love to all.

Yours affectionately,

Fredrica
Dear Mr. I read your No. 23 and Wilhelmus No. 24 - so I expect you are since yesterday in York again, and in a week on your way to St. Louis. My boil on the forehead is most tremendous and gives me a great deal of pain and annoyance. Yet they say it is a sure proof of good health when you get such a thing, and prevents sickness from turning inside. Weather is cool and delicious. I went out 6 miles from town yesterday to Seele Hardin's place - 6000 Acres - a perfect princedom. You have no idea of the palaces all around Nashville, and the magnificence of the scenery and country. The style in which the numerous millionaires have been and are yet living here, is princely. As I get more and more acquainted, I am lost in astonishment at the refinery here on all sides - even some of it left yet. On Hardin's place is a perfect English Park of 400 Acres - a paradise - with Deer and Buffalo and Elk.
He is the renowned breeder of fullblooded stock, famous in all England.

Now the office is crowded, people waiting for me - so good bye and love to all.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
HEAD-QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Stevenson, Ala., September 1st, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS,

No. 215.

The following assignment of officers to duty at Depot of Supplies at Nashville, are announced: —

Capt. S. Perkins, Jr., A. Q. M., Chief Quartermaster of the Depot, and Disbursing Quartermaster for Depot and Rail Roads; he will also have control of the buildings and quarters necessary for the storage of supplies and the accommodation of officers assigned to duty at the Depot. All other buildings used by government will be turned over to the Quartermaster of the Post of Nashville.


Capt. J. D. Stubbis, A. Q. M., River Transportation, Forage and Fuel.

Capt. C. H. Irvin, A. Q. M., Transportation for the use of the Depot, means for the Transportation of the Army, Quartermaster's Stores and Shops.

Capt. Wm. Mills, 74th Ohio Vols., A. A. Q. M., Inspector of Surler's Goods. It will be his duty to inspect all Surler's goods offered for shipment to the front, to see that no articles except those allowed by regulations and orders are permitted to come forward, and that the means of transportation at his disposal are so used as to do justice to all parties.

Capt. F. S. Winslow, A. Q. M., is relieved from duty at the Depot, and will report to Brig. Gen. R. S. Granger, for duty as Quartermaster of the Post of Nashville.

All other duties than those above enumerated will be performed by the Post Quartermaster, under direction of the Post or District commander.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL ROSECRANS: C. GODDARD,
Assistant Adjutant General

[Signature]
Assistant Adjutant General
Dr. Smith: I am presently preparing a
golf tournament announcement.

[Signatures]
Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 9, 1863.

Wednesday

Dear wife,

My last letter was No. 30 of 2d July — I thought it was no use writing more to you. I am so anxious to learn if your safe arrival at St. Louis — you are now on the way, resting in those famous cars. As soon as you arrive, ask Wilhelm to go with dish to the Post Office and get a box there — if possible my old box No. 2496 and let me know the number. I read your letter and other things with Bancker last night — my piles have nearly left me now and I feel well — the boy was cut open and let out a great mass of blood & matter, and I am now relieved. Wilhelm's letter of 4th (No. 31) came this morning — it was very nice if you Emily to give you that party. I send today funds to them for those advanced to you. Get whatever money you want from Beth.
I am surprised I have heard nothing from Sills or Pfeil since.

I hope you will find everything in good order when you come home.

There has been some change made here, rather to my disappointment—some...rascally intriguing on the part of a couple of envious and ambitious officers here—and they worked on Rosecrans without my knowledge and succeeded in getting their plans through. I stay here anyhow and have my plans moving to get them out again. I stand too alone and unacquainted at Headquarters and Shiner's sickness helped me of my only friend there. I have a very easy berth of it now, but have felt a good deal chagrin.

I feel glad to know you so near me, who knows but that I might come to see you, if my present position remains unchanged, and I can get
the proper officers favor.

Give my love to Crissie and
Wilhelma and Kiss the dear children
from their loving papa.

Ferdinand
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 11, 1863.

Friday.

Dear wife,

I rec'd today your last dear letter from York (No. 32) with the pictures. Sophia is most excellent, and altogether a gem of a picture. Francis is first rate with a little melancholy expression in his face. Herman's mouth is a little out of shape - but altogether I am proud of the pictures and shan't fail to boast on them showing them all around.

I wish I had thought of telling you to telegraph when you arrived safe in Ashland - I am so anxious until I learn of it. Hope to God you are there now. I shall be glad when you are there - it is so much nearer, and telegraphing is cheap enough in any important cases.

Dr. Howes is in employ here - I got him a good place. He left his trunk at our house and will send for it by express. I should like very much to have my military riding saddle sent.
down here, [illegible] and all - in the box made for it - by Adam's Express Comp'y - they have an office here. Let Bill take it down to the express office - pack it well - and tie the key to the lock to the box... Have it marked plainly.

I have not heard for an eternity from Dake - is he sick? Please tell him that I am anxious to hear from him as explained in my former letters to him.

You will now have some news to tell me - how all our old friends are. I hope you will succeed in finding a good school for the boys - Herman must now be a good diligent boy; he has had such a glorious time of it so long. He must also by all means take to the piano - if Mrs. Strothotte can not give him lessons, let her recommend some good teacher
or see Balmer about it— we want a cheerful man— no bore. Crittie won’t then be kind enough to see that he exercises a little every day, without making him tired or disgusted with it. Hope you will get a real good nurse. —Send down to Mr. Rich for my bookcase and have it put up in the library— give Wilhelm the other. The price I agreed to pay was 75 dollars. His other bill for repairs was paid by Desk.

I am well, and have an easy pleasant time of it. Mrs. Wituszewski left this morning with some relatives to spend a few weeks in Cincinnati, where they have family— so Mr W. and I are keeping Bachelors Hall.

Love to all from your devoted husband
Nashville, Tenn., Sept 12, 1863.

Dear Mina, I wrote you yesterday (No. 32 not numbered) and have heard nothing from you — I feel very anxious to know that you are all safe. Don’t forget to get a Post Office Box. When you send my box with the saddle down to the Express Co., please hand to the Company the enclosed permit to ship it from Louisville — without this it will be stopped there. There are 2 saddles — a black and yellow. I want the black saddle, stirrups and everything in the box — keep the yellow saddle at home.

I am well and send my love to all of you.

Your devoted,

Ferdinand
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,

Nashville Sept. 14th 1863.

Monday

Dear wife,

I see this morning your dear lines of 10th. I know you would have a hard trip of it, and feel relieved of all anxiety, now it is past. I met the Democratic of 12th (Saturday) this morning, so I do not see why your letter should not come as quick. How soon do you receive mine?

I am sorry if Bill and Ellen have not taken as good care as they certainly ought, having nothing to do, and it is a shame if Mrs. Krausch has not taken the trouble to look a little after it. I have dropped Krausch entirely, and feel a good deal relieved, although the loss is severe. — The weather is delicious here and I think Nashville is the most salubrious place in the Union.
I hope Wilhelm and Cissie are pleased with our St. Louis home—fix it comfortably for the winter, and I think it would be well to lay in a large supply of Coal and Wood before the roads become impassable and the prices go up like last winter. You can pile a great deal of wood between the kitchen and the small house along the wall, also on the opposite side of the yard, and then fill the Coal house with Coal. What are prices now? Buy a large supply betimes. Is all my wine in good order? How are matters in the Morrison family—Uncle Will and Wilhelm ought to be well acquainted.

Love to all from

your devoted,

[Signature]

What has become of Hoepner, and how is his family? Give me “a heap” of gossip.
Assistant Quartermasters' Office,

Nashville Sept. 16, 1863.

Wednesday.

Dear wife,

I received this morning Wilder's letter of 11th (vt. 34) and the "Democrat" of 14th (day before yesterday). I cannot understand how the letters come to be so much later than the paper. I am sorry you had such a bad night of it with the mosquitoes—I had the same, the first night in Withrow's house, but have never been troubled since as I sleep under a good bar. Mosquitoes are very plenty now. — I am just about removing my office today to a fine residence on High Street belonging to a rebel. I use the parlors (having taken the carpets up) as office, and the upper rooms are all for my clothes—all well furnished. If circumstances had been otherwise, I could have arranged it so that you were here with me—
but then again things are so uncertain that I doubt whether it would have been sensible to do so under the most favorable circumstances.

Besides this, it is enormous expense to keep fires here, and the dirt and dust is beyond endurance.

Have you got a nurse yet? If not, I think I could get you one here that would be a true treasure to you. Mrs. Artzowski has an Irish girl (born here in Nashville) who is an exact counterpart of Kitty (Mrs. Hallnentz old girl), a steady, domestic, faithful girl—besides cleaning rooms, tending to the baby, she does most excellently and I have often heard Mrs. W. praise her for saving lots of dressmaker money—Kate doing all the sewing.

She is a very religious and virtuous girl (Catholic) and only
wishes to be in some good home. Nashville, with all its soldiers and adventurers, is no good place for a well-behaving girl, and she told me she would like to leave if she could find a good place in my family. I know you would think a great deal of her. She gets 10 Dollars here, and if you gave her the same, I think she would go to you. Her parents are dead and left six children, who all have to make their own living. Having been accustomed to be around Negroes all her life, even this would be an advantage to you. What do you say? I know you would be more than pleased with her, and I would like to get her out of this place as pure as she is. She is just little old Kitty-in temper and all.
Give my love to all.

Your devoted,

[Signature]

[Scanned text is difficult to read due to handwriting style and quality.]

[Handwritten text continues here, but is not legible due to the quality of the scan.]
No. 36

Assistant Quartermasters’ Office,

Nashville Sept. 17th 1863.

Dear Wife, I rec’d today your’s of 14th, so already we feel being nearer each other. How did it happen that Bill neglected the house so much— they certainly had nothing to do—and if it is so, I don’t want you to pay them full wages for the time we were away. It is a great shame, tell Bill that I am angry and had not expected that from him. I am glad you saw Dr. Fellows. I sent $300 to Allen the other day, not knowing how much you had got. Better get a couple of hundred dollars from Deed, as he is soon going to settle with me. Look what shall I get your picture?

Love to all from your devoted husband

[Signature]
Dear wife,

Today I have no letters from you. My days pass very monotonously - a drive or ride in the evening - quiet in the office during the day - sometimes a game of Whist with some German friend in the house - sometimes music - sometimes an oyster supper and Champaign (as last night given by Julius Kilkowski to a lot of friends! They have 2 good Theatres here, both of which I have free tickets, but I have only been there once. I like best to stay at home in the house. It is singular I have had no later letters from Siller or Reel. I have also written about the farm plan to Stephen and expect soon to hear from him. As often as I think earnestly of this plan, I cannot help yearning for having
the future home place in my old Iowa, and especially in Linn Co. I am so near everything there for which I have had an interest ever since you and I went West, so many friends and a good influence. I think more of Stephens and his judgment than I do of most anybody I know. (While I think of it, I sent you enclosed his last letter to me not today, in answer to the one in which I told him of my disappointment in not remaining in charge of depot, and also told him plainly that my Rivals brought their scheme through by drinking and whisy with Col. Hodge, when he was here last, and that they won him in this way—a course which I of course would not have anything to do with. This is only for your own eyes.) Stoves letters are hard to read, but you can get through with a little study.
He has got a Charter for a National Bank from Washington, and we will have our Bank up there ready in its new cloak by October. — Anyhow I want to hear what Steve says about the farm plan, and what we could get up there to work us.

Good bye, dearest wife — tomorrow I am sure I must hear from you.

Love to all.

Your affectionately,

[Signature]
Assistant Quartermasters' Office,

Nashville Sephth 20 1863.

Sunday.

Dear wife,

I received William's letter of 15th and yours
of 16th 21st, and hope the children's sickness will
soon be over. I wish William would determine
himself what Books to have bound and let the
next pay. I have not answered Hiram letters
yet—don't think he will do—it shows such
a narrow minded character, that I am sure
he will always find fault and trump up
imaginary complaints where there are none
in reality. I will not address letters to my
old box (2496) until I learn that you can
get the letters from it. It requires namely
a check, which is held by the owner of the box,
and mine was given to Capt. H. Garvens.
Will you ask Beth to call on Garvens
at Earl Strong's Headquarters for it. Yet
I will send this letter to my box, as if
Garvens gets it, he will come to you with
the letter. I hope your trunk will soon come
how unfortunate it was to have it left
behind. I forgot to tell you of the robbery in the house—it was a
very remarkable thing—the thief passed into my room, where both the doors were open,
but didn't come in at all. I always sleep with my little revolver under the pillow. If I had awaked I would surely have
killed him. The house is better locked up now. It is true as Mrs. Dunlap says, Nashville is a very immoral town,
I am glad I live with this German family—you know these people are
never so libertine as the Yankees. Nashville used always to be a very fast
town, and the most fashionable families
and ladies here are known for their
loose habits—of course the war has not
improved this condition of affairs. You
can now better understand why I con Ed
wish to have Kate get away from
here—for however well she has held
herself as yet there is no telling when...
the might fall. You can of course imagine that I shall do all in my power to make your baby come a great deal easier, but I have but a very poor hope of succeeding. However easy my present position is compared with the former, yet my personal presence is always required to discharge the duties I have to perform. I look for the castle tomorrow. When will I get your picture? I am glad Herman has got a good school and is going to Mrs. Sixtittle again. What does Mrs. Kranzsch say about her husband's affairs? Have you seen Miss Andersen yet?

Good bye, dearest Nina—love to all, kisses to the dear children. How I wish I were with you this long Sunday.

Your loving

Ferdinand
Nashville September 21, 1863.

Monday.

My dear wife, I have no letters today, feel very downcast and despondent. I knew from the telegraph operator what is a secret yet to the public (but you will have heard of it before this) that Rosecrans is badly whipped and forced to retreat. I cannot help damning Halleck— as I always have done. I know all our disasters go back to that scoundrel. Rosey (as we here call Rosecrans) was left to fight an overwhelming enemy alone, without being supported either by Grant or getting the reinforcements from Grant via Memphis, that were promised him over and over again. He is whipped, and must be badly whipped— for his Army is a magnificent veteran fighting Army—and the losses must be immense. You see this throws no way back again and gives the Rebels new hope. Remember
that Rosey occupies the Center of the long line from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, and that, if the Center is broken, the two wings east and west are in danger. Perhaps he can hold his own at Chatanooga (altheta I doubt it) and after a little while whip them again—but I am afraid he will have to fall back on his old lines at Tullahoma, and then he can not do anything until next summer. Haven't I always said the war won't last yet for years! I am disgusted and dejected beyond description.

I feel a little unwell in my stomach yesterday—so I took a good dose of salts and a sedative powder this morning, which worked to a charm.

If you see Shine and find that he coming down here again, please
Send my Winter Coat and Cape with him. The last days have been very cold morning and evening, although pleasant during the day — I tell you I have never seen such glorious sunny bracing days as here in Nashville — the climate is delightful here.

Love to all

Your affectionate

[Signature]
No 41

Assistant Quartermasters' Office,

Nashville September 23, 1863.

Dear Wife,

I rec'd today your dear letter of 20 & with the portrait which is very good - I only wish there was the least kind of a smile around the lips. I will now see if Kate means it earnestly with leaving here, in which case I will send her up, and I am satisfied you will be perfectly pleased with her. Coal is here 52 cents for bushel and Wood 12 13 Dollars and hardly to be had at that.

Who should stalk in here the other day but the old maid Miss Flint. I am trying to get her a place as matron in a hospital here, and think I shall succeed. All her trunks went away to Cleveland, Ohio, and she will have lot of trouble and expense regaining it. I hope you have got yours by this time.

With much love your affectionate

[Signature]
[Reconstructed text from image]
Nashville
Sept 24, 1863.

Dear wife,
I had letter from Wilhelm today of 21st. also from Rem, who says his children are now well. I hope to get good news from Francis. It troubles me a good deal to think how easy I might lose one or other of my darlings without being with them—hope to God I will be spared that pain. Mrs. Wilmot has not come back yet and I do not think Kate would make up her mind before the arrives—and then, if she left, it would be at the end of this month—in a week from now. You need not feel trouble about her and the negroes—she has always been with such. and we have 3 negroes in Wilmot's house. She knows how to handle them.
There is nothing new here. The wounded are arriving from Chattanooga — some 1200 today, and it gives me a little to do, as I have charge of all the hospitals. We expect over 4000 — mostly slightly wounded.

Love to all.

Your devoted,

Ferdinand
Nashville Oct. 26th 18-8

Sunday.

Dear Wife, I rec’d this morning glyce of 24 3/4 (1) from the Dept. of the Pantry, and milk of 23. I am glad the trunk arrived, altho’ I never doubted it would turn up in time. Perhaps the receipt I sent you the other day was for Welbourn boxes. Only patience and everything will turn out right. If the children get well thro’ this spell of sickness, it will probably spare them for further troubles during the winter. Weilbourn seems to think the national Bank in Marion is a new thing. This is not so - Stephens has made all of our old Capital fruit and uses the same in establishing the new concern, which is nothing but the old except with a better name, better credit and on a better basis. I cannot tell you of all its advantages in a letter, but it is the best thing that could be done. Till Welbourn I had a letter
from Larson in Chicago acknowledging receipt of my letter about Olsen and saying that he would do his best to find out since which I have heard nothing.

Mrs. Wiltowski came yesterday from Ariosti. Kate will leave 1st or 2nd— you will get a good girl in her.

Love to all

Your affectionate

[Signature]
Nashville Farm  
Sept 30/63 

[Signature]

Dear wife, Today I recd your letter of 28th - only 2 days out - that is as it ought to be. Kate will leave here next Monday, as Mrs. Wiltowski asked her so much to help her with a dress she bought from Cinetti. Mrs. Wiltowski does not know she is going to us - I will tell her after Kate has left. If Mr. Shire is not soon coming down here, I wish you would sew my military winter coat up in a cover of old linen and send it to me by Adams Express, with a label: Capt. F. L. W. A.R.N.
Office 7 High Street
Nashville Tenn.

As the mornings and evenings are quite cold, and I have nothing to travel with if I should succeed in getting a furlough, I have concluded to try to do everything in my power to get my resignation...
accepted, although it is a great deal more difficult than Hubbard thinks. My accounts with Washington are very extensive and they do not accept (as a general thing) resignations until after all acts are settled, which takes months and months in Washington. Love to all from your devoted,

[Signature]
Nashville
Friday 20th 1863

Dear wife, I have rec'd William's 2 letters of 28 & 29. I thank you for which many thanks. I have now sent in my tender of resignation and after a good deal of trouble had it approved by Genl. Granger and Colonel Hedges. Now it goes to Rosecrans and from him to Washington, where it will be acted on--either granted or rejected. I shall do all I can to put it through, but the result is very doubtful. It will last a couple of weeks before it will come back from Washington, but if I can learn that Rosecrans has approved it, then I will try to get a leave to await the result in St. Louis. I should feel very happy if I could get out of the service. I shall do all I can, but none of us must feel very sanguine about a happy result. - Kate leaves on Monday.
will be in St. Louis Tuesday morning. I am sorry to learn that headache and toothache seem to plague you and Crissie so often. I will address letters to Morrison until I learn the number of the new box. I will write today to him and insist on an open confidential explanation of the change of opinion about Christensen leaving New York. I must know what it means.

Goodbye dearest, I expect surely to hear from you tomorrow.

Your loving,

[Signature]
Assistant Quartermasters' Office,

Nashville October 3 1863.

Saturday eve

Dear wife,

Kate tells me she is ready to go tomorrow morning as she will have a companion on the train going to Louisville. I am so glad to know she is coming, as you will get better help than you ever had. I hope to get I can be with you in some weeks — I am heartbroken staying here and long more and more to come home. Good night — many kisses to you and the children from your loving

[Signature]
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,
Nashville Dec. 3 1863.

Dear wife, I wrote you this morning, and after I sent letter 9, I got one from Steckes, part of which I must copy to you. You know I never told him anything of the "farmplan" until last week when I wrote him in detail about the same.

He now writes in answer as follows:

"Yesterday (27 Sept.) I see you'd of 18" guns. On the whole that letter gave me as much pleasure as almost any one I have ever received from you.

--- With your plans for the future I am delighted. Were I to ask about it I could give you a hundred reasons why you have come to the right conclusion.

Considerations of your family, of comfort, of independence, of ease - all conspire to that same course. Not only will your enterprise pay you in the end, but all the time it will be a continual source of pleasure."
If you are handy to town you can come & go at your pleasure. I do not disapprove the fact that I have at all times used all my influence with you to keep you here ultimately—that is, when you are out of the service. When therefore I see you fixing your hopes in the same direction I can't help but be pleased. In the life you have just for yourself you can make Men out of your Boys—the same as Chief Matson has out of his. It is getting late and wife is teasing me to go to bed—I will only say further that I have my eye on 3 different places about which I will write you, I will in the mean time find the feeling of the owners.
I think it will please you to read this—I can assure you it comforts me very much—as in spite of my own talents for business, and the suspicions men generally have to Steve, I bow to his judgment in worldly matters and I have found him a reliable, perfectly trustworthy friend in such matters to me. His advice is the only one which I, of all acquaintances, consider better and superior to my own—and you will find I will always be saving where I spent money under his eye.

Yours loving,

[Signature]
Ich sehe Ihnen in erster Linie die Augen. Ich werde Ihre Augen auf die Welt der Materie und der Liebe lenken. Wissen Sie, dass die Augen das Herz der Seele sind? Sie sind die Fenster zum Inneren.


Werde ich Sie bald sehen?

[Unterschrift]
Nashville Tuesday 6 Oct. 1863

Dear wife, I see today your's of 24th. Yesterday I handed in a petition for a leave of absence - the same had to go to Chattanooga before I can get it, and it may take a week (as the railroad is now again broke up by the Rebels) before I can hear from it - so at least, if it is granted, I cannot be in Kansas until middle of next week. I asked for the leave to await the result of my tender of resignation at home, although I don't have to come back here for a short while to close up my affairs, if it is accepted.

Christie telegraphed me yesterday that all arrangements were made to leave today with wife and child, so I answered him to come on and perhaps we would meet there. If I get my leave I will telegraph Captain Garvens to that effect, and tell you when I leave Nashville.
I hope to God, if I am going to get my leave as desired, that you will be able to hold on to the girl until I arrive, and if the midwife is right, I would then get come in time. But if I should be disappointed, I pray you to be comforted, and with Cristie and Emmy around you, I hope you will not feel so bad at my absence. You have always in comparison with other ladies, had an easy delivery, and we must wish that it will not be different this time. The next fortnight will decide all these great events—may it all be for the best!

Yours always loving,

[Signature]
Nashville, Saturday
October 10, 1863

Dear wife,

I can hardly describe with what reluctance I take the pen to resume writing again. I had expected every day this week to be off for St. Louis, but never have contrivances met me as now. You know first I handed in my resignation. Then I caused myself to be relieved from all kinds of duty here, pending the result of my tender. Then I made an application for a leave of 30 days to await that result at home. This application was approved by Genl Granger and had to go to Rosecrans for action. Then the Railroad was cut down at Murfreesboro and my application lays yet in the headquarters Mailbag here. Trains were going to run today, but last night the Railroad was again cut at Cowan, 87 miles south of here. Yesterday the Telegraph line with the
front was reestablished, it having been cut down ever since the Railroad was cut. But all day long nothing but Cyphers from and to Washington from Roscerans passed over the line. I drew up a petition for immediate leave based on pressing family circumstances calling for my immediate presence at home, to be sent by telegraph to Roscerans, and it would have been sent last night, if the line had not again been broke at Cowan. So there I am again. Now for a whole week I have hoped and hoped — have not had a thing to do — walking around with my burning longing to get home — knowing that Christiansen and Emmy would be there — and here I am yet, looking toward the long, long days that I am yet to be chained here — tomorrow is Sunday —
with absolutely nothing to do—nothing detaining me but a formality—and yet that formality so serious that if I should attempt to go home without complying with it, I am liable to be punished as deserter, and Christensen can tell you what that means.

Not a thing to do and the days look to me that might have been spent at home. This leisure is a terrible burden.

How pleasantly the days could have passed in St. Louis, and a trip to Iowa. May next week be more merciful to me—I rejoice anyhow now that you have Ernie there when you get sick. It is not my fault if I should not be with you. —I see? this morning your dear letter 7th and Wilder.
of 7th. the overcoat arrived yesterday. Weather is delicious here. Kate had charge of the house and all the keys — but she will not be spoiled, I hope, as she is as honest as the day is long. I sent today my picture, as I cannot come myself — that is, for you, dear wife, — tell me if the children know me. I had another letter which I presented to Wilkowski's for all their kindness. The painter, Mr. Darby, is a genuine and fine artist as far as I can judge. The only trouble in my mind is, if Wilhelm and Christiansen go to Missouri, whether they will find little chance of going much around. For if they go with others, it would easily leak out that I was after farms, and anything would then have 2 prices. I leave however the matter entirely to all of you, who can better determine what should be done — if they would like to take a general look at Iowa, they should go to Davenport and thence by rail — it is a pleasant trip. Then to Clinton, and they will see a good deal of Jones and Linn counties. If ever my leave arrives I telegraph to Garvens, and I want
to be immediately informed by
Telegraph if the girl should come
before me - she will surely be smart
the more so if she thus commences by getting
the start of me.

Now good by, dearest - patience
is a hard but necessary virtue -
not the least for me.

Kiss the dear children - love
to Christensen Emmy, Kroeske and
Wilhelm from your devoted

Ferdinand
Nashville Sunday
Oct 11, 1863

Dear wife,

My last hope is gone — I just now received a dispatch from the front saying that the General Commanding declines to grant me a leave of absence — so there is an end to it.

My only hope is now that my resignation will be accepted — of which I am very doubtful — and it will take months before I can think of getting away from here. But I shall tender my resignation every time it comes back rejected, and continue so until they get tired of refusing. With a sad heart,

Your affectionate
Ferdinand
September 11th 1950

The day I arrived - very unexpected by my parents. At the station a trainee was

present and with proper due notice to me. I am happy to be able to understand

the language of the world. I am sure I need to learn more.

He has been very patient in explaining his work. The work is very

productive and the boss is very interested. It seems to be his job to

improve the process of the work. I feel very happy that I can

understand and contribute to the work. He has a very strict

method and I am determined to

be part of it.
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,


Dear wife,

I have your letter of 9th inst. and know that your disappointment and Christiansens and all of yours combined cannot be equal to mine. After I got over the first impression of the stunning blow yesterday, I determined to try again, and have taken several new channels to try the thing over again. I have not hope, and yet I have not given up hope. If I learn anything, I will telegraph.

The days and hours are terribly long to me. I feel so generally disgusted that I cannot sit down to write a decent letter. My thoughts are all with you and the children and the rest of the home — what a Sunday, full of pictures of the inside of our house in stones, it was yesterday! Love to all from your devoted, Edward.
Nashville
Tuesday 13 Oct. 1863.

Dear wife, Today I have no letters from Atlanta, but see the enclosed from father to Wilhelm which is addressed to me. Wilhelm will see that father is making some very cool and good comments on his somewhat excited projects, and seeing how easily all calculations may be baffled, I think the best plan for all of us is to try to become satisfied with our existence of the day without being too much filled with plans for the future. There is no doubt Wilhelm is too much given to sacrifice the present for the future - if it is true that we must let every day take care of its own evil, it is equally true that we should rest content with the comforts of today and not sacrifice it by speculation on new excitement for the future. The best we can reach in this world
is to become content and satisfied — any ideas of an untold happiness or bliss in new relations are more poetical than practical, and will always end in disappointment. Has not life thus far been all that Wilhelmine could expect? A happy marriage — a safe conveyance across the ocean — city life in N. Y. — country life during the summer — change to Adonis — Christensen's and Emmy's visit — have all these varieties not done charm, that ought to be appreciated without sacrificing them to prospects of further immediate changes? Let us be patient and await for the proper moment to realize our cherished plans for the future. If these are realized in the fullness of time, is it not pity to have to reflect back on a time spent in dissatisfied calculations?
and hopes?

If anybody should feel bitter, I would be justified in grumbling. Contrariness have met me of late at every step. I know fully what I miss just now not being at home when I might just as well. And the idea of missing a chance of meeting Christensen and Emmy is very bitter to me. Then your coming sickness! But what is the use of pining? Being without occupation, life is almost a burden to me — I wander around aimless and downcast. I have really no hope that I will get off. My resignation will probably come back rejected. I send on another, but have to wait for months perhaps till I get it through. Yet I try to feel resigned and patient.
Sometime or other the day of delivery will come, and then with a regret of the lost time, I will appreciate my freedom so much the more. Cheer up, dear wife, and have a fine laughing girl ready for me to kiss when I sometime get home. You will then be well and hearty again, and feel young and strong, and with greater pleasure and comfort take hold of the preparations for our last change to the country!

I await with anxiety to learn by telegraph that all is over and that mother and child are well. God bless you dear wife and give you strength in the trying hours - I feel proud to think that we soon have four children, and all is well and so happy. My health is remarkably good. Give my love to all the dear friends in the house, and hope patiently for the return of your loving

[Signature]
Nashville
Thursday 15 October 1863.

Dear wife,

I received today Christian's letter of 12th. There has nothing happened yet to give me any better hopes to get off than before. I have felt very sad at the news of Henry Curtis' murder out in Kansas, and feel a great pity for his young wife and hard-tried parents. Who should have dreamed when he and I last parted that it would be never to meet any more in this world!

I went today to write to Mrs. Curtis and all the staff friends, condoling over the loss.

Love to all from your devoted

Ferdinand
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,

Nashville, Tenn., October 18, 1862.

Dear wife, I read today your and Christensen's dear letters of 15th, and go
now in our hourly expectation of hearing
about you by telegraph. I was sure
you would find Kate just to your taste,
and I consider her a treasure in a house, as
she is not of the kind to whom you have to
tell everything she must do - she has her own
idea about having things right. Tell her we
are getting well along in the house - Mrs.
Withrow has a sewing girl during the
day - a negro cook and two black men of
Julius', and a small negro boy besides
Louise. Thank Christensen for his kind
letter. Stephens has already told me of
some six places near Marion, and my choice
will not be difficult as soon as I can
get up there. I have heard nothing yet
from my late applications, and if
I hear nothing to-day, I shall of
course must entirely to see Christina
and Emmy, unless he could stay by
getting an extension of his leave.
It is better for me.

God bless you dear wife, - I feel
sure the girl is there before this letter
arrived, and really had a feeling as if
she came during last night.

Love to all from your
affectionate

Ferdinand
Assistant Quartermaster's Office,

Nashville, Tenn., October 19, 1863.

Monday

Dear wife,

I read today your letter of 16th. As yet I have no need to mention. Waiting and waiting and very little comfort. My thoughts are with you day and night - it must come now in these days - perhaps the midwife in New York was right placing it at the 20th. Last night I dreamt I got a dispatch but I awoke before I read the contents. When this letter arrives, the new born is probably there - wish to get Christened has so arranged it that Emmy stays with you. It will be no less comfort to me than to you.
I have finished up my business here and am ready to leave at any moment's notice.

I feel comforted at the thought that you go your full time - I think the confinement will be so much easier, and your good health gives me faith that you will have no harder time of it than heretofore. You never mentioned the receipt of a very long letter I wrote you in answer to your letter about my shortcomings. Did you get it?

Love to all from your devoted,

[Signature]
Headquarters, Military Division of West Mississippi,

Close by Fort Blakely April 10, 1865.

Dearest wife, after I wrote you my last letter, I made up my mind to go over myself and visit Christian and general Carby in the field. This was on last Friday April 7th. So I made my preparations—had a box made up with all kinds of nice things, preserves, smoked tongues, hams, haddock, fish &c., &c., also a demijohn with 5 gallons whiskey, and left New Orleans in the evening by the Pontchartrain Railroad to the Lake. There I took the evening by the Pontchartrain Railroad to the Lake. There I took the nice little steamboat 'Laura'—we left at 9 o'clock that evening and arrived Saturday at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at Fort James. The trip is very interesting, getting out of Lake Pontchartrain by a narrow strait into the Mississippi Gulf, running along the coast of Mississippi State, between this and a great many

By order of Major-General E. R. S. Canby:
Islands and Reeves, passing several forts and gunboats stationed at important passes. The last pass into Mobile Bay is very remarkable for its narrowness between Fort Pelican and the Reeves. It was a beautiful but windy day when we came into the Bay and swung around to Fort Gaines. Here I landed and found old friends in the Quarter master, Capt. Rundle and Colonel Hindersill the Commissary, and I stayed there overnight. Sunday morning (yesterday) I left Fort Gaines on the steamer "Warrior" going up Mobile Bay to Stark's Landing, 3 miles south of Spanish Fort. The "Warrior" brought me the first news that Richmond was taken. Arriving at Stark's Landing we learned to our joy that Spanish Fort has surrendered the previous evening. All these good news came almost simultaneously, and we had of course a great many drinks to glorify them in. At Stark's Landing I called on General Bailey (he who got famous by his dam on the Red River) and he gave me an Ambulance, with which to hunt up Panama's...
No. 2

Headquarters, Military Division of West Mississippi, 1865.

Headquarters, which had been at "Spanish Fort," had moved to Fort Blakely, the next fort on the road to Mobile. I traveled some 10 or 11 miles, past all the now deserted camps, with the enormous breastworks and lines of rifle pits used in the siege of Fort Spanish Fort, and found at last Canby's Camp, while I heard the Cannon Thunder not far distant against Blakely.

By order of Major-General E. R. S. Canby:

I had hardly been there half an hour before one of the officers came with the glorious news of the assault on and taking of Fort Blakely. So there were congratulations, and as might be...
in, and the camp fires shone all around in these magnificent pine woods and everything around looked like a fairy-land, all the Generals — Steele, A. J. Smith, Carr, Granger, Osterhaus and others sat down in a circle back of Christensen's tent around the quiet, happy Camby, who bit and smoked his cigarre with an apparent delight and gusto. At last we went to bed — all the staff to get a good rest, most of them having been in their saddles for several days with very little sleep. Christensen also was exhausted, being aroused from his sleep every moment during the night to receive and answer dispatches. I slept excellently on a Cot in Christensen's tent and was up early in the morning. After breakfast I mounted Christensen's horse and rode with Generals Osterhaus and Comstock into Fort Blakely, examining all the fruits of last night's victory, the works, guns and ammunition captured and the several thousand rebels who had to surrender. This was all very interesting to me.
Headquarters, Military Division of West Mississippi,

1865. Do not expect more opposition until we reach Mobile, which certainly must surrender. We have yesterday captured over 5000 prisoners and some 60 pieces of Artillery. General Canby don't want me to leave just now, and the life here is so pleasant and exciting that I do not think I shall leave until Mobile is taken. Love to all, dearest wife - Christensen sends much love to Emma and all of you - he is very busy and overworked everybody. I am anyhow so glad I have got away from New Orleans.

By order of Major-General E. R. S. Canby:

Your devoted husband,

[Signature]
HEADQUARTERS,
Military Division of West Mississippi,
Mobile, Ala. April 15th 1865.

Dear wife, day before yesterday I was one of the privileged few who with Mr. Canby, Asterlans and A. J. Smith left Fort Blakely for this place on the steamer “White Cloud No. 2.”

The whole staff, Christensen included, were ordered to stay behind. It was a beautiful day, and sailing down Tensaw River, we soon got out in Mobile Bay, and wound our way very slowly and cautiously amongst all the obstructions, stacks, and torpedoes that yet fill the Bay. Even yesterday two Navyboats were blown up on the same way. We escaped all trouble, and our Boat was the second that laid to at Mobile since secession took hold of her. I am the only Civilian that has or for some time yet will get permission to come here. Nobody has any idea how strong Mobile was fortified. Fortresses all over, in the Bay itself on small islands, ashore and everywhere. It would have cost thousands of lives to have taken it by force. It is a very pretty city with splendid residences, but everything looks poor, dirty and dilapidated. I haven’t been much around yet as a severe cold has settled in my neck and made it very stiff and painful. I shall stay a couple of days yet and then go home — no news whatever I have come from Washington. Love to all — Christensen is well and rejoices at the idea soon to get out also —

Your loving

[Signature]