

Camp Alcorn Hopkinsville Ky

Dec^r the 18th A.D. 1861

Dear Father & Mother:

I am now writing on a soap box across my lap by candle light. Since I last wrote I have been improving in health and may say that I am entirely well with the exception of bad cold which appears to act on me as on all the balance of the Regt^t; it seems to take hold of the Lungs more than I have ever noticed before. I weighed myself this evening and weighed 140^{lbs} having fallen off in flesh in the course of 3 or 4 weeks to this weight from 155^{lbs}. There is at this time not so much sickness in the Regt^t as has been but what has been has produced serious morbid on the numbers of the Regt^t upwards of 40 have died since we left Texas and ten of that number have been from our company. Those that have died are the following: M. J. Blough, Alex. Strain, Byron Murray, John W. David, Young Petty.

& at this place and Lieut Oliver Burleson and Mr Oliver at Clarksville and I consider 3 or 4 more in a dangerous condition I shall not call the names of any particular persons except in a case like this in which I will say that I do not wish you to mention names so they will be heard of from their relatives at least until I write again. I heard from Clarksville a day or two ago. Young Mr Anderson formerly an editor of the Pioneer was at Clarksville and brought information that Uncle A. C. A. C. jr and Robt. High were in good health or improving.

Uncle Andrew wrote here about a week ago that he was in a very good temporary position in the Hospital at Clarksville and I understand from those who have come from there at various times since the establishment of the Hospital that he has pretty nearly exhausted his powers of endurance by his constant attention to the sick - Robt. Murray is still at Clarksville - he has applied for a discharge and I think will get it as the Physicians there have certified to his being disqualified for service by the effect of Measles on his lungs - Several cases of Measles have caused death in the same way by affecting the Lungs I have still had but one letter from any of you The news here is dull generally - There is however some fighting going on around here - there was a fight a day or two ago up in Western Virginia in which our forces 1200 strong are said to have whipped 5000 of the enemy - there is a report here that a skirmishing fight took place near Boling Green in which we are said to have whipped them capturing 300 of their cavalry the first fight is published being official the latter was telegraphed to this place last night - There is a report also that Jim Jackson intends taking his Christmas dinner at this place he may attempt to do so but if he succeeds it will be after he finds himself in charge of Confederate troops he does not know possibly that there are enough Confederate forces here to whip any thing he can bring against us - it appears that from 6000 to 10000 were in about 50 miles of us a night or two ago but I do not know whether to believe it or not - dont care if its so

I write here by the light of a green Red Oak fire
the fire part having been very necessary and comfortable
for these many nights past. We are now in a new camp
On the Nashville Road about a mile and a half nearly South
from Town - We were formerly about a half mile West of Town
they have very nice streams of water in this section of country
the whole understrata here seems to be lime and Marble and
Sink Holes and caves are numerous foxes seem to be plenty
as I would judge from hearing dogs run them now and then
at Princeton there is a fine branch running through the
earth and only two places at which it is accessible as far as
learned one of them in the edge of the town the other some 300 or
400 yds from that where it empties into a large creek.

I stated in my other letter that cousin John was getting on very
well but of late he does not seem to improve but rather to decline he
has been afflicted with Neuralgia of the face and in the last day or
two his bowels have been running off he is now talking of going
to Clarksville and I think he would do well to go for a while.

The clothing for our company has not yet got to hand but we are
looking for it every day Mr Davis went from here to Bowling
Green. Mr Leonard who was in camp a few days ago says
that from 75 to 100 of Terry's Regt had died - there are as
far as I can learn at least 50000 men in and about Bowling

We have here plenty of good beef. Flour bread and
genuine Coffee the latter not mixed with either rice or corn meal
Barley or Chocolate = Beef at 12^{cts} pr ^{lbs} Now and then once a week we
have Bacon - Once or twice since we have been here a little pork and
Sausengers - this is a land of porkers (Bacon from 25^{cts} to 30^{cts} pr ^{lbs} pork 10^{cts} gross)

Two or three of the men of our Regt have been found asleep on their posts - Genl Clark had the different Regts of Infantry 5 in Number in general review day before yesterday at the end of review he said on account of the men not having been informed fully as to their duties he would spare them but that after that time the man who went to sleep on post should certainly be shot (I hope he has scared those fully who are inclined to sleep) he said also that he expected us to have a fight in a few days with forces of the enemy fully equal in numbers to ours if we should I feel fully confident we will by the favor of the Almighty (whose favor is not with the many or the few but with the just cause) give them more than they bargain for I am inclined to think Lincolns message and the appearance of things in the present Federal Congress will turn many a union man in both Kentucky and Tennessee in fact the last papers state that in one of the strongest Union Counties in East Tenn the unionists are now raising a Regt for the Confederate service Nothing more now - except that Burgess Modrell is doing very well personally but has no more pleasure in outside affairs than I have.

Hoping the Almighty will bless all your family at home and elsewhere I remain yours in filial regard

C. W. Love