

Camp Alcorn Hopkinsville Ky
Jan^y 8th A.D. 1862

Dear Tea:— I recd your letter of Dec^r 18th this morning it was in one of those long brown envelopes from it for the first time since we left home I learned something of the boys— I learned that they were yet in the land of the living if one in a soldiers life can be said to be living I can hardly feel that he is though, for he is rather dragging out a miserable existence I wish you would write to me at all times on receiving any information of them Until I received your letter I had not been able to know whether Stones Reg^{mt} was in the fight at Belmont or not and have therefore been very uneasy.

This leaves me Uncle A. C. who is attending the sick at the Hospitals in this place and A. C. jr in tolerable good health. Geo Blain is also in good health— Cousin John W. is not entirely healthy his being affected by neuralgia— I do not know whether I said so in my last letter to father or not— but John is trying to get a discharge from service at the present time with the design of going to a private house some where near this place and taking a course of medicine under the charge of Dr Alston otherwise he is not in bad health— Rob^t High is at Clarksville is not in good health having had Measles, he is also home sick and I think he is more affected by the latter complaint than the former— he is however in a condition that he will not be able to do any service this Winter— his Uncle (Mosely) from Alabama came up to see if he could not procure a discharge for him but did not succeed in doing that I think he then tried to get a furlow for him but Gen^l Clark will not grant furlows in but very few instances— when they are known to be unfit to do service he has given discharges in about twenty instances for men of this Reg^{mt} there were Seven Hundred and thirty nine of our Reg^{mt} when it was organized at this place— there are now or rather were reported by this mornings Muster roll to be six Hundred and nine of all the men thus missing from the Reg^{mt} there are only about the twenty that were discharged living making about One Hundred and nineteen that have died which is about one sixth of the Reg^{mt}

We are camped here on low ground near the bank of a bold running creek which is very good water at all other times than when we have had rains sufficient to run on the roads and wash mud into it we then have as muddy water as you ever see in a creek we are now living in huts made of Red Oak slabs and our tents for a roof. They are comfortable and warm but when it rains this whole country is very disagreeably muddy. Some of the messes in the different companies of the Reg^{mt} have made their bunks which answer in the place of bedsteads. My mess have not got theirs made yet and if it continues rainy and bad weather as it has been to day and for some time past we will not be able to make them for just that length of time as we cannot until the weather is fair move our bedding out of the house and with it and the clothing in the house there being so much of it we can do nothing. All the clothing and bedding sent to us has got here except possibly one box which has by some means been misplaced and we do not know where it is likely to be - Cousin J. W. L. brought two of them and says there were six at Clarksville we got three of the four yesterday and understand that the other was put on the same wagon it may have been treated like some of the things in one of the boxes and in J. H. Colletts trunk some of the things sent to young Burleson were possibly stolen and Colletts trunk was broken open and an over coat of his and one belonging to W^m McShoven were stolen - I got an Over coat a vest one pair socks one shirt one neck comfort and one bed comfort and a pair shoes - I have now more clothing than know what to do with. a coat like the one I got would cost at this place twelve or fifteen dollars the vest eight or ten the shoes about five and every thing in the way of clothing costs in proportion about like these Common letter paper like this I write on costs fifty cts at Clarksville no kind can be had at this place. Since we have got to this place we are not visited very often by the young ladies from town. they were at our camp the other side of town nearly every day as it was but half a mile off - We have been very badly treated by the chief physician of this brigade he has neglected the sick in a most wanton manner rarely ever seeing any of them himself and has not had the Hospitals kept clean at all they small exceedingly bad and in the old hospital there have to his and every one elses knowledge been a great number of body lice which he has taken no pains to have destroyed. they have had hardly any medicine here until to day this however may have been to our advantage. this chief physician's name is Lile and

and from his language and actions it seems to have been his chief object to show his power and authority at the Hospitals by rudely treating all the sick men he might happen to see and by insulting with dirty language threats of arrest and the publication of Notices at the doors of the Hospitals - That no commissioned ^{Officer} should go in except at certain hours of the day and not then unless ^{they} had first got the presence of a physician who belonged to the Medical staff to conduct them about the rooms - some of these commissioned officers however have concluded not to bear with him any longer - some of them have cursed the whole concern General, Medical staff and all, others have intimated things of a serious character to Dr Lisle and one that I know of says if if Lisle will just speak cross to him he will kill him in an instant he was insulted by him two or three times and once in circumstances which he will not easily forgive many of them say they would rather kill him than an enemy from the Lincoln Government.

Mrs Gregg has been at the house of one of her kinsmen by the name of Garth for about two months but has possibly by this time gone home to her father in Alabama; she has been sick the most of the time since she came here caused no doubt by over exertion in attending the sick at Clarksville when she first came, you did not inform me when you wrote whether the boys were in any thing like comfortable circumstances or not I wish when you answer this you would say something about it if you know I am sorry to learn of the death of Harriet but it is probably best for her.

I hope Grand-father will live till I get back if Providence permits me to get through this war - home and its comforts with all the hard labor that may be necessary to procure those comforts are rich blessing hardly ever properly appreciated by those who have them - it seems to me nothing would give me more pleasure than to be at home with father attending to all domestic affairs as they came to hand But if I am permitted by a kind Providence on whom we should at all times rely to live three years longer these three years may have to be spent in a soldiers life in the camp
Tia if you wish to have a relish for the best of Books read your bible every day it has more important and truthful history both sacred and profane concerning the character and genealogy of mankind than a hundred thousand times the same amount of print in any other book in the knowledge of our race

Writing of such thing as the rest of that on the preceding pages
I could finish out a good many pages but I will write no more of
them - I have but little local news and you get General news faster
than I can get it here - With the hope that you will all write
to me often I will cease this letter.

Yours fraternally &c.
C. W. Love

P.S.

Have you more but long envelopes in your country

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