

Camp Alcorn Hopkinsville Ky

Jan'y 27th A.D. 1862

Pa^rent & T. A. Love!

Dear father & Mother:

I have not written to you in some time but have written to Tirysa & others so you have heard from me.

This leaves myself and the other relatives and acquaintance in good health and with plenty of clothing and bedding to be comfortable and plenty to eat of beef Flour bread genuine coffee & Sugar and whatever else we may be able to purchase when we have the money which just at this time is very scarce generally and with me the last of the \$48.00 with which I left home was spent this morning for the unnecessary comfort called tobacco. I think it will however be but a few days until we will be paid about one months wages which will possibly be about sufficient to feed a man a few times on butter eggs chickens and some other little things bought with this money at from thirty to thirty five per cent discount and with Tenn money at a Discount of 40 to 50 per cent Discount this is because the whole trade of the country of almost all kinds is in the hands of Unionists with whom this whole country is cursed. I am fully of the opinion that if the war is brought into this region of country it will truly be a war of brother against brother and of son against father as in many instances the children of the same family are in both armies. There are several cases in this region one family in particular the father being a rabid Unionist has two sons in the Northern army & one in the Southern at Bowling Green. There are numberless instances of this kind in this Christian County. It appears now that the Northern forces have begun the long threatened simultaneous movement against us. About 27,000 of them from report have taken Murray in Tennessee and it appears are getting in the rear of Fort Henry. There is hardly any doubt now of their having whipped Brittenden & Bollicoffer up in the Mountains of East Ky and that they the last that was heard of them were retreating toward Knoxville Tenn - and that the enemy were possibly in Tenn in pursuit of them. The report

of the battle the way we have it is that the enemy had crossed a creek called fish Creek to the No of fifteen hundred (this was reported to Crittenden) he supposed or rather heard that they could not cross any more because of the creek having risen considerably with this impression Crittenden ordered Zollicoffer to attack them he did so but instead of 1500 he found fifteen or twenty thousand during the fight Zollicoffer rode up to a regiment which he supposed was one of his that were firing on another one of his and ordered them to cease firing as they were killing their own men the regiment he rode up to was an Indiana Regiment Zollicoffer did not discover his mistake until the Col of the Regiment rode up to him. Z. immediately drew his sword and killed the Col but he and all his Staff were immediately fired on by the regiment Zollicoffer and several of his Staff were killed the others were wounded 3^d forces then got into confusion and immediately retreated Crittenden conducted the retreat back to their breastworks from which they were driven at three O'clock of the same day that night Crittenden with his forces crossed Cumberland River retreating toward Knoxville - it is reported and believed that Pikes forces in Mo have whipped and captured about 10,000 of the enemy there is a report also but not believed that Confederate forces have whipped the Federal on the Potomac again in a late fight. The enemy under Crittenden have moved from Balkoun to Carrollton at which place they are in forty five or fifty miles of this place and ten or fifteen miles nearer than they were at Balkoun. When they began to move we thought we would have had a fight here before now but now there is no telling when it will take place but it is no doubt not far off - Burgess Adrell is in good health - Robt High has mumps - Ges Blain is sick but missed his fever to day Capt Moody has had ^{the} Flux for near two weeks has been better at times but has finally gone to a private house - All of our company except those that are dead are doing toterally well none of them are in any great danger as far as I am able to judge I have had but few letters from home.

Nothing more at present.

Yours in filial regard &c
O. M. Love