

Quartermasters Office
2nd Regt Mich Col Buffly
Camp Schafers Tennessee
May 7th - 68

My dear Heath

It is after considerable thought and not a few misgivings as to how this will be received that I pen this letter. For our present acquaintance is of so limited a character, that it is not a sufficient pretext for so doing, at least it would not be under ordinary circumstances, but at present, it is all the excuse that I have to offer. Being well aware that you take a lively interest in the great struggle which is at present agitating the whole world; I naturally conclude that you could have no great objections to exchanging compliments with one who is deeply interested, and a participant in the conflict. I think that few realize the pleasure Soldiers experience, in receiving letters from their friends, whom they left with regret, and are now waiting for the time to come when they can leave the tented field and return to their homes, many knew not how to prize the comfortable surroundings of home, and the pleasing attention of friends, until compelled to leave them all behind and encounter the privations and hardships of camp life, and I hear it frequently remarked by my comrades that they could now go home and duly value the pleasures and benefits

enjoyed. a soldier's life is not ^{however} wholly devoid of charms, and pleasures, for to an intelligent observer every hour brings something new and interesting. The inhabitants here are different from the people in Michigan; they have different customs and habits, and are in fact about two hundred years behind time, or else the people of Michigan are far ahead. I never saw people so addicted to "by words" as they are called, as the people of Kentucky and Tennessee. if you ask a person how far it is to the next village or city; the answer is, that it is a "right smart way," no matter if two or twenty miles it is all the same, if I ask a man how much the Rebels took away from him he says a "right smart chased," meaning that they took considerable. The great cause of this backwardness is caused by the almost total absence of district schools, and consequently school privileges. I saw but two school houses while going from Louisville to Bowling Green, a distance of over one hundred and fifty miles. The young grow up in ignorance, and never enjoy the advantages of even the first rudiments, of a common district school education. This intellectual deficiency is pictured on every thing which they touch. The buildings are homely and inconvenient, built neither for taste or showy, but just made to stay in. The people are not only different but there are several species of trees and numerous plants and flowers here that are entire strangers to Michigan.

I have seen upwards of twenty specimens of rare plants and flowers procured by Adjutant Morse, and which he intends to send to Michigan, and place in his herbarium, which is at Tonia, and contains over five hundred different specimens already. The flower gardens are now in full bloom, and after we pass the picket-line there are quite a number, and the owners kindly present the soldiers with all that are rare, and they carry them in camp. And we have a splendid camp, inclining to the west, the boys have taken considerable trouble to get small Cedar trees ~~and~~ set out in front of their tents, which gives to the encampment a very pretty and neat appearance and I think that if any of the Michigan folks could visit us at present, they would find us much better off than they think we really are. There are several Michigan Regiments in this vicinity, among which are the fourth Cavalry, the Engineers and Mechanics and the fourteenth Infantry, which is at present acting as guards on the Railroad between here and Nashville, a band of guerrillas stopped a train about two weeks ago and captured our First Lieutenant B. D. Fort, who was going home on a furlough, and he is at present rusticated in Dixie. I received a letter from Sabie a few days ago stating that James Lyons and Miss Nellie Ballard are married. I congratulate them on their good fortune.

and hope they may never have cause
to repent entering the state of matrimony.
But I will bring this prosy and
uninteresting letter to a close, and if
you should deem it worthy of an answer
it will be received with pleasure.

Amherst B. Cheney
Co. B, 21st Regt. - Mich. Vols.
Murfreesboro Tennessee

Wm. C. Hearty
Spartan Center, Kent Co.
Michigan

No. 1

2nd Lt. Office 2nd Regt. Inf.
Camp Schaefer Tenn.
June 14th 1863

Your kind and interesting letter of the 21st came duly to hand and was perused with much pleasure.

You wrote that there was some hesitation on your part in reference to answering my last; "not because you did not wish to answer it but because you felt incompetent to write a letter to me"

Thank you for the compliment contained therein, unmerited as it is, but please lay aside all such feelings, consider them imaginary, as they certainly are, and remember that you are addressing me in no wise your superior.

I find that some young ladies are very apt to underrate themselves, not giving themselves credit for as much real worth as they are justly entitled to, thereby actually robbing themselves, and I have no doubt that this self deprecating, as it may be termed often acts to a certain extent as a barrier to progression, and therefore on this account, it should be guarded against. It is needless to say that it is generally caused by a lack of confidence assisted by an excess of modesty, neither generally considered very unbecoming.

I hope you will have complete success with your school, and I have no doubt you will.

If you prize ~~and~~ enjoy the pleasing association of the school-room as highly as I do, and I have no doubt you do, I almost envy you your happiness. I can honestly ^{say} that I have never enjoyed ^{myself} in any other situation as I have in the recitation room.

The most pleasing portion of my existence I can safely date the last few months which I attended school and I think it is not quite as pleasant ^{as teaching} as occupying the position of a pupil, owing to the responsibility and restraint attached to the former.

You think that you have but a small school; twenty five scholars are all that I should wish to have at one time. There sufficient time can be used at every exercise to give every pupil a good knowledge of the lesson. It is very seldom that a class is dismissed in which every member has a thorough knowledge of the lesson, so that he or she can make practical use of it when needed, and consequently he is unacquainted with some particular rule or theorem, which he will certainly have to turn back and commit, before he can solve some of the more intricate problems, which he is sure to find in the latter portion of the work.

I have often wondered why it ~~is~~ that young ladies generally give better satisfaction

and have more uniform success than male teachers? I have often heard it remarked that Mr. ———, is not much of a teacher, and Mr. ———, is deficient in government, and still another case in which the teacher has the illwill of all the scholars, on the other hand but very few females that undertake to teach a school and fail. I know no reason for this deficiency on the part of male teachers, in teaching district schools, unless it is that the young ladies have a peculiar way of gaining the good will of pupils: which is a sure forerunner of success. I often think of late of that old saying or saying, "Knowledge is power," and I find it verified every day. Education is a powerful auxiliary, a mighty helper, and one of the choicest acquisitions man has ever possessed. Let a person endeavor to pass through this world without improving the opportunities offered him of obtaining an ordinary education and he will never prove more than a tool for the hands of those more favored by fortune. He is incapable of making himself acquainted with even the most ordinary topics of the day, and all he knows is simply hearsay and rumor. This class of people are always distinguished by their opposition to ~~new~~ improvements, and inventions. They are always superstitious, distrustful, suspicious, and prone to do as their fathers did, even though ^{they} ~~it~~ ^{is} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{as} far as to appear ridiculous in the eyes of the more enlightened portion of community.

Thousands of this class of individuals can be found all over this southern country, very few of the lower classes can read or write. Still I have heard many of them give their ideas (not very bright of course) of the present state of affairs with an importance and air that would well become a most learned professor.

This country is remarkable for ignorant people, poorly cultivated farms, small number of churches & school houses, miserable water, and myriads of all kinds of annoying insects. The greatest plague is flies. Thousands swarm around every tent, and one cannot sit down to eat, without every article of food being nearly covered by these troublesome insects.

The Army of the Cumberland, rumor states is about to make a forward movement, but the truthfulness of this, time will only prove as Gen "Cass" has a way of keeping secrets unknown to most of our generals. The health of the troops is first rate, and all are in good spirits, ready to move at a moments notice. We have plenty of provisions, many articles I presume that our friends at home think we have not. We are now drawing Soft Bread, Potatoes, Pickles, plenty of good pork and many other things. My sheet is nearly gone and I must close. Please excuse this hastily written, poorly composed and exceedingly dry letter. I dont feel in the right humor to write a good letter. I will try and do better next time. Write soon and dont fail.

excuse this miserable envelope. Respectfully yours
No. 2 A. H. Cheney.



Bridgeport, Alabama.
August 25/68.

Mr. Heath,

Your kind and interesting answer to my last, has just come to hand; although written a long time ago. such a length of time had elapsed since writing to you that I was afraid that you had subjected my poor sheet to a critical examination, and had come to a just conclusion in regard to its merits, and had (as it deserved) deemed it unworthy an answer. It gave me great pleasure and gratification to learn that my fears were unfounded and not to be realized.

While much regretting the deficiencies of our mail system I can but thank you for the promptness with which you answered my last. you will perceive by the heading of this, that we have again changed ~~our~~ our position. we are now encamped at the village of Bridgeport Ala. it is situated

upon the bank of the Tennessee River. we occupy the North side and the enemy the opposite. immediately in front of us is an island in the river. It extends four miles above and nearly the same distance below. This the rebels have possession of. The railroad crosses the river at this point and consequently crosses the island. The bridge which spanned the stream this side of the island was partially destroyed by the "Rebs" before they were driven from this place; but the bridge on the other side remained uninjured until about one week ago, when the rebels destroyed it by setting it on fire. It was about 12 o'clock at night that they set it on fire. It was on fire the whole length (2 miles) in a very few moments and it was a beautiful sight. At intervals our artillery threw shot and shell across, by which four poor fellows lost their lives. Deserters come over every day in squads of eight and ten. They appear to be much dissatisfied and are resolved to fight no longer. The ~~Reb~~ Mississippi

troops are the most disheartened on account
of their native state being principally in
our possession.

The 1st Regt of Michigan Engineers and
mechanics are here building bridges.

A detail of three commissioned Officers, three
non commissioned officers and four privates will
leave this Regiment for Michigan to induce
conscripts to enlist in the Stat.

The health of the army is excellent but very
few sick and but very few seriously ill.

The last letter I recd from home brought
the unwelcome intelligence that it was very
sickly there. This is a cause of much anxiety
if to us as we expect every letter will bring the
news of the sickness of our friends and neighbors
at home. It is getting dark and I must "halt,"
for the present. Write often. Good night.

Very respectfully yours

Amherst, B. Cheney.

Miss Tina Heath
Boston Michigan

8.3

Adjutant's Office 21st Mich, Inf.
Chattanooga Tenn Nov 4/63

Kind friend

It is evening, night has dropped her dark and impenetrable curtain over all, and I now seat myself to enjoy the pleasure of inditing a few lines in answer to your kind and highly interesting letter bearing date of October 18th and received by this afternoon's mail.

We are now in camp, about one half mile in the front, or south of the city of Chattanooga, and in the extreme front of the army.

The tents of the enemy are in full view, about one and a half miles in advance of us. Two miles to our right Lookout Mountain rears its rocky form. The Rebels have a battery of artillery planted upon its extreme top. They have been quite busily engaged of late, trying to shell our camps and batteries. The damage they have thus far done is very small, one shell thrown by them struck one of the hospital buildings upon the roof, passed down through it going between the patients beds and striking a beam glanced and went into the ground. No harm was done. The position of the battery enables them to throw shot and shell in all parts of the town. Gen Thomas is planting batteries and thinks he will be able to dislodge them. Our beloved General, Rosecrans has been relieved of his command, and ordered to report to the Adjutant-General for orders. This has cast a gloom and sadness over all the troops. If a

general ever merited the full and implicit confidence of an army, Gen Rosecrans is the man, and no general not excepting Napoleon the great, ever won so entirely the unbounded love and admiration of his troops as he. He was like a father; always striving to lighten our burdens, and render us as happy and comfortable as possible here and cool in danger, he was one of the few born to command. A rigid disciplinarian, he exacted obedience without tyrannizing, kind beyond measure - but a lion in battle. I saw him at the battle of Chickamauga when the fight was raging fiercest - and our brave boys were falling by hundreds - riding along the lines where the leaden hail flew thickest, encouraging the men to stand firm for on their courage and gallantry rested his only hope of success. During those three terrible days he fought eighty thousand Rebels with about fifty thousand and finally snatched Chattanooga from their grasp and completely foiled them. Had we have had a less competent general, the shattered fragments of the army of the Cumberland would have been in Murfreesboro or Nashville ere this, but owing to his cool and stubborn bravery, he so crippled the enemy that he was enabled to take possession of this stronghold, and now the army is stronger than ever before. It is very surprising how ready and eager many newspaper editors are to rain down censure upon any and all of our generals whenever the least opportunity presents itself. Already I see many articles in New York papers accusing Rosecrans of incompetency and bad conduct.

with nothing but a few meager and ill-defined articles
written by their correspondents who were very careful
to keep well out of the way of ^{the} stray bullets, and were
probably several miles away during the battle, these
persons therefore build assertions so broad and state-
ments so large in reference to the actions of this Gen-
eral and the management of the troops during the
fight; that we are surprised at their boldness, in
stating that as facts; which we know to be entirely
false and untrue, "but such is war."

Gen Thomas our present commander is an old
schoolmate of "Coop" and one of his favorites.
you have doubtless already become acquainted
with the distinguished part he played at Chickamauga.

Last Sabbath I had the pleasure of listening
to the celebrated Elocutionist, and reader; Musdock.
he has devoted the last eighteen months of his time,
in traveling and giving "Readings" as he terms them.
he read to us first a hymn composed by the great
poet Addison, after which he read the Biblical
Story of Joseph and his Brethren, I presume there
were but few present, who were not very familiar
with it having read and recited it since after him,
but it sounded like an entirely new narrative,
so vividly and truthfully did he personate the
feelings and emotions of Jacob and his sons,
when Jacob had gone down to Egypt and there found
his son whom he loved so dearly and supposed dead -
alive and well, he was moved to tears so great was
his joy, and in his extreme happiness he exclaimed
"now let me die." In reading this portion of the
story Mr. M. so truly pictured the feelings that

a natural facet to thus express his great joy, that many were noticed to slyly brush away a few eyes genuine tears; for Soldiers notwithstanding they are generally supposed to have hearts of stone, are not totally devoid of sympathy and compassion, no not totally, for I have often seen them divide their last cracker with some hungry and unfortunate comrade. And upon the battle field when victory perch'd upon our glorious banner, have I seen them stooping over some prostrate and mortally wounded foe, cooling his parching thirst and administering to his wants; and finally place him by some sheltering rock or tree and watch by him as life slowly ebb'd away, and after the last struggle was over he would slowly turn away with moisten'd eyes and resume his duties. You remark in your letter that the manner the weather affects people, I find a verification of your theory in my self this evening, for who could have written a gloomier and more mournsome letter than this. I defy competition in these respects, and will write again when in better spirits, if you ever manage to decipher this, inform me of the fact by return mail without fail. Hoping to hear from you soon I bid you good night.

Very Respectfully

Yours

Amherst B. Cheney
Advt's Clerk 21st Mich, 1841.
Chattanooga Ten

Miss Fina

1
Adj'ts. Office 21st Mich. Engrs.
Chattanooga Tenn Dec. 7th 1863

Friend Lina

Your favor of Nov. 23rd was received with much pleasure by yesterday's mail, and I improve this the first opportunity of answering or of trying to answering it, since I wrote you last; many very important changes have taken place; and many decisive advantages gained. The rebel Army which for a time, looked down upon us from the summit of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge - and were making demonstrations, which caused many to fear for the safety of the troops in and around Chattanooga - has very suddenly disappeared and is now endeavoring to extricate itself from the perilous position, the moving

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demonstration of Gen. "Unconditional
Surrender" Grant's combined forces
has placed them.

The union troops have shown an
I was going to say unequalled amount
of courage in the present engagements
but suffice it that they fulfilled
the highest expectations of their
commanders. The charge that drove
the enemy from Missionary Ridge
was in Military parlance a brilliant
affair. Gen. Sheridan advanced
upon their works and ascended
the Ridge taking three lines of
earthworks in succession and
this in a murderous fire of artillery
and musketry from the top upon
which the enemies cannon were
placed. The Spectacle was a grand
one and although our feelings
were not those of men in line of
battle expecting momentarily to be
called upon to do their part of the

3.

bloody work, with all the doubt of
life or death before them, which
obedience to that call would impose,
yet. I assure you we were not un-
interested spectators of that scene.
what or how mighty the results
might be, none could tell. - but
it was reason that victory for us
would shorten our separation from
home - and disaster lengthen -
and we could not - neither would
we wish to avoid a personal
interest. Captain A. B. Morse of this
Regt was severely wounded, - and has
since had his arm amputated. he
was upon the Staff of Colonel Sherman
who was in command of the Brig.
to which the 2^d formerly belonged.
I received a letter from Fabric con-
taining a list of the drafted men
in the different towns in Cent Co.
and have since learned that nearly
all of them have preferred to pay

three hundred dollars rather than
 enlist and expose their precious
 persons as a target for rebel balls.
 I have studiously refrained hereto-
 fore from saying or writing ought
 in my letters to Michigan in regard
 to the disinterestedness shown by
 a large number of Northern men -
 who have always been loudest in
 expressions of patriotism. - when
 called upon to step forward and
 substitute actions for words; on
 account of the misconstruction very
 easily conceived, and apt to be placed
 upon anything written about them
 by a soldier. They would be very
 certain to say of one who should
 criticize their apparent inconsistency
 that he has great reasons for thus
 berating them, and simply ~~must~~
 takes advantage of circumstances
 to thus denounce them. But when
 I receive letters from young ladies

- who are denied the privilege of - and
cannot participate in the onerous
duties of the field - breathing such
patriotic sentiments - such love of
country, and of those blessed
institutions formed by, and
defended with such resolution
and indomitable heroism by
our common ancestors, I ~~cannot~~
cannot but compare the noble
sentiments expressed by them, with
the hypocritical and cowardly
actions of many of the mis-
called "lords of creation", would
that the order of things could
in an measure be reversed and
these meats and priny members
of society be exchanged for
the more noble and loyal
portion of the opposite sex.
is it possible that Americans -
descendants of the heroes of the
many blood stained fields of

the Revolution - with the
blood of a Warren, a Washing-
ton, or a Stark in their
veins - can remain passive
Spectators of the Herculean
efforts of an ignorant and
misled people to destroy
the gift and pride of
our forefathers? can they
coolly witness the present
struggle with unconcern?
can they in common with
foreign despots and aristoc-
rats; calmly and with un-
concern see the emblem of
civil and religious freedom
thus endangered and threaten^{ed}
can they who owe all they have
and are, to the superior and
enlightened form of government;
under which they have been
permitted to live; refuse in
the hour of danger to lend

their aid in defending it from
the fierce attacks of ~~the~~ ^{the} hands of
traitors? if they ~~do~~ ^{thus} act or in
reality not act at all, they are
entitled to the commiseration
and pity of all. may they never
disgrace the flag of the free by
marching beneath it by conspi-
cuous, but enough of this.

The weather is stormy and dis-
agreeable at present, but not as
cold as might be expected.

Rations are plenty, and all are
in excellent spirits. excuse this
impromptu letter. View it not
with a critic's eye but pass its
imperfections by, write again!

Your friend

A. B. Cherry

To Genl.



L. M. Office St. Rich.
Chattanooga Jan 23rd 1864
Friend Tina

I was with
great pleasure that I re-
ceived by today's mail your
very kind and inter-
esting letter written New-
years eve. and then
while suffering physical
ailment. allow me to
sympathize with you,
and hope that your
hand may soon get
well, so that you can
write without it causing
you so much pain.

Tina? (please excuse the fa-
miliarity) you do not
deal fairly by yourself,
and very unjustly I think.

I must beg leave to differ
with you. for your letters
refute the idea that they
are uninteresting, and
are good and sufficient
proof that you underrate
your capabilities. as, I think
I wrote you some time
since, many young ladies
think they are not com-
petent to the task of writing
a good letter, but I have
always found these were
the very ones that write
the most interesting ones.
I am not, at present, going
to write an essay upon the
ladies; but there are some
that I do not clop with
those of the character above
mentioned. I wish that
circumstances were such
that you and Sabri could

enjoy each others society,
And I know that it would
be mutually agreeable, as
she is now situated it is
very difficult for her to
visit any of her friends
at any distance from home.
You wish to know if it is
a pleasant place here where
we are? If we could have
had the privilege of selecting
our camping ground any-
where in the vicinity of
Chattanooga, we could have
found no better situation, we
are on the north bank
of the Tennessee River im-
mediately opposite and in
full view of the city,
about five miles from here
and a little to the right
of the city Lookout Mountain

rears its rugged sides and
stands as a grim sentinel
over the (formerly) beautiful
city, practically called the
Hawks-nest, by the Indians.
"correctly did they name it."
thus thought I the other
evening at sunset as I
surveyed it ^{from} hill top
in rear of our camp, and
seldom have I witnessed
more picturesque scenery
than is seen around Chat-
tanooga, lying in a bend
of the noble Tennessee, and
completely surrounded by
hills and mountains, it
presents a picture worthy
the pencil of the artist.
Owing to the benevolent
spirit of the Christian Com-

mission and the cooperation
of the religious societies in
the north we enjoy the priv-
ilege of attending Church.
Services are held regularly
each sabbath in the city, and
all can attend. The Chaplain
originally attached to this Regt.
(Villsburg) by name, found the
privation of camp life so
great, that he left us to our
fate; and sought the more
congenial surroundings
of home. Thus we have been
deprived of preaching a great
portion of the time, since en-
listing. we are expecting
a new Chaplain soon,
and I hope he may prove
a better man than the
other.

I nearly forgot to tell you
how I enjoyed Newyears,

dear me it and remember and do not think or lightly of
self for in my humble opinion you all don't think highly
and I feel to write from. I. R. B.

well we have an excellent
cook and he exerted him-
self in getting a New years
dinner, and the result
was that we had several
kinds of cake and pie
a singular way of describing
a meal to commence with
(the dessert) Tea and Coffee
"Sauer Kraut" Mixed vegetables
and a huge Chicken pie.
having a better dinner
than usual was all the
novelty of New years,
I honor your judgment
in remaining at home
in preference to endeavoring
to derive pleasure fraught with
the winds of a cold and better
nights; and I thank you for
your kindness in devoting your time
in writing to me, but am sorry
that it was rendered unpleasant by
that painful hand, please don't speak
or draw any of our letters for they do not

Q. M. Office 21st Mich. Inf.
Chattanooga Mar. 27. 1864
Dear Friend;

I hardly know how to excuse myself for my delay in answering your last, very kind letter, I have tried to begin a reply several times, but as often failed. nothing is at present taking place in the front of intrest to you, and I have very poor material from which to write a letter. I will write you first about a visit I paid to Lookout Mountain a few days since. it was about eight o'clock A.M. that I mounted my "gay and prancing steed"

and with every prospect of a
beautiful day and a delightful
ride I started, crossing the
river and through the city
I was soon at the pocket
line, after passing it - I
soon arrived at the earth-
marks met by the Rebels
previous to the battle of
Chickamauga, on every
side were to be seen those
unmistakable proofs of a
deserted camping ground -
worn out - Camp Equipage
and worthless accoutrements.
Trees torn by Cannon balls
and shell, and the bullet
marks to be found on almost
every tree attested the fierce
siege of the conflict which
had raged too and fro
across this stubbornly contested
field for about a mile

until the foot of the mountain
was gained, the evidence of
brave and determined fighting
was everywhere visible after
beginning to ascend, the road
runs in almost every conceiv-
able direction - now turning
abruptly around the point
of some huge boulder which
fancy & might suggest was
hurled from the summit
by some athletic giant of
olden times. again running
in a direction opposite the
one intended and then suddenly
turning again would continue
upward. Two hours of severe
toil finally brought me to
the top. and when once
there; one glance was suf-
ficient to amply repay all
the exertions. the Country
for miles, and miles around

Could all be taken in at one
view. Chattanooga lying as it
does in a bend of the river
appears immediately below.
The river is first seen about
fifteen miles above as it
comes out of the mountains,
and can be seen at different
points as it threads its devious
way among the hills, finally
with one beautiful and
graceful curve it sweeps ar-
ound the city and washes
the foot of the Mount. After
running about four miles in
the direction of Bridgeport
it disappears from view be-
hind Raccoon Mountain.

Extending far down the
mountain side are the hastily
constructed stone breast works

occupied by the rebels in
the fight with Hooker,
"among the clouds." The
embasures which once
hurled iron hail at the
union forces in the valleys
below are now deserted and
tenantless. Upon the mountain
is a small village called Sum-
merville, a resort of the
opulent and wealthy planters
of the surrounding country
during the hot summer months,
but the war prevents them
from enjoying the pleasures
of the cool and healthy
retreat. When I returned I
stopped in the city and
while sitting in a store
I witnessed a scene which
I will endeavor to describe -
five women belonging to
that class known as the poor

whites came in and wished
to know of the storekeeper if
he had any good Tobacco
to sell, being informed that
he had they expressed a desire
to purchase some. he presented
for their inspection a sample
known as plank road tobacco,
which they pronounced very
good, and each one bought
a large plug, and after further
testing its quality by taking
each a large chew they dep-
osited the remainder in their
pockets to provide against future
want, a majority ^{of the females} of the class
mentioned use tobacco in every
form, and many of them can
chew very energetically. They
must have very exquisite and
agreeable breaths, no more at
present. good night and pleasant
dreams. your friend
A. B. Leary



A. B. Cheney
2. M. Colver

Q. M. Office 21st Mich, Inf.
Chattanooga Apl. 5th 1864

Dear Friend;

Your request made
in your last, that I would send
you a photograph of my humble
self. was inadvertently forgotten at
the time of answering it. which
please excuse, I now comply with
your desire, although I think
it will prove a poor addition to
your collection of pictures. you can
place it in some out-of-the-way
corner of your Album, and among
an immediately after some more
ordinary and unpretending photos.
and thus save any sudden transition
from suplimity to ridiculousness.
hoping that you will do me the kind
favor of sending me your photos. by
return mail I close. Hoping to
hear from you again soon I remain

Yours truly
W. B. Cheney

Miss Tina Heath
Lisbon Mich.

P. O. Office 21st March, Ind. (Vt.)
Chattanooga May 19th 1864

Emma;

Your interesting letter of May 1st was received a short time since, and has been read repeatedly.

I received a letter from Sabie, in which she wrote that you had misconstrued the import of a letter just received from me; and that you were of the opinion that I did not wish you to answer it. And in your letter which lies before me; you state that you hesitated about answering it at all; for by the way it read you thought perhaps I did not care to correspond with you longer. I was very much surprised for I was not aware that I had written aught upon which such an opinion could possibly be formed; For I assure you nothing was farther from my intentions. I am much obliged to Sabie for inducing you to believe that you had mistaken my meaning.

It also appears that I forgot to

request you to answer; That was an addition to my long list of mistakes and blunders: which I am constantly making.

You hinted that it might be possible that I should cease to wish for your photograph: Do not harbor the idea for a moment; But send me at your earliest convenience, if you have no objection to doing so. I am aware that it is considered by the young ladies not a very good plan, to distribute their representations to any great extent, and although I should be very much pleased to receive yours, still I should not be so selfish as to urge you to send it if you do not consider it proper.

Allow me to congratulate you upon your excellent good fortune in being enabled to pursue a course of education which you have so often wished to for, and I wish you all the success possible. I only fear that when surrounded with new associates, and deeply interested in the acquirement of learning, you will forget those you have heretofore favored with your friendship. The cultivation of this pleasurable inter-

change of thought, I consider a by no means insignificant source of happiness. Doubtless there are many who think it a matter of no moment, and in their avidity to acquire honor and wealth entirely ignore and heed not springs of pure enjoyment; being apparently satisfied with the impure and adulterated fountains, from which flow streams contaminating everything in ^{their} ~~the~~ course.

How devoid of agreeableness must be the being of those who thus try to gather honey from poisonous flowers.

When you get settled on your new home which will probably be ere you get this, please write me how you like your schoolmates and everything else that appertains to your new situation that you may consider worthy of note.

The Military news at present are excellent. The army is very enthusiastic and anticipate a decisive victory.

The Union Arms are successful beyond all expectation and if no serious reverse should soon occur, we reasonably expect a speedy termination of the war. Prisoners are coming from the front daily. Gen Sherman is pref-

ing forward to Atlanta as fast as possible. The snow being in a measure stopped by the commanding Genl. renders it impossible to learn any of the details. We are simply told that all is going on finely. And the large number of prisoners constantly arriving attests the truthfulness of it.

Two days before yesterday about nine o'clock P.M. two of the soldiers belonging to this Regt. were out about two miles in the country to purchase some milk for the sick, and when leaving the house of a person named Stringer (who it is said formerly belonged to the rebel army) they were fired upon by Guerrillas stationed around the out buildings. They succeeded in escaping unharmful and came to camp as soon as possible. When a party of about twenty men the subscriber being one of the number, armed themselves and repaired to the spot with as much haste as possible, quietly surrounding the house a vigorous search was instituted, but no persons found in the house. Meanwhile a small number

of men passed the house and proceeded
along the road, after going a short
distance a man was seen to suddenly
spring from behind a tree and run
for the woods. he paid no attention to
the command, halt! and was fired
upon. but after a short chase succeeded
in escaping. we finally returned to camp
getting here about one o'clock in the morning.

These Guerrillas are persons that have
lived upon rations furnished their fam-
ilies by the U. S. and you can form
a very correct idea of their deserts.

Spring is nearly over. Since the
trees have donned their covering of green
the country is more beautiful than ever.
It would be difficult to find a section
of country equal to this in beauty.

Nature is very lavish with her
gifts and pleases the eye of every beholder.

Please excuse all mistakes and the haste
with which this has been written, and
remember that now you are at school
and will have lots of adventures to write
about. write soon and oblige

Your friend

A. B. Cheney
Q. M. S. 2^d Regt. Inf.

L. W. Office 2^d Lt. Mich. Inf. Vols.
Lookout Mountain July 17th 1864

Friend;

Your interesting favor of June 19th came to hand a few days ago and received a very cordial welcome. I had been looking for it for some time; for this reason it was doubtless the more gladly received. This proves the adage that postponed pleasures are apt to contribute more enjoyment than those participated in without hindrance or delay.

Since writing you last we have moved our camp from near Chattanooga to the Summit of Lookout Mountain. A more desirable situation for a summer residence is seldom found. Cool breezes continually regale us; and while our less fortunate neighbors living in the valleys below are smelting in the burning sun, we are favored with a cool, comfortable atmosphere.

There are eighty (80) hospitals in process of erection in this vicinity. Several already completed and occupied by sick and wounded. The terrific battles already fought and being fought in the front

renders it necessary that extensive preparations be made to properly meet the wants of the many wounded. A situation superior to Lookout Mt. cannot be found, only one difficulty - to be abated, water must be brought from the valley during the last of Summer and the first of Fall. This will be done, by three large engines, which raise the water about eight hundred feet high. There are quite a number of buildings completed and already occupied by Sick and wounded, about two thousand are thus cared for and many more can soon be accommodated, although I hope that there may not be many more so unfortunate as to require hospital treatment.

The blows now being struck in behalf of universal freedom are mighty and will have a corresponding effect, and should divine fortune continue to favor us a short time longer, I have great hopes of soon returning home with all my soldier friends.

The Fourth of July was duly celebrated, so far as circumstances would permit - by the military at this place. At sunrise the Artillery fired a national

salute, enjoyment - seemed to be the ruling
motive, and all sought it as their differ-
ent fancies happened to suggest. I went
southward upon the mountain about
three miles to a place called "the bluff."
It is a perpendicular precipice of rock
about one hundred and fifty feet in
height, and when at the foot of the rock
the earth is so steep for hundreds of feet
it is impossible to ascend. From the top
of the Rock a magnificent view is obtained.
Mountains to the eastward can be seen
which the inhabitants say are hundreds
of miles away, being situated in the
Carolinas. This seems almost improbable but
I have heard many citizens assert that it
was a fact. At 10 o'clock P.M. a large
number of soldiers, a few citizens and
about twenty ladies (about half from the
north) assembled at the Head Q^{rs} of the
Cing Brig to listen to the reading of the
Declaration of Independence by Lt. Barton
of the 13th Mich., and an Oration by
Col. Stanley of Ohio. The reading was
excellent; the Lt. is a professor of elocution
and well sustained his reputation. The
Oration was very appropriate, and expressed
the right sentiment. There was a military

ball in the evening, but as I did not
attend I cannot say whether it was
a success or not. I have heard however
that it did not prove as good as
many of the participants expected. I
saw one man the next morning who
had lost what green backs he had,
and many others who had lost their
virginity and appeared to be in need
of sleep. I will now close this
hastily written letter, my left-eye is
suffering with inflammation and prevents
me from writing long at a time. please
excuse all mistakes and write as
soon and as often as you conveniently
can. and accept this from
Your friend
A. B. Cheney

Lookout - Ind. - Tenn.

Aug 16th 1864

My friend Jim:

After a delay of twenty-four hours, I now seat myself to write a few lines in answer to your very kind favor of the 18th.

It gave me great pleasure to learn that you were enjoying yourself so well.

Next to that, your carte-de-visite gave me the most satisfaction, and while looking at it, I silently honored the genius that first entertained the idea of transferring our features upon paper, thereby allowing us to gaze upon the counter parts of our friends although

far separated.

I do not wish you to think me addicted to that detestable habit - termed flattery, for that I abhor, but I must be allowed to tell you that it is a beautiful picture. This being nothing but the truth does not savour of false praise.

"For Flattery no excuse can find;
Tis loathed as soon as tasted
When offered to a well taught mind,
And on a fool; 'tis wasted."

You speak of "imitating compositions" as the "bugbear of school-girls; and let me add of school-boys also. I think you need not be troubled much in that respect for should other means fail

you have but to read one
of your good letters, which
would be an excellent-
substitute for any other
style of writing.

Since writing the above
I have attended a session
of our "Reading Club".

The only one I think in
successful operation in
the Army. We number
thirty four members; have
a neat commodious club
room, and receive regular-
ly ten (10) different papers
and fifteen different

Magazines. These are con-
tributed ^{contributed} upon our
table, and an amount of
information and source of
enjoyment, very seldom
allotted to soldiers in the
field.

It would have given me much satisfaction to have attended the picnic of which you wrote. At such times it appears as though people divest themselves of all their perplexing cares, and with kindly feelings enter with zest into the pleasures of the occasion.

I hope you will not fail to visit - Sabie before returning to Detroit - for she will be very glad to see you. I now must excuse this apology of a letter and I promise to do better next time.

Hoping that you will soon favor me with another of your kind letters

I remain yours truly
A. B. C.



No. 2nd Lo. "H." 2nd Mich. Inf't.

Castermill Ga. Nov. 12th 1864

My friend Tina;

I presume that you long ago concluded that I had never received your last; or that I did not intend to answer it; - although either conclusion is incorrect still you could not think otherwise, under the circumstances. It has been dit. meets since I received it; - and no ordinary circumstances could possibly excuse one for such long continued delay. I shall now endeavor to acquaint you with the causes of my tardiness and earnestly hope you will duly consider them that I may escape blame. I received your excellent letter on the morning of the 27th of Sept. and at eight-

oclock A.M. the same morning we
marched to Chattanooga having packed
all surplus baggage. Madam Ruman
reported that we were en-route for
Tullahoma to look after our erring
brother Forrest, who was advan-
cing with a heavy force and
intent on severing the railroad
between Chattanooga and Nashville.
From Chattanooga we went by rail
to Tullahoma. from there we came
south again - to Stevenson, staid over
night and took the cars for Nashville
arriving in Nashville we halted
and drew rations, then went by
rail to Franklin Tenn. from
which place we went with all
haste to Florence, that being
the point at which the enemy
were crossing the river to escape
us. High water in Elk River and
Shoal Creek detained us while
Forrest was crossing, and we

only reached the river to find them
all safely over. The Second Cavalry
skinned some with their rear-
guard, and lost four men. The
Enemy lay concealed in a wood,
and Company M. of the 2^d Cav.
were advancing upon them, when
in a short distance of the thicket
a Rebel officer in Federal Uniform
came out suddenly and ordered
the Officer in command of Co. M.
to halt his men. The Lieut. in
Command instantly suspected treach-
ery and ordered his men to lie down
but before they could all obey;
the concealed enemy fired a volley
killing four. The Lieut. being
one of the number. The Second
instantly charged upon the enemy
and drove them over a mill.
killing eight of their number
and wounding several more.

From Florence we marched

to Athens, which previous to the war must have been a most beautiful village, but war has marred and defaced nearly all that once made the south so beautiful. The country surrounding Florence and Athens has been inhabited by the Aristocracy of the South, large and extensive plantations, Commodious and costly dwellings - extended lawns thickly covered with beautiful engravings are seen on every hand and evince the taste of the owners for the beautiful and lovely. Three days after leaving Franklin we were out of rations; and were compelled to forage upon the country; until we reached Athens, where we again took the cars, and returned again to

Chattanooga. From there I proceeded
to Dalton via of Cleveland.
Dalton was evacuated by the
Rebel Cavalry upon our approach
and one took possession. In many
places the railroad was still on
fire it having been destroyed
three days previous and the
garrison captured. Here we
stayed two days. The first day
I was on duty upon the picket-
line and visited a family
that lived just inside the line
whose names were McMen.
They had lived in S. for eleven
years but soon expected to go
north. at the commencement of
the war they were secessionists but
are now very good unionists.
Here I heard the first music
upon a Piano since leaving Mich.
Leaving Dalton we came to
Kingsport, and yesterday we rea-

about this place, all is excitement
and everything is shrouded in
mystery at present. Troops have
been working in a continuous line
southward all day. Fifteen trains
of Cars have gone northward hea-
vily loaded with refugees, fleeing
from their homes to escape starva-
tion during the coming winter.

What must be the feelings of
those who are thus compelled to
abandon their homes and go
hundreds of miles away - to elude
the relentless conscription and
to obtain the actual necessities
of life? The Unionists who had
continued true to their country
were forced into the rebel ranks
and their buildings burnt and
all their property destroyed or
taken away by the enemy during
their recent raid. Gen. Sherman
is now retaliating and is ~~now~~

following the course adopted by
Sheridan in the Shenandoah
Valley. It seems ^{to be} the only alter-
native. Guerrillas are on every
hand, and on every opportunity
they shoot or hang every union
man they can surprise, but three
days ago eleven of Gen Sherman's
escort were surprised by a body
of Guerrillas and all captured
and immediately hung! such
conduct cannot be too severely
punished.

We are now camped in
a pleasant grove of little pines
about one half mile south of
Casterville, and expect to march
in the morning. I have not
heard from home in a long
time, but hope to hear soon.
I do not know when I

shall have an opportunity of
mailing this but will send
it the first opportunity. The
9th now belongs to the 2nd Brig
1st Div 14th Army Corps. and
are again performing the
duties for which we enlisted.

Yesterday we held our election,
and again pledged ourselves to
continue true to those principles
which we left our homes to
defend. may God in his good
rep smile upon the efforts of
those trying to preserve the temple
of Liberty inviolate. The successes
which have of late attended the
union arms have filled every
loyal heart with joy. While they
have created dismay and desol-
ation among our enemies. may
we continue to defeat and
foil their every attempt until
peace again greets us with all

See blessings. Should I not have
an opportunity of mailing this soon
I will write a postscript. write
as often as convenient

Yours truly

Arthur B. Cheney

Camp 2^d Mich Inf. - Vols.
Near Savannah Ga Dec 20th 64

Dear Ma;-


In accordance with my promise contained in the enclosed letter written at Castersville over one month ago I now add a postscript. which will probably trouble you some to read, as it is written while sitting upon the ground with no other desk than my lap. As I suspected when writing the enclosed letter we marched on the morning of the 13th Nov. and travelled southward destroying the Railroad as we went. thereby cutting our communications with friends, and with no prospect of again hearing from them in many long weary days. Arriving at Atlanta we halted one day; during which we beheld

a truly grand and awful spectacle
the burning of the "Gate City," just
before dark the clouds of smoke
in the direction of the principal
portion of the City gave warning
that the work of destruction had
begun, as the flames increased
enveloping block after block, the
wind came up and added
 vigor to the already fiercely burn-
ing pile, and then ensued a
scene which it is impossible to
describe. huge volumes of fire
were continually ascending high
in the heavens brilliantly
lighting up the country for miles
around. The roar of bursting
shells, - falling walls - and explo-
ding mines together with the
descending shower of ashes and
embers which fell for a great
distance around, all combined to
render the scene terribly grand

terrible. I cannot describe the feelings with which the army witnessed this dreadful conflagration. The thought ^{that} of such extreme measures ~~were~~ being absolutely necessary was truly painful. yet none could deny that it was the only course to be pursued.

Three years of war has shown our enemies that their strength was inadequate to cope with the Federal Union and all they could possibly hope to do was a gain of time during which fortune might in her ever varying modes favor them. A deep regard for the lives of the soldiers has induced the government to adopt a new policy, that policy which will soon - end the war. "Forbearance has ceased to be a virtue." Leaving Atlanta we marched eastward and after a month traveling through the very heart of the

confederacy we are now thundering
at the doors of Savannah. we have
seen the "Cotton and the Cane" of
Georgia, its Swamps and piney woods,
its rice fields and negro quarters.
The army has subsisted upon the
products of the country. Cattle, sheep,
fowls, potatoes, rice, sugar, molasses,
and every thing else which could be
used to advantage was appropriated
to the benefit of the United States,
about three thousand negroes
joined the army during the march
and are now on their way to
Port-Royal, to obtain employment
and school their children. We
received a large mail from home
yesterday, but no letter from you.
I have lost your address and shall
direct this to Spartan. write as
often as convenient, and receive
the kindest wishes of your friend
D. B. Leamy



U. S. Army
General Hospital
Davids Island N.Y. Harbor
April 10, 1865.

My friend Tina:

Circumstances of a nature far different from those surrounding me when I last wrote you, now allow me the pleasurable opportunity of penning you a short letter acquainting you with my present address, thereby giving me hope of being favored soon with another of your ever interesting and welcome letters.

After a tiresome and tedious journey by railroad and steamboat we arrived at this place day-before-yesterday, and are now enjoying these comforts so readily

and abundantly contributed
by the earnest men and
noble women of the nation
for the benefit of the sick
and wounded. I have never
before had an opportunity of
personally acquainting myself
with the manner or extent
of the provisions made for
the care of the disabled
and I am pleasantly sur-
prised at the perfect arrange-
ments made by the medical
department ably seconded
by the people for those who
are so unfortunate as to
require the care of a patient.

The glorious news which
came from the south yes-
terday in reference to the
capture of Lee and his
army by Grant has had
a good effect upon us all

and has hastened the
cure of us all. Surely the
end of the rebellion draws
near. every loyal heart has
reason to rejoice at the
unparalleled success of
the union arms.

The hospital of which I
am an inmate is pleasantly
situated in the harbor. from
my window I can look
out upon Long island
sound. in the distance the
numerous vessels constant-
ly passing to and fro form
a pleasing and ever varying
scene. The batteries and
forts in the vicinity - of the
city - are firing a salute,
the cause of which we
have not learned. it cer-
tainly - must - be good news
which a person can reason

ably wait - a short - time
for. The shadows of night -
are slowly gathering around
and the wardrobe has not
lighted up and I will close
this uninteresting letter
hoping to hear from you
soon

I remain
your friend

Wm. P. Cherry



Det. Camp Genl Hospital
David's Island N.Y. Harbor

Apr. 28 '63

My kind friend Tina:-

Your very interesting and
patriotic letter of the 18th came to
hand several days since but I have
not had a good opportunity of
answering it until the present
time. I shall not be able to
write a fitting answer now but
will do as well as possible. I
am very glad that you did
not wait for an answer to your
previous letter for it has not
yet made its appearance it probably
went to the Regt. I wrote you
a short note while at Goldsboro
soon after being wounded but
I scarce remember what I
wrote, not a great deal at
most. I was wounded at

The battle of Bentonville on the
19th day of Mar. my wounds were
wrs in number. In right-arm
and chest neither very severe.
I have made an application
for a furlough of absence and should
it come around all right
I shall start for Mich on Mon.
next or as soon as it returns.

It has been a very quiet and
almost dismal time here for
the last week, owing to the
inhuman assassination of the
great and good man Abraham
Lincoln. A oration truly mourned
N.Y. City has been draped in
in the emblems of grief, with very
few exceptions the citizens have
united in paying tribute to the
memory of the Commander-in-
Chief. There has there been such
a concourse of citizens collected
in the city as came forth to
escort the hearse and to get

as last-look at Honest Abe,
during the whole afternoon
and night an endless procession
were continually passing the corpse
and still there were thousands
who were compelled to go away
without accomplishing their
purpose.

I received a letter from
Sabrie yesterday bringing
the sad news of Mother's
illness. I shall get home
as soon as possible. Truly
you wrote "Home is home &
it ever so humble," I have never
been fortunate enough to become
acquainted with your friend
"Mrs. Thurston" now Mrs. Chester but
should she teach the school in
Englishville I shall perhaps gain
the acquaintance. The kind ladies
of the City visit the Island almost
daily and gladden the hearts of
the sick and wounded with

As I am not sure this will reach you in time you go home I will not
write more at present. Hoping to see you again - all my friends soon I
allow this for excuse of a letter and give you full assurance that

I had not better say anything about your meeting after
their kind words of cheer and
by distributing those articles of
ephraim so highly valued by the sick.
A Miss Chapman & a Miss Prime
are the ones who visit the Pavilion
in which I am. May they live
long to enjoy the blessings so justly
showered upon them by hundreds
of disabled soldiers. Like angels
of mercy they smooth the pillow
of the dying; and as the words of
kindness and consolation fall upon
the ear of the almost dying invalid
they infuse new energy into the
washed frame more beneficial than
ought found in the Materia Medica.
May God bless the ladies, the
soldiers friend. On every hand we
see the fruits of their efforts in
behalf of my comrades. Notice that
four of them just passing my window
who has lost a limb. Those crutches
so beautifully constructed and taste-
fully finished are the present of
a lady. Those elegant slippers worn
by nearly all who are able to walk
about, are distributed by the ladies.
These with hundreds of other articles
are contributed by the loyal fair
ones as a testimonial of their great in-
terest in the great conflict for right.

You have promised this
C. W. Johnson

Wm. D. "H." G. "H." Michl
Near Washington May 21st 85

Valued friend -

Crossed more I
greet you, from among my
friends and fellow soldiers.
I can but congratulate them
upon their change of circum-
stances since I last left them
the sulphurous smoke of battle
enveloped them and they were
determinedly withstanding a
tempest of bullets while the
incessant thunder of cannon
conducted as din almost un-
bearable. Thus I left those I
love as brothers, and there
I took a last look upon
many of my best friends,
brave fellows! you are still

and ever will be remembered,
may no unhalloved touch dis-
turb thy sacred sleep. A warm
place in my heart shall ever
bear thee in fond remembrance.

How differently I found
them when I returned, quiet-
ude and contentment pervaded
all around. Upon the historic
Orlinton Heights in view of
the Home of our national cap-
ital I found the 2^d U. S. arriv-
ing in camp about nine o'clock
in the evening. I found my
brother Gerah and visited with
him. What a late hour, how
he has grown! he is now lar-
ger than I. You now smile
and mentally remark that he
need not be very huge to fill
that bill. He enjoys soldiering
finely, and enjoys excellent
health. he joined the Regt

at Goldsboro just after I left -
it. Since I came to the army
we had a grand review
of the different armies now in
this vicinity. Thousands of people
from all the northern states were
present to witness the scene. It
was a very fine affair for the
spectators but very tedious and
perilous for the soldiers. The roads
were quite dusty and the air
sultry, making it very uncomfort-
able. The 2^d Div. probably
be on its way to Rich for muster
out in a couple of weeks. There
we shall be a happy lot of
boys, and anticipate fine
times. I am very much dis-
appointed in not hearing from
you in so long, but do not
express that. I blame you
for. I am sure that is not
the case. The difficulty is else-

where. I wrote you a short-
note while at home but I presume
you did not receive it - or I should
have received an answer in this.

I got our boxes this
morning and in looking through
my valise I found a package
of old letters and I enjoyed
myself greatly in reading them a
few. How rapidly time moves
on and all things change. People
change and are scarcely recogniz-
able after an absence of a few
years. Hoping to enjoy the
presence of the society of my
friend "Fina" as long I
take this excuse, trusting
that you will overlook the exe-
cution but consider the intent:-

Yours truly

Amos R. Cheney

Miss Fina Heath,
Pittsfield, Mass.

Camp 21st Mich Inf. vols.
Washington D.C. June 6/65 -
Evening

Dear -

All day I have been
hard at work making out Muster
Rolls - Descriptive Rolls and Discharges
preparatory to our being mustered
out of the Service: which will be
tomorrow or next day, should nothing
occur to change the present programme.

I have written so much today
that I can scarcely read my own
productions, and I should not
be a particle surprised if you should
be compelled to defer the reading
of this until I should return, when
I can perhaps read it, if my mem-
ory proves good. The mail came
about five minutes ago and I

was perfectly satisfied to receive
as my ration - a letter from Tira
and such an excellent long one too!
I could not well avoid being
satisfied.

Tira it gives me great satisfac-
tion to know that you have been
so well pleased with our corres-
pondence, for I feared that it had
grown irksome to you. I do not
know what should cause me to
think so, but you know that oft-
times, we have partially developed
ideas; not produced by any appar-
ent cause, nor the result of thought
or reason. This Eden of mine was
of this character; and I am happy
to learn that it was untrue, may
all such disagreeable opinions be
proven false. you wish me to
"overlook all deficiencies" on your part
relating to our correspondence!

allow me to simply remark that -
after a review of our intercourse;
I have nothing to overlook. all
pleases me perfectly, except that -
I would have been more satisfied
had I been more competent; where -
by I might have rendered you more
interesting answers to your many
valued letters.

The Bugle is sounding and
I must attend Brigade
Drum Parade after which I will
resume.

Parade is over. Now I wish
you could have witnessed it.

The Brigade is composed of
five Regiments - the 13th and
21st Mich, 58th Ind, and the
74th and 69th Ohio. Upon Parade
they are drawn up in two
parallel lines about fifty
paces apart. The rear line is

composed of the 21st Mich 74th
and 69th Ohio. The 13th Mich and
5-8th Ind forming the first. Each
line is four ranks deep. Arms
are supported and the Command
To the Rear open order - March
when the ranks are opened by
those forming the three rear
ranks marching backward until
four paces intervene between each
rank. Thus the brigade is formed
in eight lines all parallel and
straight. at the Command
Front! the officers march
forward and take positions
in line two paces in front of
the 1st line thus forming the
sixth line. The band then
marches the entire length of
the front line always carrying
a slow piece of music while
passing down the line and a
lively one when coming back;
rather inclining one to the idea
that they were nearly out of
breath and were anxious to get
back, when the music ceases

all the Orderly Sergeants take
the double quick step and
after forming in line in
front they report and return
to their posts. after which
the line and staff officers
march to the center, then to
the front and each salute
the General after which the
Parade is dismissed. Several
ladies from the city were
out to see us and were con-
siderably surprised to find
the Mexican men so well
drilled and so fine appearing.
don't you ^{think} after reading the above
that I have considerable conceit?
I will own that I have, for
I think we have as fine a
Brigade as there is in the
whole Army.

You did not know but - I would
enlist in the Regular Army!

Had my brothers been at home
to have said for Mother I should
have accepted a position in the
Regulars, but ever since Zeroh
left home I have been anxious
to get home, and shall improve
the first opportunity of doing so.

Day before yesterday I visited
the city intending to visit the
Capitol - the Smithsonian
Institute - Patent Office and
Treasury Department - but found
I had made a too extensive cal-
culation, for I spent the whole
day in passing through the dif-
ferent portions of the Capitol I
cannot begin to tell you the half
I saw. I only wish you could
have been present! - The Paintings
and Statues were grand and

beautiful. In the President's
Room there is eight magnificent
Paintings, representing the Landing
of Columbus - Pocahontas saving the
life of Capt. Smith - Columbus's
reception upon his return to Spain -
The Signing of the Declaration
of Independence - The Surrender
of Cornwallis - The Surrender
of Burgoyne - Washington re-
signing his Commission -
and immediately over the en-
trance is a life size Portrait
of our present Military Sum-
mary; Gen Grant - a most
beautiful and correct likeness.
I could almost believe that
he was actually there. The
picture was so perfect - all were
very beautiful. The beautiful
work representing the saving
of the life of Capt Smith by

The daughter of the Savage
Chieftain, particularly interested
me and I could not look
at it long enough. There stood
the tall muscular King Powhatan
with his terrible war-club above
his head in the act of destroying
his helpless victim who lay at
his feet bound hand and foot.
A malignant, fierce expression
of ferocious hate mingled with
a revengeful satisfaction is most
perfectly depicted in the savage's
countenance; while his satellites
stand grouped around, looking
on with stolid indifference.
At this moment Pocahontas inter-
poses her own head preferring that
the instrument of ^{death} should fall
upon her own defenceless head
rather than witness the death
of him she loved. It was so beau-
tiful that it is useless for me
to attempt to describe it. Statues
of different illustrious statesmen
and Generals are placed in
niches on all sides. Our own
beloved Lincoln is there, his
benign and pleasant features
will remain indelibly printed
upon my memory until all else
is forgotten. I almost worship
that noble and good man.

9th Page

Words are useless when required
to represent my regard for him.
ask a soldier what upon
Earth he values most? he will
answer - The "Old Flag" first -
and Lincoln next. Is it not
strange that we should become
so attached to the Stars and Stripes?
I can hardly refrain from
saluting the Starry Emblem
every time I pass near it - but
I don't know how we can do
otherwise than love it. It has
been our guiding star on many
battle-fields, the fierceness of
which is best shown by our severe
losses. When we left Mexico on Sept-
12/62 we numbered (1008) one
thousand and eight men. of those
but about two hundred (200) re-
main. The boys all anticipate a

great time upon returning home
but my joy will be mingled
with sorrow, for the man whose
epitaph will be "He was buried
where he fell." The Soldierly and
kind Chat. Wilson; the brave
fearless Blackhall; my friend
Kropp; the prompt and efficient
Lago, and many others belong-
ing to my company are now
sleeping their last sleep. They
fell fighting for truth and
justice, may their rest be undis-
turbed in their southern biers.

So Anna wishes to see a
battle! She would be very much
surprised and would not - that -
is I think she would not - stay
to see but the beginning of it. It
is truly Sublime, and very
terrible. I never - from the
different accounts read in former

years - formed a very correct idea
of a battle. I failed to realize from
the descriptions read - the grandness
and almost-unbearable thunder
of the pieces, while I supposed
that the cries of the wounded
and dying would be awful. And
you will be surprised, when I tell
you that ~~at~~ ~~no~~ none of the en-
gagements in which we have
been, have I heard a wounded
man making or showing aught
of that terrible anguish so stat-
arately described by different
writers. A soldier when wounded
if not rendered entirely helpless
will - although perhaps mortally
wounded - exercise an amount
of reason sometimes surprising.
Instead of lying down and acknow-
ing his fate he tries by crawling
upon the ground if he cannot

swallow - to get - to the rear where he
knows he will be cared for no
screaming or crying ^{is} heard. now
and then a smothered groan is
all the evidence given of pain.

Well Tina I have written all that
you will have patience to read - and
I give you credit for considerable - and
will now halt. I wish in not in
camp but as soon as he returns I
will execute your wish. Please accept
my thanks for your excellent letter and
hoping I may soon have an op-
portunity of talking with you instead
of writing. I remain your friend
Aunt Pheny

Camp 21st Mich. Inf.
Detroit June 19/63-

Friend

I expect to go home tomorrow. Any Orders, instructions, communications, or letters, which you may wish to send to Sparta will be executed, or carried by me with pleasure.

Anything you may be pleased to send, will reach me if directed to the Mich. Exchange Hotel.

I have obtained those books.

Attended Elder Greenland's Church last evening and

admire him greatly.

Will write soon
after I get home.

Hoping that you will
soon give your friends in
Sparta and Alpine - as well as
those about returning there -
the pleasure of your presence
I remain with much respect
your friend Am. P. Cheney

P. S. Remember Law's "Rural
Retreat" is awaiting occupation.
A. P. C.

Monday Morning
Dec. 14, 1868.

My friend Mira

Your pleasant
letter of the 7th inst. was gladly
received last Friday: and I
was ever so much pleased to
learn that you had returned.
I have wondered many times,
if you were not going to stay
at D. all winter; and perhaps
for years. I had the presump-
tion to write a letter intended
for you - about two weeks since,
but not knowing under what
circumstances it might be
received, as well as remember-
ing, that when I saw you
last, we arranged that you
should acquaint me with
your return, I deemed it

the better way to wait until you
come back. Tell Oscar that
I wish to congratulate him on
his new relations: and hope
he may never have the least-
cause to regret. May their pathway
be strewn with flowers, and
their skies devoid of clouds.

May family jars be to them
unknown: may peace and plenty,
peace and preserved always
abound wherever they are. Give
my best respects ^{to the mother,} and kindest
wishes to the little brother: and
my regards to all the friends.

He is at Ann Arbor; but
I expect he will be home on
a visit before long; perhaps
during the holidays. When he
does return he it soon or
far in the future, I will give
him your kind invitation, and
doubt not he will be pleased

to take advantage of the opportunity.
I am somewhat-disappointed
to find that you cannot make
another that-contemplated visit.
but-when we cannot-control cir-
cumstances, we ought-to submit
to circumstances with as much
grace as our disposition and
feelings will allow. I shall take
the first-opportunity-of visiting you.
The people here are all making
quite extensive preparations for
Christmas. Each of the Churches
intend having a Christmas Day
the Methodist on Christmas Eve.
The Baptist on Christmas Night.
A good time is anticipated.

If you have no other arrange-
ments made, and if it-would
be pleasant-for you I should
be very much pleased to come
out-Christmas afternoon and
bring you out-and either take

you home after the evening
exercises, ^{or} the next day; if
you could not stay longer.

You must excuse this hastily
written note and please send
me a ~~line~~ by return mail.
To the line you may attach
as many ~~more~~ as you can
find time and inclination
to, and be assured they will
be carefully and attentively
read. While I shall always en-
ertain the highest respect and
esteem for my kind friend
Mrs. Good bye for today only.
A.

Paul, et



Mr J. S. Heath

Indian Creek

Genesee Falls