

## Otis Moody Diary And Will

### Otis Moody Diary

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Monday morning Apr 7, 1862

In camp at New Madrid. Were roused up at 4 o'clock A.M. with orders to prepare for marching immediately with two and one half days cooked rations. Unfortunately for me I was suffering from the effects of an attack [sic] of chills and fever, & was not able to accompany the Regiment. Regiment formed in line soon after sun rise & received orders to delay marching for an hour. After littl [sic] more than an hour the Regiment were again ordered to fall in & took up their line of march towards the river We learned from those who went to the river & returned, that our forces took transports & crossed the river landing at a point seven miles below. The next three days were spent in camp, & among the loneliest days I ever experienced. Health gradually improving.

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Wednesday Apr. 9

Our expedition returned from Tennessee the result of which was the capture of over 4000 prisoners, with their entire stock of arms, ammunition & stores, &c. This was accomplished entirely by our Division, under Gen Paine, without the loss of a man, & with a force not exceeding in the aggregate 2500 men. A result so surprising may well excite inquiry as to the cause and after hearing all the facts, I cannot avoid the conclusion that the result was more directly due to the interposing hand of God without the aid of human agencies than any like event that ever came to my knowledge.

Gen Paine with the first Brigade came upon the enemy in the afternoon drove in their pickets & halted for the night within a short distance. Our own the second Brigade lost the way & by a lucky accident as some would call it, came upon the enemy's rear, & halted for the night within musket shot of the enemy's pickets, without knowing anything about their situation. They were then deceived with the idea that we had surrounded them with a surprise force [number "5" to order the pages] cutting off all chance for retreat. Had they known their power they might have surprised us in the night, & cut us to pieces, before we could have rallied, as from their Knowledge of the country, they were aware of our presence, while we knew nothing of theirs. But they seemed to be completely panic stricken, and during the night their Gen sent in to Gen Paine an offer to surrender his whole force in the morning. In the morning they were drawn up in lines laid down their arms, & with a Battery of Artillery, surrendered to a force of little more than half their number, with no Artillery. During the day many more prisoners were taken & the whole brought under guard to New Madrid, & from thence sent to various points at

the North. Among other trophies of the expedition Capt Rose brought away a contraband of herculean frame, who had been held by one of the most rabid secessionists of that county [crossed out] vicinity. He is now with us & renders valuable service.

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Thursday Apr 10

Rested in camp and recruited from the fatigues of the late expedition.

Friday Apr 11

Received orders to strike tents and moove [sic] down to the bank of the river, in order to be able to take boats at the earliest possible notice. Commenced to rain just before we commenced to move, & it has now grown into a proverb, that strong weather & the 51st always go together. Notwithstanding a drenching rain storm the movement was accomplished in the afternoon. This time I was bound not to be left behind, and though very weak started with the Regiment, soon after starting I was furnished with a horse by the Adjutant, else I fear I should not have been able to get through. Arrived at our camping place a little before dark, & pitched our tents in a muddy corn field on the bank of the river.

Saturday Apr 12

Felt much better than I expected after so much exposure. Were lazy in the forenoon [number "7" to order pages] preparing rations. In the afternoon moved all our baggage & camp equppage [sic] on board the steamer D.G. Taylor, preporatory [sic] to our trip down the river. This was accomplished with much difficulty about 10 o'clock P.M. We are now fairly embarked on the long [illegible] of expedition (down the river) to Memphis. What obstacles & difficulties remain to be encountered and overcome, the future can only disclose. We are unfortunate in having a poor Boat with very leaky decks, & no [illegible] accommodations, at all of any account. During the day several Gun Boats & Mortar Boats have passed down the river to open the way & make every thing safe for us to follow. They are most excellent travelling companions on such a trip, & their presence makes us feel much more safe and comfortable.

Sunday Apr. 13.

Were under way about 1 oclock [sic] A.M., & with our whole fleet proceeded down the river. As near as I can learn the fleet consists of seven Gun Boats & eleven Mortar Boats under Com Foote, & about thirty transports laden with troops under command of Gen Pope. On awaking in the morning we ourselves steaming down the Mississippi a long distance from our starting point & for a wonder were greeted with a bright sun and

clear sky. The day proves to be beautiful but how little there is to remind one of the Sabbath. In the absence of our chaplain who is now home on a sick furlough there is absolutely nothing to distinguish this day from others. Many of the soldiers even desecrate the day by card playing. How one longs for a little of the quiet of a Sabbath at home. But this is only one of the evils war brings & must be submitted to

In the general appearance of the river and scenery along the shore I am much disappointed. So far there is nothing at all interesting. The banks on either side where there are any are closely wooded down to the waters edge, but at this stage of water there is very little [sic] dry land to be seen. To appearance it is like sailing down a broad river running through a vast swamp. Only occasionally do [number "9" to order pages] do [sic] we notice any signs of civilization.

About 9 o'clock [sic] A.M. we tied up to the Tennessee shore where we lay for several hours.

The time was improved by the men in visiting different boats and cooking their rations on shore. In the afternoon we again got under way, & proceeded down the River.

Monday Apr. 14

Morning again found us tied up to the Tennessee shore, a few miles above Fort Pillow & as near to its Batteries as it was deemed safe for vessels of our class to approach. The Gun Boats were reconnoitering [sic] below us but with what success [sic] we could not ascertain. Later in the afternoon we all moved over to the Arkansas shore, to be out of range of rebel Guns in case of engagements with our Gun Boats. The land at this point is very low & is protected from inundation by a Levee or artificial embankment, which I understand was constructed at the expense of the state.

At this high stage of water it furnishes an excellent landing for our Boats.

[number "10" to order pages]

The whole country near here is owned by a rich Planter by the name of Heardin, a violent Secessionist, [sic] who has contributed largely of material aid in support of the Rebellion. On the approach of our troops he deemed it more [crossed out] prudent to seek more congenial society and accordingly transported his slaves, and most of his valuable furniture & stores farther south. He was loading a barge at the Levee when our Boats came in sight. Sunday morning seeing which he hurried back to his house and attempted to take them south a short distance by land, then strike the river below. But he evidently failed to comprehend the activity of our Northern troops, for he was taken prisoner by our scouts while returning for another load & is now confined at Gen Popes [sic] Head Quarters. I learned these facts from one of his Negroes who was taken at the [crossed out] same time. I will say here that I have never yet seen a Southern Negro who had not sufficient intelligence and discrimination to recognize in the Northern Army his friends and deliverers, notwithstanding his [number "11" to order pages] devotion to

any former master. This man had served his Master faithfully up to the very moment of his capture, but when the same act made his master a prisoner & himself a freedman, he seemed to rejoice about equally at both results.

Many of this class are surprisingly quick in their perceptions. Monday afternoon our Regiment marched out, stacked their arms in a field, & spent two or three hours luxuriating on Arkansas soil.

Tuesday Apr 15

By order of Gen Paine our Division marched out to a grove & held public service to give thanks to God for our recent victories. According to the Presidents proclamation these services should have been held on the preceeding [sic] Sunday, but our circumstances were were [sic] such, as to make it impracticapeble [sic] Rev [illegible] Jamesen & Taylor of Alton were present & the services, were highly interesting and appropriate. After their conclusion a few of us were permitted by Gen Paine to walk over & [number "12" to order pages] inspect the house & grounds, immediatly surrounding the whole being under strict guard which no one less than a Gen could pass.

The house is built in the peculiar Southern style, with rather more pretentions to Architectural effect however than we usually find. The upper story and roof portokus [sic] of the Gothic style, while the lower story retains the peculiar Southern feature of a broad Piazza extending quite around the House The columns are natural trunks of trees [crossed out] cypress trees, & so regular & uniform that from the base upward for two thirds of their length, they appear at a little distance as though fluted by machinery. We strolled around on the Piazza & looked at the doors & windows, but could get no glimpse of the inside. It was close & silent as Death's chamber. I could'nt [sic] help asking myself this question, If the case were reversed & a Southern Army were invading the Northern states would they be as particular to protect the property of their enemies? Still it is right, & I am glad we can afford to be [number "13" to order pages] magnamionous [sic]. From the rear of the house on either flank, a covered passage way extends to some out buildings, which were occupied by three house servants. The grounds are quite undulating and rather irregularly supplied with trees some of which are of enormous size. Little streams of water & small ponds appear quite frequently. When we arrived there was a fine Pack of Deer in the place containing over 20, but though the soldier were strictly forbidden to go near them, I think it would now be difficult to find one. It is easy to draw a beautiful picture of such a place which should be entirely truthful, & could a person stand at a safe distance & look upon the scene it would appear to be one of enchanting loneliness. But there is another side to be noticed on this occasion, though the day was clear & beautiful with a gentle breeze, as we strolled around the house & over the grounds we were literally covered with swarms of musquetoos [sic], and it was only by a vigorous application of wisps of brush that we were able to make our way along. I believe all cotton and wealth of Secessiondom [sic] [number "14" to number pages] could not induce me to endure this terrible nuisance

[sic]. Mr. Heardin is said to be very wealthy owning two plantations farther south It has been his custom to spend his summers alternately at the North & in Europe

Wednesday Apr 16

Our whole force spent the day on shore to cook rations for ourselves & give opportunity to clean up the Boats. Returning about sun set we were met with the order to be ready to moove [one o is crossed out] in an hour. What could it mean? The Batteries below us had not been silenced & we certainly could not move down the river. Perhaps we were to make a night expedition into the interior but upon inquiring of the officers of the Boat we found they had received the same order which of course settled the question. It very soon came out that Gen Pope had received orders to proceed with his whole force up the Tennessee river & join Gen. Halleck's Army. The surpris [sic] occassioned [sic] by the order was only equaled by the chagrin [number "15" to order pages] with which it was received. Not that we were unwilling to go where most needed, but we had undertaken to open the Mississippi, it had become a sort of pet scheme with us, & we felt disappointed at being compelled to abandon our work. However there was no alternative & we set about making preperations [sic] to move or rather the Boat hands did, for there was very little for soldiers to do. There was a scarcity [sic] of fuel on board & nothing to be obtained here but rails from the fences which under the necessity were used freely. If Massa [sic] Heardin ever again comes into the possession of his place, I predict he will find something to do in the Rail Splitting line, before his fields will be ready for crops.

Our movement on this occasion was to prove no exception to our former experiences, in regard to weather, for with the order to move, came a violent storm of rain, commencing with a thunder storm & ending in a settled rain.

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Thursday April 17

Owing to the storm & darkness we failed to get under way last night but this morning our whole fleet commenced the tedious prossess [sic] of sterning [sic] the rapid current of the Mississippi. The rain continues to pour in torrents, & it is optional to stand outside and take it clear, or retire below & receive it through the numerous cracks & seams, in the decks. There is very little comfort & less enjoyment in prospect for this trip. Officers can get their meals below on the Boat such as they are for fifty cents each, while the soldiers have two stoves, in the after part of the Boat for six or seven hundred men on which to make their coffee. Stopped once during the day to take on wood [crossed out: & water] where the men were obliged to wade waist deep in water to get to it

Friday Apr 18

Still found us moving slowly up the river with no change from yesterday excepting that it only rains at intervals [number "17" to order pages] giving us a little relief from close confinement & dirty water. Found a wood pile to day above water & stopped several hours to take on wood. Pilot said we had made four miles, in the last seven hours. We reached New Madrid about two o'clock P.M. the place from which we embarked nearly one week ago.

Stopped here two or three hours to take on coal and commissary stores. Our chief anxiety now was to pass Island No 10 before dark, & in this our desires were gratified. We reached the Island about 5 ½ & luckily it was one of those intervals of cessation from from [sic] rain, so that we were able to stand outside & witness this spot, which has won for itself such a memorable place in history.

Approaching the Island from the south there is nothing remarkable in its appearance, the lower end of the Island is heavily wooded & at this stage of the water nearly submerged. We passed between the Island & Mississippi Shore, some of the other boats taking the other side. Toward the upper end of this Island, the land becomes higher [number "18" to order pages] and opens out broader. There are two earth work fortifications, on the west side of the Island, mounting three or four guns, each & a much larger and more formidable one at the head of the Island. A Regiment of Federal troops are encamped here & the Stars & Stripes float securely where less than two weeks ago the Rebel forces were marshalled under their Stars & Bars. What sudden & radical change war produces. Had this fleet attempted to pass this point at that time, it would have been sunk in ten minutes. Now we ride past with as strong a feeling of safety as one would ride in the street cars of Chicago. The same Bateriae [sic] & Guns are here precisely as they were then, but the grand motive power is changed. The hearts of the men who now stand behind these death dealing monsters we know are loyal, & true & we can trust them. As we emerge into the broad river above the head of the Island, the natural strength of the position becomes more apparent The Tennessee shore makes a long curve inland & Bateriae [sic] can be erected [number "19" to order pages"] here & easily protected, that would apparently [crossed out] effectually command the river, for a long distance above. With the aid of a glass we had a view of their fortifications, some of which are of great strength. But all this time the Boat is moving on, & the Island with its fortifications are fast receding [sic] from view. Supper is the next thing in order, after which the time is variously occupied in smoking, card playing, and by one at least in musing upon coming events.

Saturday April 19

When we awoke this morning we were lying at the Ohio Levee in Cairo the top of which is now only a few inches above water, & now commences a grand struggle between the men to get on shore & the officers to keep them on the Boats, for we only stop a few hours, & if once allowed to scatter through the town, it would be utterly impossible to get

them together again in time for starting. Some of the old campaigners went ashore before day light, as soon as the boat touched the Landing, & before the guards were posted [number "20" to order pages] in sufficient force to prevent it. Others entreated permission to go with such earnestness [sic] & it seemed so hard to refuse them, after their long confinement, that Officers gradually grew more lenient, till finally every street & store in town was swarming with soldiers. The Express Office was besieged by so large a crowd eager to send money to their friends, that they were obliged to apply to the Provost Marshal for a guard to station around the door, & keep the crowd in check.

Stores were besieged in like manner, & stripped of their content at owners [sic] prices. The rain continues to fall meanwhile & Cairo fully sustains its reputation for mud, which is the strongest expression I can use.

About 9 o'clock word was passed around for all hands to get aboard, but this was not so easily accomplished. The work of drumming [sic] up stragglers was commenced, but fully two hours elapsed before we were ready to start, & even then we were obliged to leave some behind. We are now making our way up the Ohio a new route to most of us, & we are on the look out for any interesting object [number "21" to order pages] that may present itself. We hug the Kentucky shore in order as much as possible to avoid the strong current. The only indication of shore however on the Kentucky side is the edge of woods, as the banks are entirely overflowed.

We noticed many log houses completely surrounded by water the owners in some instances endeavoring to save their stock by the aid of Rafts. In other cases there would seem to be no possible escape, for the calves & hogs whose last retreat was finally submerged & they were left with no spot of dry ground in sight.

I suppose the more humane inhabitants crawl to the upper story & perhaps make their escape in boats. While coming up the Mississippi I noticed a very pretty white house with green blinds, on the Missouri shore, which stood in a perfect sea of water. How people can enjoy living in such localities is beyond my comprehension. Still I suppose it is very seldom the water reaches such a high point, as at present. On the Illinois Shore the banks are much higher & evidences of a superior civilization are visible at [number "22" to order pages] every turn. Just at evening we reached Metropolis a small town on the Illinois Shore where we stopped to take on coal enough for the entire trip, which detained us till morning.

Sunday Morning Apr. 20

Started at day break arriving at Paducah after a run of a few hours. Made another stop to take on Commissary Stores for which this is now quite a Depot. This is a much larger & older town than I had expected to see. It lies high above the river with finely paved streets, & side walks, paved with brick, much resembling an Eastern city. It is here that the Tennessee river forms a junction with the Ohio. Here again as at Cairo was a great rush to get on shore, & notwithstanding it was Sunday, the stores were in full operation,

& did a large business supplying what we were not able to provide at Cairo. In fact it seemed to be a necessity for it was the last landing we were to make before reaching Pittsburg, & probably the [number "23" to order pages] last shoure [sic] we should have for months, to supply ourselves with articles necessary to our comfort. I visited one of the Hospitals in company with Mr [sic] Yates, where are about one hundred patients mostly wounded, from the Pittsburg battle. The building was formerly occupied for a seminary, is very large, with large windows [crossed out] rooms, & high ceilings, & very well adopted to the purpose. We had very little time, & did not visit any of the wards, but understood the patients were well cared for, & generally doing well.

On the Levee I met Fred White of Chicago who left with one of the Artillery companies – looking hale & hearty as ever he is stationed here permanently & in some way connected with the Quartermasters department. He says to me you will have to look sharp for they shoot close up there, all of which of course was duely [sic] considered. Soon after noon we again started & proceeded on our way up the Tennessee river. We have pased [sic] the last point where we can expect anything like friendly treatment from the [number "24" to order pages] people. Hereafter our commissary department must furnish the supplies, & the force of arms all the protection we can receive.

We expect our next landing will be at the old battle field & we know not but we may be immediately called upon to enter upon the scenes that were enacted there. The cold rainy weather continues adding materially to the other discomforts of our situation. Having finished the day in writing a letter, & reading a little, I turned in hoping to get a glimpse of Fort Henry in the morning. But in this I was disappointed, for we passed it in the night, & reached the piers of the R.R. Bridge above, which was destroyed at the taking of Fort Henry, about 2 o'clock ["in the" is crossed out] on Monday morning. Here the whole fleet were tied up to wait for day light before passing the bridge. Were under way again with the first appearance of light & passed the bridge long before I was up. These cold rainy mornings are not favorable to early rising. The farther we proceeded up the river the more grand & beautiful [number "25" to order pages] became the scenery, & in spite of the unpleasant weather & our disagreeable surroundings, it was one of the most delightful trips I ever took.

The river for the most part, runs between high bluffs, which in many places rise almost to the dignity of mountains. These are covered with a dense wood, with foliage of every hue from the evergreen to the white Honeysuckle. It is so different from the Mississippi which has no visible shores, at this stage of water, that it realy [sic] seemed pleasant to see once more a river confined to its legitimate banks. [crossed out] channel. I did not see a place in the entire route, where the banks were overflowed, but occasionally there would be stretches of botom [sic] land (sometimes cultivated & sometimes not,) & frequently there would appear a series of table lands, stretching back from the river, & affording the most beautiful location for farms. These were but rarely improved, & but once in the entire route, did we see any thing resembling a town or village. In one place

we saw a church with a few houses clustered around it, & on the [number "26" to order pages] river bank quite an extensive mile.

Everything about the place looked like Yankee enterprise, & I have no doubt if we could land we should find the veritable Yankee or some of his decendents [sic] on the ground

The effect of sailing up this river is like the unfolding of a vast Panarama [sic] although this is but a faint comparison. The scene is ever changing, always new. Sometimes we could trace the course of the stream for miles in advance, as it wound itself among the hills & lost itself in the distance.

Then again we would seem to be sailing directly into the base of a pyramidal bluff with no possible escape, & some of the officers would jocularly ask the pilot how he was going to get the boat over that hill. But all at once we would discover, some hitherto concealed opening, & a new scene of beauty would open [blotted out] unfold itself.

Such was the whole days [sic] experience. I stood for hours upon deck to day, much of the time exposed to the rain, & saying to myself when we have rounded [number "27" to order pages] this point, I will go below, where it is more comfortable. But this point gained, would open up another view, surpassing all the rest & so it continued till the darkness shut out the scene & we were forced below.

Tuesday Morning Apr 22

At Pittsburg Landing

Arrived here about one o'clock this morning. We are now at the end of our journey, & have a beautiful morning in which to commence our new operations. For five days & nights that we have been on the Boat it has rained almost incessantly [sic]. I suppose it is only a coincidence, but it seems very odd that it should always rain when we are on the moove [one "o" is blotted out] & clear off when we go into camp. We did not land at Pittsburg but went up the river three or four miles to Hamburg, where we found a good landing. Gen Pope had received orders to go & reinforce Gen Mitchel on the extreme left, of our line but he protested so earnestly, telling Gen Halleck that his army came up here to fight & not to do garrison duty, that the order was finally revoked [number "28" to order pages]

Landed about 9 o'clock, stacked armes [sic], & sent out a detachment of 100 men, from each regiment, to select a camping place for our Division. A site was selected about 1 ½ miles from the landing, near the town of Hamburg now entirely deserted. The town is located on a beautiful site, & contained a Hotel several stores, & quite a large number of dwelling houses. The buildings still remain, with the signs on the stores untouched, indicating the name and business of its former occupant. This desolation in advance of our army must be the result of misapprehension on the part of the people, for unless it should appear that they had materially aided the rebellion, they would be protected in their persons and property

Merchants & Mechanics would reap a rich harvest, by simply staying at home & attending to their business. But I suppose the same ignorance that has thus far sustained the rebellion, prompted these men to run away & leave their homes. There are a great variety of flowers here already in blossom. I saw here [illegible] beautiful roses in [number "29" to order pages] every stage of blossoming, gathered from the yards & gardens, although it is little past the middle of April. This is the first place I have yet seen in the Southern country, where I thought I could live comfortably. We reached our camping ground just before dark. It is located in a grassy field, surrounded on all sides by heavy timber, & is one of the pleasanest [sic] camps we have ever had.

Wednesday Apr 23

Were occupied in completing our camp and making ourselves comfortable as possible, another beautiful morning greeted us & the Revilee [sic] of the numerous Regiments surrounding us was accompanied by the music of Myrids [sic] of Birds in the woods around.

I arose at five, & the scene at this time was one of the most charming I ever witnessed. The very atmosphere was [crossed out] seemed exhilarating, & the waking to life & activity of so many thousands around us, has a most exciting influence upon ones spirits.

[number "30" to order pages] My tent was located on high ground close to the Corinth road, & all day long from early morning, was one continual stream of Baggage & Artillery wagons, passing along to join their respective Brigades & Regiments. Occasionally a new Regiment would pass along to take its place in the Division to which it was assigned.

Now & then squads of cavalry gallop past to perform scouting recon, in advance of their lines. Troops of General & Field Officers trot leisurely along looking as though they suffered no lack of the good things of life which I presume they do not. Mounted Orderlies go dashing past at a furious rate, with very significant long envelopes, stuck beneath their belts. Taken all together it is a lively scene & one is not likely to suffer much from ennui at such times.

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Thursday Apr 24

Was much like the preceeding [sic] day only more so, two twenty pound Parrot Guns arrived during the day, & were posted opposite our camp. They are decidedly the finest pieces of Crdmoure [sic] I have yet seen.

Their peculiarity in external appearance, consists in having the greatest weight of metal, near the Breech. They are rifled with deep grooves, & fire Conical Balls, & Percussion

Shells. We have orders to march tomorrow morning & leave our tents & camp equipage behind.

Friday morning Apr 25

It rains – rains hard – rains very hard. We were all ready to start, haversacks packed with two days rations, & wait for the order, but it dont [sic] come.

Finally after a long time the order comes not to march to day, the rain continues rendering the roads nearly impassable.

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Sat Apr 26

Pleasant but we remain in camp all day, I presume on account of the bad conditions of the roads. Evening – Received another order to march next morning, for it seems to be an established custom that when we dont [sic] start rainy days, we must on Sundays.

Sunday April 27

We started according to order about 7 o'clock in the morning, tents & camp equipage remaining behind. he day was beautiful & our march of five miles passed off very pleasantly. A short distance from camp we came to a small creek over which had been thrown a hastily constructed bridge, of poles. A subsequent rise of water had overflowed this bridge, raising some of the poles from their supports, & rendering it altogether of very doubtful security.

The teams by careful handling were able to ford the stream, the water, coming up to the bottom of the wagon body. [number "33" to order pages] Our company being on the left of the Regiment and marching in the rear, we were the last to cross, and had nothing to do but sit and witness the operation which occupied over an hour.

It was quite amusing to sit by & witness the the [sic] scene, to notice the different qualities of human nature exhibited, & how differently different men encounter difficulties.

Most of the men depended on the aid furnished by the old bridge, each man providing himself with a long staff to preserve his equilibrium. I dont [sic] suppose this spectacle was at all similar, but as the long line stretched out across the stream & over the opposite bank with knapsacks and accouterments strapped upon their backs, I could not help thinking of the march of the ancient Israelites, as I have seen it pictured with staff in hand. Perhaps because it was Sunday my mind more naturally reverted to Scriptural scenes. A few tried to cross on trunks of trees which had been felled across the stream at a point below.

One fellow loosing [sic] his balance fell over [number "34" to order pages] backwards into the stream,— going under with gun knapsack cartridge box, & all, whereupon all the others set up a shout of laughter, according to the custom of men to rejoice at the misfortunes of others.

We passed several Regiments, halted on the roads, the 42nd Col Roberts, falling in behind, us being attached to our Brigade. The country becomes more broken as we passed. One of the hills we climbed would not seem out of place in Western Massachusetts. The soil is decidedly poor being a soil of mixture of red clay & coarse gravel, with strong indications of gravel every where visible. With the exception of one cleared field where there was a log house we marched the whole distance through the most beautiful timber I ever saw, consisting of the most part of young growth Oaks & Hickory. We halted in the afternoon, & formed camp, which is the finest location we have yet occupied.

The timber is completely free from underbrush & sufficiently open to oppose very [number "35" to order pages] little obstruction to the passage of teams though the ground is very completely shaded. The country is full of rivers, with little streams of running water, supplied from springs along the banks. The water has a strong mineral taste which I presume to be iron from the appearance of the soil, & beds of the streams. In the afternoon after arriving on the ground I went out & gathered wild flowers, which are quite plenty & some very pretty specimens. Slept all night with the ground for a bed, a fine tree furnishing head board & canopy.

Monday Apr. 28 Tuesday Apr 29 Wednesday Apr 30

All beautiful days were spent in camp, frequent skirmishes occurring between pickets & advanced scouting parties. Meantime, our tents & camp equipage, had been brought forward, & we were again permanently established. I wish we might never find a worse place for a camp, but this is hardly possible. We occupy here a central position in our Division which gives us a view of the more active operations of the camp.

[number "36" to order pages] Gen. Paine's Head Quarters are only a few rods distant, just across a little ravine & the daily departure & arrival of pickets & Grand Guards, the occasional brining in of prisoners, & the constant passing & repassing of teams, do much towards relieving camp life of much of its monotony. The nights are quite cool with heavy dews, & even the days are not uncomfortably warm. The atmosphere has that sharp invigorating element, which is peculiar to more Northern latitudes. There is none of that influence here which we felt on the upper Mississippi, which robs one of all his energy, & I see no reason why this should not be a healthy climate, though if I were to spend a whole season here possibly I might change my views.

Mosquitoes [sic] have not troubled us at all, since leaving the Mississippi for which I feel profoundly grateful.

Thursday May 1st

May Day in the sunny south. May day in two states a privilege not accorded to many. We received orders in the morning, to make another advance of five miles, toward Corinth. Tents & camp equipage [sic] were to follow some day. It was as beautiful May day as I ever saw, & not warmer than some I have known in New England. The country through which we passed to day, was more open than heretofore & mostly cultivated. We passed several fields of corn, & some where there had been cotton last year, though there is very little of this [illegible, perhaps meant to read "datil"] raised in this vicinity. The houses are mostly built of logs & rather poor of the kind, but some of the yards & gardens exhibited considerable taste in the arrangement. I confiscated a beautiful rose, from one of the gardens we passed, through the [illegible] of our contraband, that is I could not quite reach it over the fence and got heim [sic] to perform the service for me. To this I added some wild flowers picked by the road side, which furnished quite a May day collection. We halted about three hours [number "38" to order pages] in the middle of the day, to wait for, for orders, Gen Paine being anxious to push in & occupy the town of Farmington, which would put us in possession of the R. Road east of Corinth, but he was refused permission for prudential reasons, I suppose. We crossed the line into the state of Mississippi, about 3 o'clock P.M. & halted for the night about a mile beyond. We had just got fairly on the ground, & arms stacked when the Adjutant comes up with the pleasant information that Co K is detailed for picket duty to night.

This naturally involved loss of supper, for we had nothing with us, & our rations had not yet come up. But it is already late & we must be off trusting to be able to send back & get something to eat.

This picket duty is sometimes quite exciting, as we have been forcing in the Rebel pickets for the past two days, & they frequently exchange shots.

We marched out nearly two miles beyond the camp, & were posted in the edge of a swamp. Six companies are [number "39" to order pages] detailed from our Division, to form this guard.

We managed to get some rations up from Corinth about 11 o'clock. Everything was perfectly quiet through the night, not a gun being fired from our Division. We almost wished for something to turn up, to afford a little excitement.

Friday May 2nd

Were relieved from guard about 10 o'clock. Returned to camp, & found we had all been ordered back a mile, having advanced too far the day before. This order occasioned

some grumbling, for it is not pleasant to make a retrograde movement, but we move back in the afternoon & occupy another beautiful camp.

Saturday morning May 3rd

Orders to be ready to march in an hour with one days rations & no knapsacks. We have got so used to marching orders that they dont [sic] surprise us as much, now, although there is something a little more than ordinarily [was misspelled, but misplaced "al" was crossed out] significant in this movement. [number "40" to order pages] We have heard vague rumors of a Reconnoissance [sic] in force to take place to day & this movement, looks quite like it.

After waiting some time, we finally march out & find ourselves in rear of the column passing over the same road in which we returned yesterday. This road if we pursue it far enough would take us to Corinth Via Farmington.

We know nothing yet of our destination or the objects of the expedition. True the presence of all the Surgeons in the Division, with the Ambulances is rather suggestive, especially when taken in connection with the fact that the Ammunition wagons follow, closely in our rear. But these may be only precautionary measures so we plod on, feeling that in our case at least ignorance is bliss.

Towards noon we were halted for over an hour, & we understood there was skirmishing ahead, though we could hear no firing, but some of the Ambulances were here ordered in front, which tended to confirm the rumor. Moving along again with occasioned halts we soon came upon evidence of fighting.

[number "41" to order pages] The road was strewn with remnants of discharged cartridges, with frequent stains of blood. We now learned that there had been some severe skirmishing, in which several of our men belonging to the sharp shooters were wounded, six Rebels killed. The road here is very narrow running through thick woods, in which the Rebels were concealed & fired upon our troops as they advanced. It is one of the best places that could be selected for an Ambush, but our Skirmishers drove them out, & cleared the way for the advance of the main column. We kept pushing along & soon came to the body of a dead horse hauled out by the road side. Further along, we came upon the bodies of two of the dead Rebels, lying in full view by the side of the road. This we thought looked a little like work, & there was probably more of the same kind ahead. These were the first bodies we [crossed out] I had ever seen killed in war, & for a moment the real horrors of the scene flashed across my mind. I felt a kind of tremor run through my frame at the sight & the prospect. But this feeling was only momentary. [number "42" to order pages] Some little excitement, or even a few rods of [crossed out] on the double quick, & all such feelings vanish. All this time we were kept in the rear, & I for one began to feel a good deal dissatisfied, at our position, not that I had any particular anxiety to get among the enemies [sic] bullets, but I felt unwilling that any stigma should rest upon us even by implication. But our time was yet to come. The

Rebels in retreating had felled trees across the road, destroyed bridges & used every means in their power to impede [sic] our progress. While engaged in repairing a bad place in the road for our teams to get over, the order came for the 51st to advance. This was obeyed with alacrity, & we pushed forward much of the time on double quick. We passed through the rebel camp which gave unmistakable evidence of the hasty flight of its occupants. Many articles of value were left behind which fell into the hands of our troops as they advanced. We were still in the rear but were pushing forward at a rapid rate. The march was now becoming exciting. Down through ravines & up over steep hills, we went till we came in full view of our forces drawn up in order of battle, on the crest of a hill the line forming a right angle. It was one of the grandest sights I ever saw, but we had not long to look, for the whole line was advancing & soon passed out of view. We were now in sight of the town of Farmington, & the Rebels were only a few moments ahead of us. There had been a short Artillery Skirmish just before this on the ground, we now stood upon, between a Rebel Battery & one of our own resulting in driving the Rebel Battery from the ground. Two Cavalry Companies were now ordered off [crossed out] & forward & went off at a full gallop towards town. We followed fast as possible & in a few moments entered the town. Our chance had now come, the Rail Road was only half a mile ahead, & we expected they would make a desperate resistance at that point. The 51st were now ordered to the front in advance of the whole column, of [crossed out] the cavalry, only being ahead of us.

This was enough to make amends for [number "44" to order pages] marching in the rear a whole week. One company of Sharp Shooters were thrown out Skirmishers, & we had proceeded in this order but a short distance, when our cavalry were fired upon from a thicket. They fell back & reported a Battery posted there ready to receive us. Our Regiment had orders to fix Bayonets, & in half an hour more we should have had a mortality list of our own, with perhaps the honor of taking a Battery, provided we had stood up to the work & not disgraced ourselves. But just at this time an Orderly rode up to Gen Paine, who was sitting on his horse within a few feet of me at the time, & handed him a paper. He read it & ordered a Halt. I saw by the expression of his countenance [sic] that something was not right. (Lieut Col. Bradley, who was in command Col Cummings being sick, rode up & the General said, Col we have got to turn back. Sorry but cant [sic] help it, we found it to be an order from Gen Pope ordering us to return, he probably [number "45" to order pages] thinking we might be drawn off too far from the main body, of the army & cut off. We marched back two or three miles & bivouacked for the night.

Farmington judging from what we saw of it, is a small town with a few very poor buildings & these all deserted. There may be something better on the Rail Road, beyond the point where we turned back, & for the credit of the town I hope there is.

Near one building which we saw was a large pile of coffins, which they had not been able to take away. We learned subsequently from a contraband who came into camp, who had helped to make them, that these were the last of a lot of Fourteen Hundred,

made for the Rebel army at Corinth, & they were used as fast as made. This contraband manifested more than ordinary intelligence, & seemed quite familiar with the position of affairs, at Corinth having been there frequently. He said if our troops had followed them up after the battle of Shiloh, they could have taken the place without a struggle. He says the Artillery was all left behind, & the troops were [number "46" to order pages] completely disheartened. After two or three days finding they were not pursued they went out & began to gather in their guns. I [sic] seems pity that so many valuable lives should be lost & nothing gained.

Sunday May 4th

Contrary to general expectation we did not advance to day. After breakfast we changed our location to a piece of timber near by. Rain commenced falling very soon, which continued moderately all day, but through the night it was a perfect deluge. A few of our tents arrived just before dark, which enabled oursel [crossed out] us to make ourselves passably comfortable.

Such a powerful rain put an effectual stop to all military operations, for the present. The roads in many places are utterly impassable, even for light teams. Our rations are back in the other camp, & there is some prospect of a short allowance.

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Wednesday morning May 7th

Have had pleasant weather since Monday morning, & this with the aid of Col Bissel's [sic] Engine Corpse [sic], have put the roads & bridges in tolerable order. We have orders to march again tomorrow morning, at half past seven with one days rations.

Friday morning May 9th

Our days work yesterday proved to be a very heavy reconnoissance [sic], in which nearly all of Pope's army took a part. We marched out at the time appointed in the direction of Corinth, by the South Western Road. After about three miles of slow marching, with frequent halts, we came in sight of a considerable body of Rebels, nearly a mile in advance. We had no means of ascertaining their strength, as they were mostly concealed by a point of timber. From this time our movements were conducted, with extreme caution, but we gradually advanced & occupied the ground where they had been seen.

[number "48" to order pages] Our Division now seemed to divide up into small fragments. At all events, we suddenly lost sight of all but one half of our Brigade, consisting of the 42nd & 51st, under temporary command of Col Roberts of the 42nd.

We marched off to the right across open fields, & into thick woods, where we found tough work to make our way through the tangled underbrush & briars. We made our way through this swampy thicket, as best we could, crossing two streams of water in our route, & halting near a road on the west side, as we learned from scouts & skirmishers, though we could see nothing of it being still concealed in the woods. We remained at this point nearly an hour, while our skirmishers were learning the position of affairs in front. During this time we heard considerable Artillery firing, & some skirmishing Rifle Shots.

Our plan was to advance to the road, but being warned of the approach of a large body of the enemies Cavalry, [number "49" to order pages] we were ordered to retire. It was now nearly dark & having accomplished all we could we returned to camp. We have accomplished a good deal in the way of reconnoissance [sic] but it has been at rather of a dear price. I have not yet learned the full extent of our casualties, but I have already heard of one Major of the 7th Illinois Cavalry, & some others killed & quite a number wounded. This kind of service is very disastrous to those actively engaged. More so I believe than a regular battle. From their superior knowledge of the country the Rebels can post themselves behind sheltered points, fire a few shots, then scatter & run before we can get to them. We had rumors for two days past that Corinth was evacuated, but I guess the days work of yesterday satisfied our Generals, that there was some work to do, before we occupy Corinth. We have orders this morning to move our camp, about two miles in the direction of Farmington.

Saturday May 10th

Our attempted advance yesterday resulted in a disastrous defeat [cross out] repulse and final retreat to our former camp. In accordance with the plan of General Halleck, our Division were ordered to advance our camp about two miles in the direction of Farmington. Our Brigade marched out of camp with Knapsacks about 7 o'clock in the morning. Teams with tents were to follow immediately. After advancing about a mile, we met an Orderly riding back, who said we should find work ahead. We paid little attention to this as such rumors are getting to be quite common. Besides we went all over the ground the day before, & noted everything we found, & we did not anticipate meeting any force we could not overcome. We marched a mile & a half & formed column of Division & marched in this order, by the flank, onto the ground we designed to occupy, & halted in a small ravine. The rebels had already commenced throwing shot & shell onto the field.

[number "51" to order pages] Two companies A. & K. of the 51st & three companies of the 42nd, the whole under command of Major Wolworth of the 42nd were detached to skirmish, a body of timber, on the right. Our Knapsacks were unslung, & placed in a pile. Gen Palmer telling us we should camp somewhere very near there, though the exact location had not been decided upon. We marched off in the direction indicated keeping under the shelter of the hill, as much as possible, till we entered the woods,

where the three companies of the 42nd were deployed as skirmishers, with the 51st held in reserve.

The woods were completely scoured by the skirmishers, discovering only a few scattering rebels, & these were soon scattered. This was near the middle of the day, & very warm in the sun. But we had a very comfortable position in the edge of the woods, where we lay in the shade, while the other companies were skirmishing through the woods. During this time which lasted over an hour, we had a fine view of the field. We could see the operation & effect of two Rebel Batteries [number "52" to order pages] seperated [sic] from the main body of our forces by a wreath [crossed out] hill. A wreath of white & blue smoke would curl up then a booming report, & then we could see the shell strike, & explode among our men on the brow of the hill, half a mile in front, causing a visible commotion among men & horses. It was a time of considerable anxiety but still I did not in the least at this time doubt the result. Meantime our line of skirmishers, had advanced though the woods, to a point on the enemy's left, & considerably in rear of their advance lines.

While standing at this point within four hundred yards of the Rebel Battery, they saw a full Regiment of Rebel Infantry march out & take a direction leading to the woods, on top of the hill in front of our main forces. Another Regiment started towards our line of Skirmishers where they were halted in the woods.

Seeing this the Major in command deemed it prudent to retire, & gave the order to march in retreat. As soon as this order was given, the Regiment [number "53" to order pages] that were marching towards us turned their course, & fell in behind the other Regiments marching to the top of the hill near where is a cotton press.

Our Skirmishers retreated & formed on the reserve, & then we all started to make our way back & join our Regiments, if we could find them. This was not such a very easy matter for we were now completely outflanked & in great danger of being cut off. It was now evident that our numbers [crossed out] men were largely outnumbered, & overpowered for we could see they being driven down the hill in considerable disorder. In fact there were not enough of them to rally & present anything like a tolerable front to the enemies [sic] advance. One course in retiring lay directly across where this storm of shot & shell, was pouring in.

Soon as we got down a little out of sight we were ordered on the double quick & soon came directly under the enemies fire.

[number "54" to order pages] We slept under the shelter of a ridge as much as possible, & part of the time in the edge of the woods. We had by some means become seperated [sic] from the Major & his companies of the 42nd which left us only our two companies of the 51st & no proper commanding officer. The scene was now more awful than agreeable. Shells were exploding all around us at the rate of three or four a minute, & the grape & musketry would spit against the trees, all around us, sounding very much like the popping of corn in a corn popper. I had no time to see any thing, around me, or

even to think of any danger, my whole time & attention being required to keep my company together. We were now in the edge of the woods where it was difficult to march any way, & scattered fugitives, were all the time rushing to the rear, breaking through the ranks of my company, & rendering it necessary to re-form them about every two minutes. We had reached a small open field seperated [sic] from the Battle field [number "55" to order pages] by a narrow wooded ravine about two rods in width. We had met Gen Palmer who ordered us to form here in line which we did, but very soon heard a call from the field in front to come forward to that point. This order we also obeyed & found a few companies formed in column. I dont [sic] know who they were, or whose order they were under, but they were facing the enemy, & this was sufficient for me to know, at the time.

We had not fairly got into this position, before General Palmer rode up, & ordered us to move off by the left flank, which would take us out to the road by which we entered the field. We here passed through the most severe ordeal of the day. The shelling was incessant, & the musketry which at first sounded like the scattering drops before a shower, now came in a perfect deluge. Men were shot dead within two feet of some of our men. The shelling was so constant, that for some of the way, we had to drop flat every two or three rods, to avoid them.

[number "56" to order pages] I finally became so used to the things I didn't care much about them. I could tell by the sound whether they were coming low or high. Sometimes they would strike the ground, & "ricochet." When they performed their tricks, I generally got down pretty near the ground, but when they came along with their peculiar whizzing sound, they were quite sure to pass over our heads into the woods. Twice we were almost saved from annihilation, by the timely warning of these shells. We heard the shell come crashing along, & falling down to avoid this, & tremendous volley of musketry passed closely over us. Had we been standing it seemed as though we should have been cut to pieces. I saw a horse near where we passed which had been struck by a piece of shell, & left dead in a most singular posture. He was sitting on his haunches, with his fore feet extended, Neck & Head in a perfectly natural position, just as we sometimes see a dog sit up on his haunches. I suppose he [number "57" to order pages] must have been struck in such a manner as to throw him into this position, & a contraction of the museles [sic], fixed him rigidly in this posture [ition crossed out]. We now passed into the woods to the left, & in a few minutes came out on the road which we came over in the morning. I was now seperated [sic] from the other company & for a few minutes was commander in chief, so far as I knew, at least, I had no one to give me any orders. But fortunately I found General Paine on the road as I came out, & reported directly to him for orders. He directed me to retire along the road which I did very leisurely stopping occasionally to rest. I found upon examination that we had not lost a man, & had no one wounded. One of our men had his bayonet Scabbard struck by a ball, but they all escaped unhurt. As I now recall the scene to mind & I am filled with wonder & astonishment, & it seems that nothing but the direct interposition of

Providence could have saved us, all on that occasion. I have thus far confirmed the account almost wholly to my own actions.

[number "58" to order pages] The balance of our Regiment soon after our company left, were ordered off to protect an exposed point, on the extreme left. They remained there till they too were completely outflanked, & were obliged to walk a long circuit through the swamp to gain the road. Learning that the 42nd were still behind they marched backed [sic] to the field & joined it & these two Regiments covered the retreat being the last off the field. We finally all came back & occupied the same camp we left in the morning. The Rebels only followed us about half a mile. The causes of this disastrous repulse are more apparent than they were. We learned from a deserter who came into our lines next morning, that the Rebels were out in force, of from Twenty to Twenty five thousand men under [illegible] Van Dorn & Bragg. They had at least five Batteries in position, while opposed to them we had perhaps four or five thousand men, & two Batteries only one of which I think was brought into action. We had plenty of troops in reserve, [number "59" to order pages] with which we could have been reinforced & driven them from the field. General Nelson who occupies Buells [sic] left & joins us on the right could have come in on their rear with 10,000 men & cut off their retreat and used them all up. Wy was not a plan so desirable as either of these seemed to be, adopted.

Well! General Halleck [sic] holds every thing in his own hands, with an iron grasp & he refused to allow us to be reinforced, fearing it would bring on a general engagement for which he was not ready. He was in constant communication with the field by telegraph & ordered the retreat early in the day. All the modern discoveries in art and the sciences are made use of in carrying on this war. Thus the Telegraph is advanced day by day as we advance, & I suppose all the Divisions of this army are in constant communication with each other & with Head Quarters. Our forces lost in this affair about 200 killed wounded & missing, quite too many it seems to me to throw away without gaining any equivalent.

[number "60" to order the pages] We have no means of knowing the enemies [sic] loss, but I presume it was not as large, though our men gave them some tremendous vollies, & they killed one mounted officer of high rank, apparently a General. Our Regiment & one or two others lost their Knapsacks, which was quite a severe loss to the boys. The Rebels retired from the field the same night, & according to the report of the deserter, before mentioned in considerable disorder. At any rate the field was clear the next morning, & has been occupied by our pickets since. The 42nd & 51st were highly complimented by General Palmer for their conduct on this occasion remaining behind to cover the retreat, & marching off in perfect order.

Monday night May 12

We have remained in camp since the affair, near Farmington, & to day we have received notice that this will be our permanent camp till the great fight comes off.

Saturday night Mr. Munson arrived from Chicago with a beautiful suit of colors [number "61" to order pages] for the Regiment, & packages from friends at home. First Lieutenant of Co K was kindly & beautifully remembered by his friends at home, with the things most needed except a pair of silk shirts which are not needed at present, & I hope never will be, but it is the part of wisdom to anticipate such an event, & they are adapted to the purpose.

The colors have not been presented yet as they are waiting if possible to get the Regiment all together, & at present two companies are out on duty. Our company is detailed for picket duty tomorrow, & this perhaps will deprive us of an opportunity to witness the presentation ceremony But this is of little consequence. Such a kind & generous token of remembrance from the citizens of Chicago, is sufficient to call forth our deepest feelings of gratitude, without any ceremony attending it.

Wednesday P.M. May 14th

We returned from picket duty this forenoon & found the good old flag – our new rallying standard – which I trust is to [number "62" to order pages] lead us to victory – floating on the breeze in front of Col. Bradley's tent. The colors I learn were formally presented last evening Some speeches were made I believe, but I presume they were very much like hundreds of others on similar occasions & hardly worth reporting. Though for that matter they may be reported in the Tribune as one of their Reporters came on with Munson & has since made our camp his Head Quarters.

These colors have a real, intrinsic value value [sic] aside from the consideration of friendly feelings & good wishes on the part of our friends at home. There is no doubt but that a Regiment will do better service, on the field from having some standard to rally around. It is the embodiment of an idea, & the natural substance through which that idea appeals to the senses. On the same principle men will sometimes fight splendidly under the leadership of a favorite Officer, & become utterly disheartened when he falls or is removed from them. [number "63" to order pages] I think I felt something of this in our recent affair. I had been left alone with my company, with no one from whom to receive orders, & no knowledge of the true positions of affairs. I knew not whether our retreat had been ordered, or whether our troops had been ingloriously beaten, & were getting off the field as best they could My whole attention had been absorbed in looking to the interests of the men. It was under these circumstances that I encountered Gen Paine as we came into the road on the edge of the battle field. The blood fairly leaped through my veins. I felt the first real enthusiasm of the day, & I verily believe I would have charged a Battery alone if the General had ordered it. But the order to retreat had been given long before, & he ordered me to follow on slowly which I did very slowly.

Our line of Pickets is now strongly posted just beyond the Battle field. We had to pass over it yesterday & to day, as it lay directly in our route in going to our post in the line of guards.

I was more than ever surprised on looking over the field, to see how far we were outflanked, & left in the rear of the enemies [sic] advance before we retired from our position as Skirmishers. Our picket duty was without incident worthy of note. It is a very dull disagreeable service, as we are obliged to keep awake all night, & perfectly still straining eyes & ears to detect the least motion or sound. We were posted last night some over two miles from camp, in groups of six, two of the six being fifteen or twenty rods in advance of the other four. These groups were so near together, that when deployed in single line there would be a man as often as every ten or twelve feet. In case of attack in force our arrangements were made to rally five companies together, which will be able to hold in check a force of five times that number. We were almost as near the Rebel camp as our own, & could plainly hear the beating of their drums, which were kept up till 10 o'clock & resumed again at 3 in the morning. They do drumming enough for both armies, [number "65" to order pages] but I believe bluster has always been one of their characteristic elements.

Mr. Munson informs me that he must start for home tomorrow. Consequently I must improve as much of the time as possible, in writing, for this means of communication is much more direct than our irregular mails. I am very sorry he is compelled to leave so soon for the sight of an old friend in citizens dress does one good. It seems to establish a connection between this & some past age. The weather is delightful here now—rather warm in the middle of the day, but cool nights & mornings, & no Musquitoes [sic] to annoy one. Our camp has been much improved since we learned it was to be one of some permanence & now presents quite a picturesque [sic] appearance. The camp fronts nearly west, the tents are arranged in single rows, one for each company, running from front to rear, Company Officer occupying the rear tent which opens to the rear. The Field Officers tents are placed in one row at right angles to the others, some five or six rods in rear of the company Officers tents, & opening to the front. Thus the Company Officers & Field Officers tents [number "66" to order pages] face each other, enclosing an oblong area which makes quite a pretty park. We are located in a grove of Magnificent Oaks which furnish a most refreshing shade, during the heat of the day. The camp has been entirely cleared of underbrush, & leaves & even swept, clean, so that the most richly attired ladies could walk through it without danger to their apparel, provided it was not too unreasonably long. I am now writing under an awning in front of our tent, made by using the fly, which was designed for an outside cover to the top, of the tent. By moving it to the front, extemporising [sic] a ridge & extra post for the front from the woods, we have another space in front of, & equal in size to the tent itself, protected from the weather except about three feet high on each side & the front end. It corresponds almost exactly to pictures of Oriental life as seen in old Geographies. We only want the Palm trees instead of Oak & a few Arab women to make the picture complete. The Band are rehearsing one or two new pieces—the first they have attempted to learn since leaving [number "67" to order pages] Camp Douglas. Groups of soldiers here & there all over the camp are making preparations [sic] for supper. One

youthful looking soldier near [crossed out] at my right is going through with a labored effort to grind some coffee in a worn out Coffee [illegible, perhaps "still"]. Many of the boys have a more primitive way of crushing the grains of Coffee. They put it in their tin cups & take the handle of their Sabre bayonets & use them as Mortar & Pestle. It answers a very good purpose so far as the coffee is concerned but is rather destructive on the cups.

We are now quietly waiting for the grand movement, which it seems cannot be long delayed. But this is a most excellent school for patience.

Thursday May 15

In accordance with orders received last evening our camp was active at 3 o'clock this morning, the men preparing a hasty breakfast & filling their Haversacks with two days rations. As usual in such cases the final order to march is a good deal behind the time & it is very nearly 7 o'clock before we march out of camp. [number "68" to order pages] Of course we know nothing of the plan of operation, but all our preparations [sic] point strongly to the possibility of a general movement to day. Our Chicago friend Mr [sic] Munson who was to return this morning remains & goes out with us as a volunteer in the Ambulance wagons. This marching out to battle, does not tend to impress one very strongly, with the value & permanence of our earthly existence [sic]. We deposit our Pocket Books & papers, with some friend who is not going along, with directions how to dispose of them & communicate with our friends if we fail to return. It seems a practical question, whether a life held by such a frail tenure is worthy of so much thought & labor as we usually bestow upon it.

We barely marched out of camp into a Grove where our Brigade was formed into ["to" crossed out] line of battle, facing towards the enemy. Arms were stacked & the men rested under the trees. The day was beautiful, & as I lay under the shade of an Oak tree, & looked upon the long line [number "69" to order pages] of muskets resting in their stacks, I thought of victories could be won in this war it would be very comfortable. I finally learned through the Major that there was to be an attack or at least a heavy reconnoissance [sic], by the right wing of our army, & presuming they might retaliate by, throwing a large force upon our left wing, we had been drawn up to receive them. But they did not choose to pay us a visit, & soon after noon we were marched back to camp.

I always return to camp with something of the same feelings with which I would return to my home after a long absence. It is the only center of attraction we can have & all the comfort there is in this mode of life is found there, But to day our term of rest was very brief. We had hardly got settled in camp, before our whole Regiment was ordered on picket duty. Our march over a dusty road & in a midday sun was not particularly pleasant One of our men was prostrated by the heat and fell by the road side. The question continually arises in mind how can one fight this hot weather?

But God knows what is for the best & I need not trouble myself in regard to the future. Our experience on Picket developed nothing new There was about the usual amount of firing on different parts of the line, but we have become so accustomed to it now, that it has to come pretty near to disturb us much. Reached camp again about noon, on Friday & now I said to myself I will have a little season of rest, for I had been up most of the time for three nights past, & felt the need of it. But alas for human salvations. Again came the order—two days rations & be in readiness to march at day break. Patient Submission being one of the cardinal principles of a true soldier, of course we had nothing to say.

Saturday May 17

I was awakened by Revilee [sic] at 3 o'clock I thought I would give just five dollars for two hours more of good sleep, and then—I got up. I might just as well have taken it & not cost me a cent, for we [number "71" to order pages] didnt [sic] start till after sunrise. This time we understood the arrangement to be to move our camp towards Farmington. We are moving, in force this time, & woe be to the Rebels who attempt to oppose our progress. New roads have been constructed through the swamp, & our means of transit generally much improved. Well we advance about a mile into the swamp & halt just four hours & a half, & then march back to camp. This movement did not furnish even a respectable basis for operation & I returned to the old camp very much in disgust with all Military operations. We had hardly been in camp an hour before we saw a large body of cavalry pass out along the road—Then Hamilton's Division in our rear, filed into the road & passed off in the same direction. What could it mean? Various & vague were the camp rumors afloat, that Corinth had been evacuated, that our Generals were already in the town, & their troops were going to occupy it. Probably there is no place that equals an isolated Military camp for unfounded rumors.

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We had Yorktown evacuated a long way in advance of the telegraph or Gen McClellan & at one time we had it taken with 60,000 Prisoners. These & others equally absurd are in daily circulation, & they always purport to come from some Generals Head Quarters. We were not long kept in suspense, for very soon the order came to fall in, & we were again on the march over the same rout [sic] we took in the morning. Notwithstanding our disappointment in the morning, we found the march at this time [crossed out] late hour of the day, much more comfortable than it would have been under a mid-day sun. As we neared Farmington about sun set we were halted for a few minutes on rising ground, and looking down to the right, we could see Crittendens [sic] command of Buell's Division, filing out of the woods, to connect with our right. It is possible this is the solution of our retrograde movement, in the morning, that these forces were not quite ready to advance, & thus keep the line perfect, or what is more probable it may have been a strategic movement [number "73" to order pages], to deceive the enemy, by allowing our forces to appear in sight, & then by withdrawing them convey the

impression that we had abandoned the movement. Our advance reached Farmington about dark. We were drawn up in two lines [~~crossed out~~] separate [~~sic~~] lines, one Brigade covering the [~~entire field~~] other in each Division, & now commenced our first experience in the trenches. Arms were stacked, Supper hastily dispatched, & then every able bodied man not detailed for other duty was set to work throwing up breastworks in front of our entire lines. Quietly and silently we went to our work. No beat of Drum or sound of Trumpet, to disturb the universal silence, of this occasion with the accustomed retreat & tattoo [~~sic~~]. Even mens [~~sic~~] voices took a lower tone, & for the space of five hours, 10,000 spades & picks performed [~~sic~~] their noiseless work. We completed our section just before midnight I had performed my full share of labor & was quite glad of an opportunity to take a little rest. This did not require much preparation [~~sic~~], I had only to wrap my blanket around me, lie down on the ground, & my [number "74" to order pages] couch was made up for the night. But I enjoyed a most refreshing sleep until 6 o'clock on Sunday morning. I had not completed my breakfast, when I was notified that I was again detailed to go off with a fatigue party, from our Regiment in connection with the other Regiments of our Brigade. No quiet Sabbath in store for me in which to read & meditate & rest.

As we marched out to our new field of labor, I could see the result of our labor of the previous night, miles of fortifications were visible stretching out in opposite directions, till they were lost to [~~crossed out~~] view over the hills. Siege guns & Batteries were planted in commanding positions in different portions of the camp.

It was hard to realize that human hands accomplished so much in the short space of one night. Our work was the same as last night. We had another long line of fortifications to construct, at right angles to the main lines terminating with a Battery on high ground.

75

The mode of constructing these works is quite simple. We first lay up a common Virginia rail fence, as strong as possible, filling the interstices with brush to prevent the dirt from falling through. About four feet in front of this fence, a ditch is dug, about four feet wide, & four feet deep, the dirt being thrown against the fence, forming a solid embankment from four to six feet in width, a shallow trench in front to stand in completes the works. These works afford very good protection against Musketry, Grape & Cannister. Our work to day was completed about 3 o'clock in the P.M., & by this time I felt quite willing on my own account to suspend operations. In other parts of the camp the work of fortifying still went on. On the hill in our rear are a Battery of Siege [~~sic~~] Guns & 64 Round Howitzers, each piece being protected by a huge octagonal Breastwork Our tents & baggage came forward to day & we are now in a regular entrenched camp. We shall very soon be in a position to receive our friends & if Mr [~~sic~~] Beauregard & [number "76" to order pages] family choose to pay us a visit, they will probably meet with a warm reception. Gen Halleck seems to be pursuing a cautious policy, which undoubtedly is

the only safe one. Judging from present appearances the great battle will not come off for several days, unless the rebels make the attack, which is not at all probable.

We are now encamped in an open field with no protection save what is afforded by our tents. It is the first time since leaving Hamburg that we have not had the benefit of a fine grove. Wood & water is less easily obtained than formerly, & if we are compelled to remain here any considerable time must prove quite a serious inconvenience. The is [sic] barren enough, the poorest, I have yet seen. It is a sort of reddish clay—very dusty when dry & very sticky when wet. It seems to be chiefly production of Red ants & bugs of every description. We found our Mess sheet literally swarming with these little ants attracted thither I suppose by the [number “77” to order pages] box of sugar. I have now suspended it by a string inside the tent which will [crossed out] I think will puzzle them a little.

Adjoining our present camp is a grave yard, & on one side of this [illegible] is an old log church, the roof covered with Shakes through which the day light streams, almost sufficient I should think to dispense with the necessity of windows. The seats are long wooden benches with standards continued above the seats & a single strip of board running lengthwise for the back. These have mostly found their way to soldiers [sic] tents. I looked in at the door as I was passing the building & saw a surgeon in the pulpit dispensing medicines to sick soldiers. Even the country [crossed out] cemetery before alluded to bears testimony to the same lack of civilization and progress. The prevailing idea that darkness is preferable to light, seems to have been carried in the disposition of their dead, & arrangement of the graves. In many cases they are enclosed by close brick walls, covered with a tight roof, & very much resembling an old fashioned ash-house or smoke-house. In other cases where wood is used, they are enclosed by [number “78” to order pages] a fence, & the whole covered with a tight shingled roof, resting on four common posts, lying flat on the surface of the ground. I remarked to a comrad [sic] as we stood by one of the graves that it was hard to realize that this was the work of the present age of our country.

Thursday May 22

It is just one month this morning since we landed at Hamburg, & the great conflict which we came to engage in, is still a thing of the future. To say it is no nearer now, than then, would not be strictly true, if the battle is to be fought at all, but the indications of an immediate engagement seem less positive now than at that time.

We have by no means been idle during this time. Our lines have been advanced some 16 miles & this has not been accomplished without some severe skirmishing, attended with the loss of many brave men. We are now in sight of the enemy's strong works. Preparations [sic] for attack and defence [sic] are constantly going forward, on a most gigantic scale, & in all human probability the crisis cannot be much longer delayed. Monday & Tuesday were comparatively quiet days, at least as far as we were

concerned. Our works were strengthened, & preparations [sic] made to resist an attack which was confidently expected. We had a large supply of commissary stores, which would be very acceptable to them, & which from information received, we supposed they would make an effort to obtain. But the apprehensions of our Generals were not realized, the Rebels probably thinking it safer to adopt some other means of subsisting [crossed out] supplying themselves, with the necessaries of life. Tuesday night we received notice to be ready to march at half past six next morning, with one days rations.

Visions of an impending battle again hung over us. The usual hasty preparations [sic] were made for any possible contingency, ["that might occur," is crossed out] which of late have become so common as hardly to excite an emotion. Wednesday morning we were active at an early hour. Troops could be seen moving in every direction, & it really [sic] looked as if the mighty conflict were about to commence.

80

Our Haversacks were filled with one days rations, & we marched out in the direction of Corinth. Just as we started there was a tremendous brisk cannonading, a little to our right, which lasted only a few minutes. Sharp volleys [sic] of musketry could be heard in front as we advanced. We proceeded in this direction about a mile & halted in thick woods. Here we lay in the cool shade of the trees, commenting upon the firing in front, & discussing afar future prospects, till noon, when we received the order to about face, & march back to camp.

From the best information I could subsequently obtain, our Generals wished to ascertain the position of a certain Rebel Fort, somewhere in that vicinity, & I believe they accomplished their purpose. The cannonading I understood was on Buell's line in Sherman's Division, in which he performed a very brilliant maneuver by advancing two companies of Infantry, against two or three Rebel Regiments, & then drawing [crossed out] falling back, & then drawing them onto some masked batteries which he had conveniently placed to receive them. [number "81" to order pages] It was reported that he cut them up in a terrible manner. It was certainly the most rapid Artillery firing I ever heard.

There is something very exciting to soldiers in the sound of cannon. I can't explain the philosophy [sic] of it but I have noticed the effects on several occasions. It seems to thrill through every nerve, like an electric shock. Men move off with more rapid elastic step, as if it were inspiring music.

Friday May 23

Our Regiment went on picket in its regular turn. From the whole proximity of our lines to the Rebels, this has become a duty of much importance & no little hazard [sic]. Our advance lines were less than a mile from our encampment, which is quite too small a

distance to insure protection. We relieved a company of the 16th Ill & were posted in the edge of a wood, overlooking a field of nearly half a mile in width, which was the neutral ground between ours & the Rebel pickets. We could plainly see the Butternut Gentry moving about on the opposite side of the field, [number "82" to order pages] and the Captain we relieved said they would remind us of their presence occasionally by sending Rifle bullets over to our side. The experience of the day confirmed his prediction. Firing was kept up at intervals nearly the whole day. None of their shots took effect, though some of them came unpleasantly near. I was honored with one salute of this kind two or three shots striking the fence very near to me, while two or three shots were buried in a tree out of sight—behind which one of our sentinals [sic] was stationed. They had apparently three large range rifles, & very good marksmen to use them. It is not particularly condusive [sic] to ones [sic] happiness to feel that one of these murderous weapons may at any time be leveled at him. We fail to see the glory there is, in being shot at from behind trees, with long range Rifles. Still men do get killed in just such service, nearly every day, & they die for the same cause, & are entitled to the same honorable memorial as those who die on the field of battle. But they seldom get it. A poor soldier [number "83" to order pages] who perils his life for the safety of the Army standing on an exposed position, to give warning of any approach of danger, & loses [sic] his life while at his post, is not mentioned among those who die amid the excitement of the Battle Field. Our experience was otherwise varied by the setting in of a heavy rain, which continued through the day, & part of the night. How eagerly on such occasions do we watch for the first appearance of morning till the expected Relief is due which is about 9 o'clock. It is a relief indeed both to body and mind. Twenty four hours of incessant [sic] watching, with every nerve strained to its utmost tension is enough to produce a sense of weariness in any ordinary piece of human mechanism.

Saturday was a comparatively quiet day. Our folks advanced a Battery & shelled the Rebel Pickets from a position where they had been troublesome.

Sunday was a lovely quiet Sabbath day. The morning was clear with a cool breeze, & so still for two hours after day break, that the singing of the birds was the only [number "84" to order pages] sound to break the stillness. I really felt something of the charm of Sunday at home where we dismiss all cares & in the luxury of clean faces & clean linen enjoy a day of undisturbed repose. The day throughout was remarkably quiet for our Army. No shots were exchanged between Pickets, & no work was carried on at least in sight of us. We had preaching by the chaplain at 11 o'clock the audience being graced by the presence of two ladies, Nurses in the hospital department of the 16th Reg Mis [sic] Yates [or "Gates"] of Chicago and Mrs [sic] Webster of Alton Ill. They were formerly in our Reg—They afterwards dined with us & altogether it was a very pleasant Sunday.

Monday & Tuesday were quiet days and I did little else [~~"else"~~] except to admire the glorious panorama of the sky which seemed to exceed every thing of the kind I ever witnessed. I could sit for hours & watching [~~"ing"~~] the varying, shifting clouds so pure & white, as they roll up their fleecy manes against the deep blue

sky, constantly taking on some new form & yet so gradually as scarcely to be perceptible [sic].

85

I love to forget my surroundings at such times and loose [one o is crossed out] myself in the contemplation of this most beautiful part of the visible creation. These feelings may seem in strange harmony with the sterner conflicts of life, in which I am engaged, But I am not inherently a fighting man, & I could wish the graces of Christianity might so triumph over the passions of war, as to forever banish all thoughts of strife from the human heart, men were created for other purposes, than to destroy each other, & yet here are two mighty armies, almost within hailing distance of each other, waiting and striving to do this very thing, & I am one of the number, & I verily believe I ought to do it. Where the spirit of evil takes an organized form, & threatens to overturn the institutions of ["a free" is crossed out] government & society mild measures are not sufficient. Force must be met with force, & the cause of truth & justice maintained at all hazzards [sic]. When the spirit of Christ has universal sway over all hearts, then & not till then will wars & fightings [sic] have an end. May the time soon come.

86

Our Advance from Farmington

Wednesday May 28

The morning sun rolled up into an unclouded sky, & every thing betokened a day of excessive heat. Early in the morning I went back to the hospital, located about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in the rear of our camp, to visit some of our sick men. I had hardly been there half an hour, when word came for the Surgeons to go forward with the Ambulances—immediately & join the Reg—which had received orders to advance. I made something better than double quick time back to camp, & found the Reg, just ready to fall in with two days rations, in their Haversacks. We soon after formed into line on the crest of the hill, in rear of our camp & rested there waiting for Stanley's Division, to move to the front which it appeared was to have the advance on this occasion, while our Division (Gen Paines [sic]) supported Stanley, with Hamiltons [sic] still in reserve. General Palmer being absent on account of sickness, the command of our Brigade devolved on Col. Roberts of the 42nd [number "87" to order pages] At length we got in motion, the whole available force of Popes [sic] army, & appearances seemed to indicate that the movement was general along the whole line. We crossed our outside Picket line about 10 o'clock & our advance were soon engaged with the enemys [sic] skirmishers driving them ["from the field" is crossed out] across an open field about half a mile in length. We were halted here in order to make some disposition of our Batteries if [sic] front, as we had come within range of a small Rebel fort in front, & to the left of us which might annoy us somewhat. This open field was very undulating on the surface the elevations having a gradual easing slope, entirely surrounded by timber, & terminating abruptly on the edge of swamp on the other side of which like Corinth hardly a mile distant. It was now nearly noon & intensely hot. I thought I would avail myself of this opportunity to

take a little lunch, from my Haversack, not knowing when I should have another opportunity, & sought the protecting shade of a clump of willows in a ravine near by for that purpose. I was soon after joined by Col Bradley & the Adjutant & as we sat there on the grass discussing the [number "88" to order pages] possibilities & probabilities of the day, Bang Bang—went our Artillery just over the hill in front of us. We instantly sprang to our feet & hastened back to our Regiment. We remained in our position for some time waiting orders but there seemed to be no further movement. The Artillery (3 Batteries) had taken up a position & were engaging the Rebels [sic] front, but I judged somewhat at random for if one shot in ten had taken effect they must have demolished it. The order again came to rest, & for the next two hours we lay very quietly in the woods to the left of us. Some of the men cut bushes & erected temporary shades in the open fields. The Artillery meanwhile kept up an incessant [sic] cannonading upon the Rebel Fort which returned their fire the shells generally passing over our heads & striking in the fields beyond. So long as this continued our position was very comfortable, but after a while a new scene opened. We were suddenly called to "Attention", [number "89" to order pages] & we could see that there was an important movement in progress, in front of us. Our Skirmishers were being driven back & there was considerable commotion around one of our Batteries, belonging to the 1st Regulars. We were drawn up in line of Battle across the field to be ready for any emergency. There were several of these lines, two in rear of us & three or four in front. We occupied the second ridge from the enemy probably six or eight hundred yards distant. The bullets would occasionally drop around us but not enough to claim much attention. The Infantry fire now became very sharp, in the vicinity of one Battery, posted on the right, while one Battery on the left performed the most rapid Artillery fire I ever heard. All the interest seemed to center around the Battery on the right, & for a time matters had a very serious look. There seemed to be a momentary panic in that vicinity. Our skirmishers [number "90" to order pages] were driven back. The middle Battery limbered up & retired from the field & soon after the Battery on the right came off the field, with only two horses to each Gun. But it was soon over & our services were not required. We learned that the Batters [sic] was suddenly attack [sic] by the 5th Tennessee (Rebel) Regiment, & so close were they that in less than one minute from the time of attack most of the horses were shot down. The 5th Minnesota (a new Regiment) stationed to support our Battery did not behave very well & it was said the 47th Ill also nearby did not come up to work as they ought. The Rebels were backed by a force of 12000 men. They came on with a sudden dash & a yell, & if they had made a break in our lines would probably have driven us back to Farmington. At this critical junction Capt [sic] Spohrs [sic] (formerly Dodges) Iowa Battery on the left turned their guns, [number "91" to order pages] on the advancing Rebels, & saved the day. This Battery had not been observed by the Rebels, though it was within good musket shot range. His first gun was loaded with solid shot, & he plunged it square into the head of their column. He then continued to drop shells among them, till our own folks had got out of range, when he poured in such a storm of cannister that nothing could stand before it. They broke & fled leaving their dead on the field, our folks buried 30 of their dead that night & I believe some more next morning, our loss was

considerable though not as great, we intrenched ourselves & remained on the field all night, next day (Thursday) we held ourselves in constant readiness to move but received no orders. The Regiment on our left had considerable skirmishing, & suffered some loss. General Rosencrans [sic] rode into camp to day & surprised us all, as we had not heard of his arrival. [number "92" to order pages] He is a large fine looking man with a frank genial expression of countenance [sic], & just such a man as I should suppose would merit the affections of his men.

Quite a little episode occurred [sic] in the afternoon which is worthy of note. We were all lying at ease under the protecting shade of our bush bowers when we were startled by two crashing reports apparently right in our midst. Every man sprang to his feet as if attack by an electric shock. My first thought was that some shells had burst right among us. There was a Battery in our rear & the cannoniers [sic] sprang to their guns & for a few moments there was a general excitement. But we soon ascertained the report to have come from three heavy Parrot Guns, of our own located just above, why they fired & what they fired at was still a mystery. [number "93" to order pages] Some said they fired blank cartridges for signals but this we learned was not true. We subsequently learned that they were loaded with shells aimed at Corinth & went straight into the town doing great execution. One of them upset a Locomotive tender killing one man & wounding the Engineer another went through a bank of earth 9 or 10 feet thick.

It was now evening of Thursday. Our troops had been quite active through the day but we had made no visible progress. One Gun from a small Redoubt on the right of the enemies [sic] works, had annoyed us considerably and was not yet silenced. Our future was clouded in mystery & opinions seemed nothing but idle [sic] speculations. Late in the evening we heard tremendous cheering along the Rebel lines, which evidently proceeded from several thousand men. This too was susceptible [sic] of any interpretation [sic], according to our fancy. [number "94" to order pages] Had they received good news from Richmond? Were they receiving reinforcements? or had they got orders to leave which called out such hearty cheers? Well; it might be one or another or neither of these causes. Our men slept with acrouterments [sic] on as usual. During the night there seemed to be great activity on the Rail Road. As many as six different Locomotives could be distinguished. Trains were running all night & apparently went out heavily loaded. I was up quite early in the morning & almost with the first appearance of light, we were startled with a number of reports varying in power, from the enemies [sic] lines, in front which told the tale too surely to leave any farther room for doubt.

We knew it was not Artillery, our ears were now too well practiced in the sound of cannon to be deceived in that matter. Following the report we could see here & there a column [number "95" to order pages] of smoke, rising above the tree tops, & uniting in one dense black cloud, which lay along the western horizon, in strange contrast to the clear gray light of morning, reflected from the opposite sky.

And so—Corinth was evacuated. At least we believed it—talked of it as such—& speculated upon the effect it would probably produce. Two or three hours later & whatever of doubt may have lingered on the minds of any, was removed by the return of some of our Regiments who had been there & walked through the deserted fortifications. They reported the evacuation complete, every thing taken but some commissary stores of flour & beef & even this proved to be less in quantity than at first supposed.

Some trophies were brought back but they were neither numerous or valuable.

One man had a gourd dipper from Bouregards [sic] Head Quarters, another a glass goblet, & another a kind of upholstered table. I suppose all the articles taken [number “96” to order pages] from Corinth the week following came directly from Beauregards [sic] Head Quarters.

And this barren [~~“vicinity”~~] victory—the possession of a deserted town, with a few dozen horses, & an indifferent amount of native earth thrown up in extended lines is the result of months of labor.

Millions of treasure & thousands of lives. Does it pay? I think not. In my opinion Halleck has missed a splendid opportunity. He says in his official dispatch that the result was all he could desire. I think it fortunate for his peace of mind that his desires are so limited. Two questions very naturally suggest themselves. If Gen Halleck knew this evacuation (which had been in progress a week) was going on why didnt [sic] he throw his whole force upon them, & reap a splendid victory? If he didnt [sic] know it—with his whole force lying within a mile or two of the enemy—Why did not he? I consider it one of the first qualities of good [number “97” to order pages] generalship, to obtain reliable knowledge of the enemies [sic] strength & movements. Without this I cannot conceive how any one can plan & execute a successful campaign, unless his force be so far superior that he can afford to dispense with all the advantages of strategy. But of course a soldier cant [sic] be expected to understand the policy of a campaign & perhaps I am wasting my time. Viewing the results from a personal stand point, my emotions were variable, a part of mixture of regret & rejoicing. Humanly speaking my chances for life [~~crossed out~~] an extension of life were increased about a hundred fold, for if we had had a battle, the brunt of it would have fallen on Pope’s army, & from the situation of our Regiment, & all the circumstances of its position, I should have had little expectation of coming out whole. We remained very quietly in camp until about 4 P.M. when we got the order to march, with two days rations. [number “98” to order pages] One team was to follow with enough for about two days more. We did not take the direct road to Corinth, but bore off to the left & east of it, crossed the Memphis & Charleston Rail Road, passed through the fortifications of the enemy’s right wing, & kept on nearly due south along the line of the Mobile & Ohio R.R—Near these fortifications there had been apparently a very large Rebel Camp.

There was a great mass of rubbish left upon the ground, but with a very few exceptions nothing of much value. We found one full barrel of Molasses & our boys helped themselves to such limited quantities as they could dispose of. This moving [sic] of a large army from a permanent camp is something like house moving [sic], at first view one thinks there is a vast amount of valuable stores, left behind. But when we take into consideration the many little articles of comfort that will accumulate, in an army of ten thousand men [number "99" to order pages] which could not possibly be moved [sic] we cannot wonder that many articles of considerable value are left behind. We continued our march very leisurely till ten o'clock in the evening, & halted for the night. We had reports of the Cavalry having evacuated the Rear-Guard of the enemy, less than two miles ahead at the crossing of the Tuscumbia river, where they had a Battery planted. I was very tired, & after stacking arms stretched myself on the ground with the least possible delay. We were called up for breakfast as soon as there was any appearance of light next morning, anticipating an early forward movement. But Saturday night found us occupying the same position. We had been kept in the "[illegible] [illegible]" all day, falling in & marching out a short distance, standing an hour or two in the sun & then marching back again. There was some skirmishing ahead resulting in the wounding of several of our men. The Bridge over the Tuscumbia was understood [number "100" to order pages] to be destroyed, but we had a large force under Col Bissell of the Engineer Department, along with us prepared for just such contingencies, & it did not seem as though such a slight obstacle [sic] ought to arrest the progress of an army for nearly two days, but whether this or something else was the cause, we remained in the same place till Sunday, afternoon. This delay might have been very accommodating to the Rebels, but it certainly was a very queer kind of vigor to use in their pursuit. [sic]

Sunday June 1st

The first day of the week brings the advent of the first summer month. The very idea of summer in Mississippi [sic] is suggestive of Linen clothes—Broad brimed [sic] Straw hats, & possibly an umbrella to protect one from the scorching rays of the summer sun. But I really [sic] failed to notice any change in the degree [sic] of temperature since last [number "101" to order pages] Spring (yesterday). There was not much to disturb the quiet of the day till towards night, we held ourselves in constant readiness for any order, but none was received. In the afternoon the officers discussed the probability of being ordered back, to our old camp. We thought from the manner of conducting the retreat, it could not possibly be the design to follow up the enemy. But contrary to expectation we received the order late in the afternoon to advance. Half an hour brought us to the Tuscumbia river, which at this point is a very small stream.

The Bridge was not yet completed, & the column was halted & the men set to work bringing rails to serve for a floor instead of plank. As a fact illustrating Gen Hallecks "Vigorous pursuit" of the enemy, I will state here that Col Bissell said he could have had

the bridge ready to cross in two hours if he had got the order to do so. But we had been waiting nearly two days, for orders to accomplish two hours work. I dont [sic] pretend to say there were no other [number "102" to order pages] reasons for this delay, & possibly good ones. I only state facts as they come under my own personal observation. But to the observer of events, there is an intimate relation between cause & effect. However candid we may desire to be, we cannot ignore the evidence of our own sense in forming conclusions. We did not wait for the completion of the main Bridge, but crossed on a temporary foot bridge, Field Officers dismounting & leaving their horses behind. Nothing was gained however by this operation, for we only marched a short distance, when we waited for the Batteries & Wagons to come up. After about an hour we again got in motion, passed through a small village called Danville, & three or four miles beyond we reached Rheinge, [sic] where we halted for the night. Danville was the first inhabited village I had seen since we left the Tennessee river. It is a small village containing probably fifteen or twenty very plain wooden structures, which no doubt are the homes of very plain people. [number "103" to order pages] Being Sunday we had a very good opportunity to get a view of the humanity included in the make up of the town. Those of Ebony hue were attired in their Sunday clothes, & made quite as respectable an appearance as those of a lighter skin. Some of the whites however were very well dressed, & it was a pleasant sight to look once more on a mixed population of citizens. One family of children particularly took my eye. There were two little girls standing by the fence in front of the house, apparently about 8 & 10 years of age, very pretty looking & prettily dressed. They reminded me of similar bright faces in our own Sunday school on this day, & I wondered if these little girls enjoyed any such privileges. I wanted very much to stop & speak to them, but military dignity would not admit of any such unsoldierly procedure. The country here is more open than heretofore & mostly cultivated. There are no large plantations, & not much done on the way of growing cotton, on a large scale, though I think nearly all the farmers raise a little, & some a [sic] high as a [number "104" to order pages] hundred bales a year. Rheinge [sic] is a town of somewhat larger pretensions. The houses are much finer, & I should judge the population as a class were more elevated. We passed through the town & halted for one night, bivouaced [sic] on a beautiful grassy field just north of us. While passing through the village I sent out Corporal Cooper in quest of Milk. He came in about an hour after we had halted, & reported no success, but said there was one place where they were going to milk in about an hour, & they promised him some if he would come over at that time. So I gave him my canteen, & a quarter of a dollar & sent him off again. He returned about ten o'clock with the milk, but quite too late for supper. The only benefit I derived from it, was enough to put in coffee next morning for it soured before noon. The Corporal however was more fortunate, & had altogether the best of it, for he found three or four girls at the house, & they invited him to eat supper, [number "105" to order pages] which of course he didn't refuse. They had Ham & eggs, Cornbread, Coffee with Sugar & Milk & while I made my supper of plain coffee & hard bread. But in all my campaigning I never have except in two or three single instances, been inside of

a house to eat a meal of victuals, & never have slept in a house at all. It has always seemed to me that an Officers place is with his men.

Monday morning—

We were ordered to be ready to start at day break, & got off about two hours after sun rise. We were now on the west side of the Memphis & Ohio R.R. pursuing a southerly direction, nearly paralel [sic] to it. The face of the country improved in appearance, as we proceeded southward. The land appeared to be better, & we passed some of the finest groves I ever saw. But the inhabitants along the line of road we passed seem to be utterly insensible to the advantages nature has bestowed upon them, for making beautiful and pleasant homes for themselves. [number "106" to order pages] In most cases they occupy miserable dingy Log-houses, with fences & sheds falling to pieces, & that general appearance of squalidness which everywhere characterises [sic] such a state of society as exists here.

One place in particular attracted my notice. It seemed the most beautiful site for a residence I ever saw, in any country. It was situated on high ground overlooking the country on three sides, for a considerable distance, with a heavy skirting of wood land for a back ground on the other side. Live Oak trees of immense size surrounded the place, affording a complete shade during the hot months. With very little effort in the hands of a enterprising northerner, the place could be made a perfect paradise. But here there was not the least evidenc [sic] of thrift or tidiness, & nothing to indicate the presence of any tastes or feelings above the merest animal instincts. The ground around the house was strewn with old rails, parts of broken wagons, & other [number "107" to order pages] rubbish in true Southern style.

The sight of such unthrift makes one long for the neat white houses & window blinds of our Northern settlements, where the grounds are snugly enclosed, & adorned with flowers & shrubbery, instead of being roamed over at will by a drove of pigs. But such sights are not legitimate fruits of the "peculiar institution," & until there is a radical change in their racial system we cannot expect to see any very general change for the better.

Five o'clock P.M. brought us to Boonville the scene of Col Elliotts [sic] famous exploit, in destroying a train of cars & a portion of Rail road. We saw the charred remains of the train, with several cords of gun barrels, & large piles of shot & shell with which the train freighted. It was a bold move & the only real brilliant feat of the campaign. There was a force of Rebel Infantry in town at the time, which outnumbered Col Elliotts, [sic] but his boldness & impudence seemed to infuse terror into [number "108" to order pages] their ranks, & render them powerless to offer any resistance. Capt [sic] Petris of our Reg had a brother in Col Elliotts [sic] Reg (2d Iowa Cavalry) & accompanied the expedition. He with one of his commanders, turned back after the Regiment had started to leave to fire the Depot. They were entirely alone & one of them kept a crowd of unarmed citizens at

bay, while the other blew up the fire. They succeeded in getting the thing well started, then sprang into their saddles & followed after the rest. Their own company however had missed them soon after leaving town, & turned back to look them up. The town itself is rather inconsiderable in size, containing three or four stores, nearly new, & apparently called into existence [sic] by the Rail Road. One of the stores was still in operation. The proprietor [sic] was an open rank secessionist, & preferred [sic] southern scrip to U.S. Treasury Notes. His reasons for this however were obvious & politic. In the first place he had nothing with which to make [sic] change [sic] that we would receive, in the next place [number "109" to order pages] he had good reasons to suppose our troops would not occupy the place permanently, & in case we fell back, & the Rebels advanced & found this money in his possession, he would be regarded & treated as a suspicious character, & possibly have his goods confiscated. We lay rather quietly at Boonville until Tuesday June 3rd.

The troops near at hand were our own Division & Gen Stanleys [sic], the whole under Gen Rosecrans. Other troops were understood to be scattered all along the road, between this point & Corinth. Tuesday morning we were ordered to march. Moved [sic] out about forty rods, hardly out of camp, when we were halted & remained till after twelve o'clock. We then marched out in a south easterly direction. The column consisted of our entire Division with some Artillery & Cavalry, in addition. After five or six miles of marching, we encountered signs of Rebels. There was considerable skirmishing in advance, & occasionally a wounded man would be brought back going to the rear. [number "110" to order pages] We were entirely ignorant of the destination or object of the expedition. Every step we advanced was with [sic] the feeling that we might at any moment be called upon to form in line of Battle, & pitch into the heavy work. I have after thought that such a suspense was more trying to the feelings than an actual engagement. Our course lay almost entirely through a timbered country. Some of the way the road ran along a ridge with frightfully deep ravines on one or both sides. It was on this march that I saw the first specimen of the Southern Pine. Contrary to my preconceived notions they were not massed together, in forests by themselves, but interspersed rather scatteringly among Oaks & other trees. They closely resemble in outward appearance the Yellow Pines of our old home in Massachusetts, that used to grow in the "Pine woods over the Brook".

We kept on our way till about 6 o'clock & as nearly as I could judge had advanced [number "111" to order pages] about 8 or 10 miles when the order came to "About face". This brought our company in advance, & we struck out at a moderately rapid pace, supposing we should only go back two or three miles, to an open field we had passed, & bivouac for the night. But arriving there we got no orders to halt,—or "head of column to the right." 'Twas [sic] all in vain that we cast our longing eyes in the direction of the field, & then at the mounted Officers in advance. Such hints were entirely lost on them. The conviction gradually began to settle upon us, that we were booked for the whole trip back to Boonville. Well; the boys in our company thought if we had got the whole job to do we might as well do it, up at once & have it over. So we let out a [illegible]. It may not

generally be known that it is much more fatiguing to march in rear of a column, than in advance, but such is the fact, & it is the practice on long marches to change the order of march each day—that is a column will march [number “112” to order pages] right in front one day & left in front the next. Our company have entertained the opinion that they have not always been fairly dealt by, in this particular, & when they get an opportunity they like to pay off old scores. So on this occasion they kept up a pretty lively pace, in order to give the others the full benefit of marching in the rear. The cursings we received all down the line were enough to have such as all the perdition if they had been effectual. We finally reached our old camping ground in Boonville. According to my recollections Co H. came in with every man in the ranks in good order. One of the other companies had six men to form in line & some of the others a few more than that number. But they were all represented largely back on the road we had come over. The Regiment behind us I guess straggled itself nearly all away.

It has been talked of ever since as the famous march the other side of Boonville when Co H. led off.

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They were a lot of tired soldiers that stretched themselves on the bare ground that night & I believe I didnt [sic] look a great while for a soft spot. After this things moved on rather quietly till

Friday June 6th

I was sitting on the ground after dinner talking with Col Bradley, when the Staff Officers of the brigade came up, rather hurriedly & said to him— “you will have your teams hitched up, & moved off to the rear at once, & form in line of Battle I understand they are advancing, on us.” Well; this sounded very well. But I must say my faith was not very strong.

I didn't believe any thing of the kind. But we sent every thing off & formed in line of Battle, & waited there over an hour but Nary Rebel did we see. We then marched back about a mile & a half toward Corinth, & made a new camp. This was one of the finest camping places we have ever had. The surface of the ground presented a regular gradual slope, [number “114” to order pages] descending from the road very slightly & covered with a vigorous growth of young trees, which were sufficiently scattered to make it comfortable getting around. We very soon found that we constituted part of a considerable Army. A large number of troops arrived that night, & for the next three days they continued to pour in by thousands. We must have had Forty to Fifty thousand men within a radius of two miles, & here was another chance for speculation. Why were all these troops massed here? There was no enemy immediately in front of us, & it seemed to offer no peculiar advantages, as a bar to future operations. General Pope's Army with a portion of Buells [sic] & Shermans [sic] entire Division from Grants [sic] Old Army were understood to be near.

While lying here waiting for something to turn up, I was told that Pope & Rosecrans together had submitted a plan to general Halleck, to surprise [number "115" to order pages] & capture a force of some Ten Thousand of the enemy known to be at Blackman, a point 30 miles south from here.

Their plan was to advance a force of Cavalry with all their wagons, & camp equipage, on a certain road, to give the appearance of a general advance in that direction, while another force should move quietly and rapidly by another road, & get in their rear, when their capture would be inevitable. The plan certainly looked feasible, but General Halleck said No. There are some things about Hallecks movements that look very queer to say the least. I dont [sic] believe in decrying Military leaders, in the Field, particularly by Newspapers who generally know very little of what they are talking about. Its effect is bad upon the country & worse upon the troops. Confidence on the part of soldiers in their leaders is indispensible [sic] to success, & I consider it one of the principal reasons why McClellens [sic] Army fought so well before Richmond, that [number "116" to order pages] they all believed in him.

There can be no question that Gen. Halleck is a great man. In a certain sense a very great man. He has a great intellect. I suppose he can write a more profound & able treatise on Military matters, than any other man in this country. But admitting all this, I do not see how in the light of existing facts history can do otherwise than record his last campaign, in the Southwest a failure. With the most ample means at his command, of all the Material that goes to make up a powerful Army, he failed either to defeat Beauregard or hold him in check. For the last few weeks at least, his Army probably outnumbered Beauregards [sic], two to one. It is nothing to the purpose to say he didn't know the strength of the enemy. It was his business to know. Neither does it improve matters, for him to telegraph to Washington, during the last days of the [number "117" to order pages] seige [sic] that none of Beauregards [sic] Army had gone East. Subsequent events indicated very strongly, if they didn't prove conclusively, that a considerable portion of his Army had gone at that time. Equally foolish was it for him to announce that Gen Pope had taken 10,000 Prisoners, & was in hot persuit [sic] of the enemy. This is not the country or the age, in which a want of success in the Field can be covered up by Official War Bulletins Besides this is not Hallecks forte.

He so cold & stately & dignified to attempt a little display, of enthusiasm, it is really [sic] amusing to think of it. Pope could beat him all to pieces, in that line.

But I have got entirely away from our Army, which I believe was left near Boonville We didn't do any thing there. Staid [sic] there five days & then commenced a retrograde movement. We were all happy over the move for we thought we were going to Memphis At any rate we knew we were going in that direction. It was on—

Wednesday June 12

That we commenced our movement. We came on through Rhienge, & halted a mile north of the town, for the night. Previous to this however we made a short halt for supper, about Sunset just before reaching Rhienge. Our supper consisted of a hasty cup of coffee, & a Hard cracker. But who cared for short rations now? Were we not journeying [sic] north toward the land of civilization? One should have heard the songs go up from those happy hearts, as we renewed our march after supper. Songs varying in character from John Brown to Home Again—to have any just conception of the joy we felt at turning, our backs on this God forsaken country

We passed several cotton presses during the day, & saw a large amount spread over the ground, in the adjoining field. I dont [sic] know the object of such an operation, whether it [number "119" to order pages] was to prevent it falling into our hands or the cotton burners. Much of it I should think might be saved without a great deal of labor.

Thursday June 17 [seven is written over a three]

We rose from our bivouac in a cornfield, at 4 o'clock A.M. We were to march at six. The morning was glorious with a clear sky & cool sharp atmosphere, that was really [sic] exhilarating [sic].

It is not often that one looks upon a more animated scene than was presented to our view on this morning. The shrill Bugle notes rang out on the clear morning air & the beat of Drums on every side announced the time to fall in, & then the Regiments successively filed out into the road, & wound up the slope of the hill, with their Banners floating in the breeze. The Artillery was in a field on the right, & as we passed along the road, the Bugle sounded the signal to Mount. The Postillions sprang into the saddles, the Cannoniers mounted [number "120" to order pages] the guns, & in an instant everything was ready to start. We pursued our march quite leisurely that day, & arrived & arrived [sic] at our permanent [sic] camping place, about middle of the afternoon. This is located about six miles south of Corinth. Here we fitted up a permanent [sic] camp, & have occupied it since up to July 1st.

July 20th

We march tomorrow morning at 5 1/2 AM for some point on the Memphis & Charleston R. R. 30 or 40 miles from here. We first understood our destination to be Eastport on the Tennessee River, but I suspect it is more to protect the line of R. Road, than for any other purpose that we were sent out. Our entire Division goes out consisting of Nine Regiments two Batteries & possibly some Calvary.

Extract from a private letter

Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn [sic]

Feb. 16 1865 [sic]

Dear Brother

I would like to have you bring me a good Diary or Memorandum book. The one Munson gave me was captured in the late battle (of Stone [sic] River.) It was in my Haversack & there being nothing in it to eat I gave it to Capt [sic] Rose's black man to carry supposing of course he would keep out of danger. But when we retreated he very foolishly strayed off & was captured with my Blankets & Haversack Diary & all. I could give ten dollars to get my Diary back & relinquish all claim on the other things. But its [sic] no use.

Your brother

Otis Moody

Account of the battle of Stone [sic] River

We started the 26th of Dec. made an attempt on the 24th which resulted only in the breaking up of camp and establishing it again next day. But this time it was a false start. We moved without tents or Camp Equippage [sic] of any kind. The men carried their Blankets & three days rations. The only wagons allowed to a Regiment were Ambulances Medicine Wagons, & one Wagon with Hospital supplies. I was quite sick when we started & obliged to ride in one of the Ambulances. The morning was dark & cloudy, & the fine weather we had enjoyed for so long seemed about to give place to the rainy season, which usually commences here at about this time of year. But this was not one of the movements that admitted of postponement because of the weather. McCooks [sic] Army Corps advanced on the [sic, sentence cuts off]

This would take us a little to the west [number "123" to order pages] of Murfreesboro, but it was held by Rebels & of course must be cleaned out. Rain commenced falling very soon after we started & continued through most of the day. I lay in the Ambulance covered up with Blankets & tried to make myself comfortable as possible. Our advance skirmished with the enemy nearly all day. We passed through Nolinsville [sic] & little before night & camped about two miles beyond. I had eaten nothing all day, but the driver made me a cup of coffee, that night, & I stuck close to the Ambulance, which insured me a tolerable nights [sic] rest so that next morning (Saturday) I felt more comfortable though still weak & unable to walk [crossed out] march. It seemed rather of a novel predicament to be carried out to a battle lying on my back in an Ambulance But there was no help for it. I knew that as soon as there should be any work to be done, the excitement would carry me through though I might drop down son [sic] as it was over.

But I trusted I might regain some portion of my strength, before the grand struggle should place, at Nolinsville [sic] Pike It was nearly noon on Saturday before we got started. Everything movable was saturated with water & covered with mud. About 3 oclock [sic] the Ambulance hauled out of the road into the field & the troops moved on. This movement indicated that something was about to take place. So I buckled on my sword & pushed on to join my company. To make our situation still more uncomfortable, just about this time, the water commenced falling in streams it is foolish to talk of rain drops in any such connection.

It was rumored that Hardee with 6000 Rebels was in position a little in advance of us, & we expected quite a sharp little fight. But after deploying into line & advancing through a corn field, where the mud was not quite knee deep we found no enemy, & finally moved off into a [number "125" to order pages] beautiful grove & camped. I thought this was pretty rough experience for a sick man, but I dried my clothes as well as possible that night, got another nights [sic] sleep in the Ambulance, & felt next morning – at least no worse.

Sunday morning was clear bright & beautiful as any May morning you ever saw. Birds sang sweetly in the trees & the whole scene was one of such tranquil beauty & loveliness as to make one forget the trials & discomforts of yesterday. In accordance with what is supposed to be the present policy of the Gov in regard to keeping the Sabbath, it was announced in the morning that we should remain in camp to day—a most welcome announcement to the soldiers. They spent the day drying out their blankets, & getting something refreshing to eat, sundry sheep & cattle in the Neighborhood constituting important elements in the last normal operation. I invigorated myself with a confiscated chicken which I bought of [sic] a soldier for fifty cents.

In the evening I attended a prayer meeting in the 22nd Ill Reg—held under the trees by the light of a camp fire. I didn't know their names, & dont [sic] know whether they all survived the battle or not, but as the Regiment suffered severely, it is reasonable to presume they did not all escape. I have thought many times since then that I would like to know the fate of that little band.

Monday morning was clear & pleasant. The rest of Sunday allowed to the troops, had a good effect & they were in fine spirits. I felt so much better that I abandoned my place in the Ambulance & resumed my position at the head of my company.

It had been ascertained that Hardee had fallen back on Murfreesboro, which made it necessary for us to form a junction with the main forces of Rosecrans. In order to do this, we had to retrace our steps, for a short distance & then cross over on a direct road to another Pike, leading direct to Murfreesboro. It was a very quiet pleasant days [sic]

march of 13 or 14 miles with nothing to remind one of the deadly conflict so near at hand. The country through which we passed exhibited a civil contrast in its soil & productions. At one time we could make our way along the course of a small stream with rich plantations on either side—then over a barren rocky hill which in some places could pass for quite a respectable mountain. Then again through a thick grove of cedars, which seemed to grow out of solid rock. I thought & remarked to a friend of mine as we were making this march, that these violent contrasts in the “topography” of the country were a type of the social institutions of the people. About dark we come onto a short Pike leading to Murfreesboro, & known as Wilkinsons [sic] Pike. Here we found indications of an enemy in front, a troop of the advance cavalry, had had some [number “128” to order pages] severe skirmishing, losing one Major killed and another mortally wounded besides many of a lower grade.

We pushed on about two miles farther & camped in the woods, & now commenced the tug of war in earnest. The Enemy were known to be in force only two or three miles in front of us. Fires were strictly prohibited & to make our condition still worse, our rations were exhausted, & there was no means for supplying the want. By some mismanagement common at such times the Commissary had brought along a lot of hard [crossed out] flour instead of Hard Bread. This would do well in camp, but what could we do with flour on a march and especially on the battle field? Nevertheless some of the boys from sheer necessity did mix up some of it with water, twist it around their ramrods or sticks & bake it in the ashes. Others borrowed a few crackers from the bags of a neighboring [number “129” to order pages] Battery [crossed out] Brigade. Tuesday morning Dec 20th was cloudy and rainy. I should think it was nearly 9 o'clock when we marched out with empty Haversacks—empty stomachs & a gloomy prospect. As we marched out onto the Pike Genl's [sic] McCook & Sheridan sat on their horses looking at us—McCook burly & robust with a full red face indicative of plenty of good Beef & Brandy, Sheridan with his small diminutive figure presenting a strong contrast to McCook & most emphatically a light weight though I presume he would not deny the Brandy. Well our Brigade marched on & on past all the troops of the Right Wing to the very front until there was nobody between us, & the enemy. So much for being old troops Our Brigade marched in the following order, 22nd Ill 42nd 51st Houghtelleys [sic] Battery & 27th Ill. We very soon found our advance contested. The 22nd & 42nd Ill were deployed & sent forward as skirmishers 51st & 27th filed out to the right & formed in line of battle, in a cornfield while [number “30” to order pages] the Battery took up a position in a point of timber on high ground a little farther to the Right. Col Roberts instructed the men to keep down low for their better protection. We had scarcely got into position when a stray round shot came along—dropped into the ranks of the 51st severely wounding two men. Skirmishing had now become quite brisk all along the line. At times the cannonading was very spirited, & it seemed almost like a battle, still there was no serious attempt to advance on either side. About 12 o'clock an order came for the 51st to relieve the 42nd as Skirmishers, their Ammunition being exhausted. Whew! thinks I, this means work, & is coming pretty near home. We were ordered to throw out alternate companies holding the others in reserve. My company being the 9th (an odd one) I took

sixteen men & two Sergeants, & "went in." The portion of the line that I relieved [number "131" to order pages] was in a thick Cedar Grove. Men sought the cover of the trees, & fired whenever they could see an object. Sometimes it was pretty hot work. The 22nd were immediately on my left, & we acted together. We made a rush forward at one time & were met by, a tremendous shower of bullets, & forced to fall back to our present [crossed out] former position. The 22nd lost several men three within a few minutes. You probably remember Charlie Peterson that fine gentlemanly appearing fellow who used to cook for us in camp Douglas. He was wounded here in the left arm. I helped him to the rear & then sent him to the Hospital. That night he had his arm taken off just below the elbow. Charlie Hills says to me "this is about as good fun as snowballing in camp Douglas." In less than five minutes his fun was brought to a sudden termination, by a shot in the back of the head, knocking him down & flattening out the ball. His wound was not very serious & he has now quite recovered from the effects of it, [number "132" to order pages] but he was taken prisoner the next day in going to another Hospital, & is now paroled, [one "I" has been crossed out]. He is with us in camp, at present, but expects to be sent north soon. I had another man by the name of Duffie severely wounded through the shoulder. His wound did finely for three weeks when he went to a Hospital in Nashville, & I have heard that he has since died. I hope it is not true. We were relieved about sun down, & fell back to our Ravine, & afterwards retired a little farther behind the crest of a ridge, where we stacked armes [sic] & made preparations to bivouac for the night, it was a black cheerles [sic] night. A chill north wind swept over the wet muddy fields, dispelling all visions of comfort for this night. We also learned that our provision supply train had been captured at Learvergne [sic], by the Rebels. This was a little unpleasant considering we had been 24 hours without food. They finally killed some cattle [number "133" to order pages] & distributed a supply of fresh beef to the men, and Sargeant [sic] Ruck, of our company found a sweet potato hole, which gave us about one to a man in our company This was our position on Tuesday night. What were the thoughts & feelings of the men who lay down on the wet ground thousands of them for the last time in this world I cannot tell. We knew that a great battle must be fought on the morrow—knew it almost as certainly as after it occurred, for there were the enemy in force in front of us, evincing a determination to resist our further advance on our part, & we knew that Rosecrans was not the man, to turn back at any such time as this. I fixed up as comfortable a place as possible, & slept a few hours during the first part of the night, but it was cold comfort. About 2 o'clock in the morning I got up and roasted some beef steak on the coals.

At day light we fell in & took arms & moved a little way to the front. The Rebels also were early risers & we had [number "134" to order pages] not long to wait for their appearance. While were standing in line in the early morning—a General order from Rosecrans was read to us, commendatory of our actions on the previous day & telling us a great battle was to be fought this day upon the issue of which depended the fate of the nation, &c. I thought it was very much like reading ones funeral oration in advance. I suppose it is well enough to try to inspire soldiers to deeds of heroism by such means, though to be effective I think they should be delivered in person by word of mouth

instead of being read by a Deputy. This course however would not be entirely practicable at such times. The Adjutant had scarcely finished reading when the Rebel lines were seen approaching & we found we had work on hand. Part of the 27th had been thrown forward as skirmishers to protect our position on the left. The Rebels were approaching to the right of them across open fields. Col Roberts ordered the [number "135" to order pages] 51st & 42nd to charge on them & drive them back, which we did most effectually but we came near runing [sic] onto one of their Batteries, & in fact did go near enough to receive a charge of Cannister, which injured several men in our right wing. We were then ordered to fall back as our right flank was without any protection. We took up several new positions as the enemy developed their strength, in different directions, & finally our whole Brigade, were ordered into a point of Cedar woods a little in advance & to the left of our present position. It was still quite early in the morning I should think not more than 8 o'clock [~~"in the morning"~~]. We could tell from the firing that our right had [~~crossed out~~] was giving way & had been from the very first. Our Regiment was first formed along a fence, facing the position we had lately abandoned. The Rebels immedia [sic] took the commanding point we had left, & they seemed to swarm out on [number "136" to order pages] every side in countless numbers.

Col Roberts ordered a company to be thrown out as skirmishers, to watch the movements of a line of Rebel Infantry, which had been seen in a certain direction & Col Bradley detailed me for that purpose. By this means I separated from the balance of the Regiment probably from half to three quarters of an hour. While in this position deployed among the trees, a Rebel officer rode up quite near, apparently for the purpose of ascertaining the position of Houghatling [sic] Battery which was close to where I left our Regiment & doing splendid work. It was an unfortunate curiosity which led him so near. One of my men snapped a cap but the gun missed fire. The Reb probably began to think he was not in a safe locality & turned about—but too late. Private Patterson of my co—fired & he fell from his horse which galloped off riderless & alone. They had by [number "137" to order pages] this time opened fire upon us in good earnest. They had three Batteries in position which op [~~crossed out~~] were playing upon us, & several times their line of Infantry had advanced, & tried to dislodge us from our position, but every time they were driven back in confusion, by the sweeping charge of Cannister from Houghtelling [sic] Battery, & volleys from our Musketry.

You must remember that we now constituted the extreme right of all that was left of our army. The two Divisions of Davis & Johnson had been driven clear back out of sight & hearing. The other two Divisions of our Brigade had in consequence been driven back, though not without severe fighting. We settled down into this point of Cedar woods before spoken of, a sort of jutting angle to what had been the line & there we held. We held both sides of the Pike on which we had advanced, which at this point was about half a mile in a south easterly direction, from the Nashville & Murfreesboro Pike on which [number "138" to order pages] Rosecrans & the balance of the army were

located, though at this time I knew nothing of the distance or location of the other forces. In fact I didn't [sic] know we had any army, at all except what I could see around us.

After remaining out with my company after it was no longer necessary I [illegible] to rejoin the Regiment. I knew it had moved from its former location, & didn't know exactly where or how far, but presumed not a great distance.

The battle now raged with tremendous fury. Round shot & shells were crashing were crashing [sic] through the trees, as fast as three Batteries could pour them in, while the bullets filled up the intervals.

Not wishing to expose the men needlessly I had them lay down while I went to look up the Regiment. I found they had moved only a short distance across on the other side of the Pike. In this operation I had to make the trip through all this terrible fire three times, which [number "139" to order pages] gave me a fine opportunity of knowing what was going on. But I succeeded in taking the co. through to the Regiment without any of us being injured.

I found the regiment lying down among the rocks, just within the edge of Cedars & facing to our late rear. Col Bradley greeted me with a smile of welcome, & said he was glad to see me back but could not send for me. An absence of half an hour at such time was like a year of ordinary life.

I must now explain to you that the enemy were now on three sides of us, & for the most part they occupied higher ground than we did, consequently we were thrown entirely on the defensive, & only used our Infantry to drive them back when they came up within shot range. We were here on the immediate right of Negleys Division, part of which was mixed up with us at times, but they rendered very little service, on this portion of the field, so far as I could see.

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The 19th came in & took up a position in front of the 27th, remained there a few minutes, & then retired directly through their ranks. My opinion is that they done most of their fighting on the following Friday at which time Col Scott was wounded. Meantime the fight continued to rage with unabated fury. The enemy had a cross fire on us from three sides. I saw myself Guns from our Batteries, pointed in exactly different directions repelling the fire of the enemy. Our position now was a critical one. So far as one could see we were completely isolated & cut off. I thought I thought [sic] of Gen. Prentiss at Shiloh & concluded a like fate awaited us. Gen. Sheridan had insisted that we hold this position as long as possible, that every thing depended upon it & of course we could stay just as long as he said it was necessary, & there was a man left to stay. At about a quarter eleven Col Roberts was shot [number "139" to order pages] dead from his horse. Capt [sic] Rose who had been detailed & was acting on his staff was talking with him when he was killed. He was not killed while leading a charge as some of the papers represented, but was sitting quietly on his horse giving orders, not that Col Roberts was

not ready to lead any charge which was necessary; for I never saw a more perfectly fearless man, he seemed utterly insensible to fear. I make the correction simply as a matter of fact. Col Harrington of the 27th fell about the same time, mortally wounded he died in Murfreesboro the next day.

We did not learn of either of these casualties [sic] until we had commenced to retire from the field. The last move our Reg. made in the field was to charge front forward our last company taking up a position behind a fence along the Pike to give us a better chance to meet the enemy, who appeared to be coming in that direction. They did not advance on us, but they evidently saw the [number "142" to order pages] movement for they changed the direction of their Guns, a little & dropped [sic] shells around us much thicker than was comfortable. It was there that Col Bradleys [sic] horse was struck with a piece of shell, while he was about dismounting. He had persistently sat on his horse throughout the whole of it, until this time, when he was remonstrated with so earnestly, that he consented to dismount, & was about doing so when his horse was struck. I suggested to the Col. about this time that it seemed to [sic] useless to remain in that position any longer. Our men were lying down behind the crest of a ridge & could not fire a shot but were terribly exposed to the enemies [sic] shells. The Colonel replied he would not leave the field so long as the 27th & Houghtelling [sic] Battery remained & requested, & requested [sic] me to go out when I could overlook the field & report any change. I accordingly took a position a little to our left, on some rocks, behind [number "143" to order pages] a large Cedar tree, where I had a good view to the right & left & also of the enemys [sic] Batteries, in front. I staid there until I saw the 27th face about & move to the rear. Houghtellings [sic] Battery had already fired their last round of ammunition & put all their remaining horses onto three Guns in the hopes of getting them off the field. But these were mostly shot down, before they had gone far & they were obliged to abandon their pieces & leave them in the woods. I waited until I was satisfied they were leaving the field, & there was nothing left but our Regiment. I then reported the fact to Col Bradley & we moved off by the right flank into thick cedar woods, in the direction of the other Pike. It must have been nearly 12 o'clock when we left this position of the field. We had seen nothing of Gen Sheridan for nearly two hours. Our Brigade Commander was killed our next ranking officer mortally wounded, the Battery had fired their last round of ammunition [number "144" to order pages] lost nearly half their men, & nearly all their horses. Most of the Infantry was nearly of their ammunition & of course it would have been the most sheer folly for us to have remained there longer. But we moved off without the least hurry or confusion. We didn't even double quick a step. I had no clear idea of where we were going when we started, & very little expectation that we should get out, but it was our duty to make an effort to save ourselves, & as it seemed to me providentially we passed out through a narrow place that was not occupied by the enemy, & the only possible place where we could have got through. Arriving on the other Pike every thing seemed in confusion. It looked like a routed Army. There were single stragglers, & stragglers in groups scattered all over the field, it seemed to me that our two Regiments were the only ones that maintained any thing [sic] like good order, [number "145" to order pages] though I

suppose we had a line somewhere. We passed up the Pike towards Nashville & soon Gen Davis I believe ordered us to the support of Harker, who was endeavouring [sic] to hold the Pike but was being driven back & suffering terribly. He had already lost two Guns & the enemy had gained a strong position in one of their eternal Cedar thickets. Our orders were that the Pike must be held at all hazards [sic]. We advanced to the edge of the thicket & endeavoured [sic] to hold a position there. But we didn't have half a chance, & the fire was so hot from an unseen enemy that we had to fall back to the Pike. Gen McCook then came up furious, & said the Pike had got to be held the safety of the whole army depended upon it. The only reply was the order to advance. There were only two Reg. of us the 27th & 51st, but we advanced again to the edge of the thicket hung there for a few moments, which seemed ages to me—my anxiety was so intense—& then both Regiments [number "146" to order pages] charged into the thicket with a shout & a yell that ought to have been heard all over the Southern Confederacy. We drove the Rebels (5 Tennessee Reg) completely out across the open fields beyond, into the woods. It was really [sic] the most brilliant thing I saw of the whole day. None of the accounts mention it in connection with the operations of Sheridans [sic] Division for the reason I suppose that there was nobody to see it (that is no General) as our two Regiments were the only ones from our Division engaged. The importance of the result achieved I think cannot be appreciated or understood except by those who were there present. Had the enemy succeeded in gaining possession of the Pike at this point it seems to me that Rosecrans Army must have been destroyed. But it was not so to be. This was the last of our severe fighting We held this position until after the evacuation.

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The position of our army at this time, was justly considered to be one of extreme peril. The original plan of battle was entirely broken up. We were forced to act on the defensive, & our whole line of communication with Nashville was menaced by the enemys [sic] cavalry. The night settled in cold rainy & gloomy. We all supposed the fighting had only commenced. After the brilliant feat of the two Reg. of our Brigade, we settled back & established our line in the edge of the Cedars fronting the open field. The other two Regiments of our Brigade joined us here & other troops afterwards came in on our right, & left forming a continuous line. Night had come and I guess it was never more welcome to the men compassing [sic] the army. How many times during the forenoon [sic, forenoon] did I look at my watch & think of Wellingtons remark at Waterloo. We had our Blucher to come but if ever I wished for night it was then.

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But even now another trouble was at hand & pressing. We had been without rations for 48 hours & knew not when we could get any. Genl [sic] Sheridan came around in the evening & was extravagant in his praises. He said our Brigade had done more fighting than Crittendens whole army corps. Col Bradley told him he thought we could do a little more of the same sort if we could get something to eat. He promised to try to get some rations & towards midnight, we had a box of crackers issued to each company.

The night was intensely cold for this climate. I had good reason to know for I had no blanket. Some time past midnight we received orders from Gen McCook to put out all fires & stand to arms at 3 o'clock, this order was obeyed to the letter but it was terribly severe on the men, standing in line for three or four hours in that cold frosty atmosphere. I heard an officer [number "149" to order pages] say that after he saddled his horse at 3 o'clock the frost accumulated on his saddle to such an extent that he could scrape it up almost by the handfull.

But the enemy did not attack us.

After day light the men were allowed to stack arms, & prepare some breakfast having received a little coffee & sugar the night previous. The day wore on but the enemy showed no inclination to renew the attack. Occasionally different batteries would open & fire a few rounds but during the whole day there was no movement of any importance on either side. We threw up temporary breastworks in front of our position, which served to establish the line & also afford us a little protection. In the afternoon the enemy made a little demonstration in front of us, which looked like the prelude to something greater. They advanced a force of two or perhaps three Reg. directly in our front with the seeming intention of [number "150" to order pages] learning our strength & position

We opened upon them at rather low range, killing some & scattering them great confusion. We noticed that many of them did not retire but seemed to take shelter among the rocks.

A small force was sent out & brought in over a hundred prisoners. They were Tennessee troops & I suspect not altogether unwilling captives. Another night & so far as I could see no material change for the last 24 hours. I confidently expected that Rosecrans would now retire his army on Nashville, it seemed to me it was the only way he could save it, & from what I have since learned nearly all Genls were of the same opinion. But fortunately for the country Rosecrans commanded the army in person. He assumed the responsibility & was equal to the emergency. Thursday night was one active preparation—for something—though our Brigade had no connection [number "151" to order pages] with it. We could hear the sound of axes & troops were being moved to the left of us nearly all night. There were also corresponding movements on the part of the enemy, which were reported by our advanced Pickets. We remained constantly in our positions, which was to defend & protect the Pike, for if this was lost everything was lost. We came to understand after of [crossed out] a while that this was the job assigned to us, & we thought we could fill the bill.

Friday was comparatively quiet until between three & four o'clock in the afternoon the Rebels then moved their forces & made a furious attack on our left. I dont [sic] know much about it of course, for it was nearly half a mile from us, but the firing was most terrific

I was out in front that day, with the advanced pickets, & for nearly an hour it was a time of fearful suspense. We could only judge of the nature of the attack & progress of the

fight, [number "152" to order pages] by the sound, & it would be curious to an unpracticed ear to learn how much is indicated by the noise of battle. We knew the attack was on our lines for the cannonading was all on our side. The enemys [sic] firing seemed to be entirely musketry. Then we would listen with the most breathless attention to ascertain if the musketry was approaching or receding. Sometimes it would appear to be getting nearer & then we would get nervous—then it would seem to be going the other way & feelings would go up correspondingly. After a while the firing gradually diminished till it had nearly ceased. We felt that our side had maintained their position but farther than this we knew nothing. We could hear the cheering during the progress of the fight but sometimes were considerably in doubt which side it was on. Very soon however our anxiety was relieved. We could hear at first way down the lines [number "153" to order pages] something that might be yelling or cheering we could hardly tell which. Then it came nearer & presently we could distinguish genuine hearty cheers. It came up the line like electricity, being taken up by Brigades and Reg. in turn until it reached our own & then I sent a man back to learn the result. He came back & reported that Gen Sheridan had ridden along our lines announcing that we had driven the enemy with terrible slaughter, gaining over a mile—took a large number of prisoners & some guns. This was about as definite information as we could get at that time. But success was on our side, & that put us in most capital spirits. This for the time it lasted was perhaps the most furious engagement of the battle. It was undoubtedly the most destructive to the enemy, for they charged across open fields in the face of our Batteries, in the most wild & reckless manner. It was in this [number "154" to order pages] engagement in which Joe Scoll [sp?] of the 19th was wounded. I have given you these details this minutely that you might if possible understand something of my position & feelings. They may prove to be of little interest to you after all, for I know I have but little faculty for making things appear real. I will suggest however that it will be much better to take even a poor desf [crossed out] description than to realize it for yourself. Saturday was much like Friday, quiet until nearly night when there was another spirited engagement on our left & center. This was also successful to our side. I need not enter into particulars for I did not see it, & you have probably read better accounts than I could give. This was the last of the battle of Stones River, the next morning saw no enemy in our front. We remained in the same position until Monday P.M. when we removed to our present camp. In regard to the fighting of different Reg. & Brigades much has been said & written that is mere stuff & nonsense. It is the practice with many Generals to keep a Newspaper reporter on their staff, to laud their acts & write them into the position of heroes. Many Regiments have been over praised & many have not had full justice done them. The mortality list of any Reg. is no sure criteria of its conduct in a fight. Probably some of Johnsons Reg. suffered more in runing [sic] from the fight, without firing a shot than others did who fought well all day. As a general rule I believe those Reg. suffer the least, who keep together the best. I am fully satisfied with our Brigade & the work it done Some others may have been more conspicuous, but I dont [sic] believe there is one that rendered more important service, & if there is any Reg.

that fought so long as we did & can show a smaller list of stragglers than the 51st I should like to know it.

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In regard to the cause of the disaster on our right, I have no doubt they were surprised & taken at a disadvantage. The fault was mainly if not entirely in Johnsons Division. They had no line formed & some of the Reg. had hardly time to break their stacks of arms, when the Rebels were upon them. It was said his Batteries were not even placed in position but were limbered up with guns pointing to the rear, all through the night, & one of them had part of their horses gone to water when they were attacked. It is nothing against the bravery of troops that they did not fight under such circumstances. The fault is higher up. Some of these Reg. I have been told were old troops who fought in the battle of Shiloh [sic] & fought well. If the line at the right of our Division had not given way, we could have held our ground till this time if necessary. Gen Johnson is from Kentucky & I believe a brother of the Rebel General [number "157" to order pages] of that name, who was killed at Shiloh [sic]. My individual losses were not large. A new Rubber coat which cost ten dollars. Blanket worth five or six & Haversack which cost five containing my Diary which I would give ten dollars to get back.

[Page 158 of diary left blank.]

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Millersburg Tennessee

12 miles North of Murfreesboro

June 25th 1863

The army of the Cumberland commenced its forward movement yesterday, we were notified the day before to be in readiness to move, but having made similar preparations so often with no result, we had grown somewhat skeptical. This time however we were not to be deceived. It was understood that our Division should take the Shelbyville Pike & go down to a point near Fosterville, then cross over to Millersburg while Johnsons & Davis Division took a dirt road leading more direct to the latter place. Gen Thomas Army Corps was to proceed direct to Manchester Gen Benners [sic] Division of his corps [sic] stationed at Trione was to pass down on the right of the Shelbyville Pike, then cross over & form a junction with us, near Fosterville. Gen Grangers force from Franklin was [number "160" to order pages] was [sic] to follow in his rear. This was the extent of my knowledge of the movement for the first day, though it was rumored that Crittendens [sic] Corps went still farther to the left of Manchester. We got in motion about 6 o'clock in the morning. Between 9 & 10 o'clock [sic] it commenced to rain & has continued incessantly [sic] up to this morning. The original program was changed some-what, &

instead of going so near as to observe Fosterville, we were directed to turn off to the east about three miles north of it, thus turning a high knob where the Rebels were strongly protected, with artillery. We were detained at this point some four hours, waiting for General Bronners [sic] Division to come up.

We threw out a strong line of skirmishers to protect our front & flank, & during the whole time, the Rebels kept up a sharp occasionally opening with their Artillery No one was injured on our side though several got balls through their clothes. Gen Bronnor relieved our [number "161" to order pages] skirmishers & we moved on to Millersburg. Meantime however heavy firing had been heard in the direction of Liberty Gap [sic] about three miles south. We learned afterwards that Gen Willich Brig. of Johnsons [sic] Div Davis [crossed out] had had quite a sharp fight loosing [sic] between 40 & 50 men, but they finally gained the gap & held it.

It was between 6 & 7 o'clock when we arrived at Millersburg. Our wagon train which was to accompany Johnsons and Davis Division, had not come up. We sent out messengers to look for it, in every direction, but it could not be found. Every thing we had was on the wagons, & the prospect for spending a night in the rain or the wet ground without shelter, without blankets & without any thing to eat, was very good but not very cheering. We could now really [sic] envy the soldiers who had their shelter tents & rations in their Haversacks. But we must make the best of it, so we borrowed some coffee & hard bread of the [number "162" to order pages] orderlies, & prepared for a bivouac [sic] on the wet ground. The rain had slackened a little & we thought if it didnt [sic] commence again we should do very well. I finally found shelter in a log house near one of the Reg. but the others remained out all night. It commenced raining about midnight & poured in torrents, till morning. Our teams finally arrived about 7 o'clock this morning having been on the road all night. This gave us shelter & something to eat again. We are now awaiting orders, but the roads are so horrible I doubt if we make any movement to day.

Manchester Tenn

Sunday June 28 1863

The last three days have been rather eventful though we have made but little progress. As I predicted we remained at Millersburg all day Thursday being only disturbed by occasional orders to be ready to move. [number "163" to order pages] It rained at intervals all day. Friday morning we got an early start in a most drenching rain. Our Brigade was stopped at the Head Qrs. of Gen. McCook, for some purpose to us unknown. We finally learned that the Gen. wanted us to stay till he heard from Gen. Rosecrans.

The balance of our Division & all the train went on in that direction, Hoovers Gap. We remained here waiting for orders until nearly night, & then concluded we might as well make preparations [sic] to spend the night.

We accordingly moved back, on the old ground & enjoyed the agreeable prospect of another night without blankets. Next morning we got an early start (about 4 A.M.) & this time we didn't come back; but of all the bad roads in the Southern confederacy, (& I believe they can beat the world for bad roads) this was the worst one I have seen yet. It was a fearful & demoralizing sight to see the wrecked wagons, & abandoned property [number "164" to order pages] along the line of the road.

10 o'clock brought us to Hoovers [sic] Gap, & onto the Manchester Pike, which was marked by miles of wagon & Pontoon trains. The scenery around Hoovers [sic] Gap is charmingly wild & picturesque. The road is comparatively straight for two miles or so nearly so, that its direction can be traced from the high points, which enclose the road on either side. It was a beautiful night to stand on the top of one of these Hills, & look back upon the immense wagon train slowly creeping along.

The Rebels had erected two or three Redoubts commanding the road in the most perfect manner, but our advance was so sudden, & unexpected they made but a feeble resistance. Making a brief halt we pushed on four miles to Birch Green very appropriately named for it has some of the finest Birch trees I ever saw. The short period of sunshine we had enjoyed again gave place to a [number "165" to order pages] smart shower, but this had become so common, I dont [sic] know as we could have enjoyed an entire day of sunshine though I think for one I would have been willing to try it. After getting three different & contradictory orders we finally marched out in the direction of Fairfield a small town about 6 miles distant, to reach which we left the Pike & took a S. Westerly course. Our March this P.M. was the pleasantest we have had. The road followed the course of a small stream nearly all the way through a beautiful grove, on one side of which was a high mountainous range of hills, while the other stretched out into a fine open country. Arrived in Fairfield about 4 P.M. we found some skirmishing going on, which however did not detain us long, & as our only purpose in coming this way, was to ascertain if there was any enemy, here, we passed on in the direction of Manchester.

We marched till 9 o'clock before we found a suitable camping place [number "166" to order pages] & then fully one fourth of the men had given out from utter exhaustion. It was a terribly severe march, & such as one as never ought to be made except in cases of urgent necessity.

This morning we got an early start & came through to this place arriving here about 9 A.M.

Manchester has the appearance of being quite an old town, is very pleasantly located on high ground & before the war contained a population of Sixteen hundred but at present it could hardly raise one fourth that number.

We camped on a beautiful grassy lawn near Dark River, & the balance of the day was improved by the boys in washing & putting things in order generally. Bathing facilities found here can hardly be surpassed & they are always in great demand by soldiers

while on the march. There are some points of natural beauty, connected with this place which elsewhere would become celebrated.

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There is a series of cascades in Dark river where the water pours over rocks, in the most wild & irregular manner, making a fall of more than fifty feet in in [sic] a distance of perhaps a dozen rods. Dark River is about as large as the Chicopee, though I should think the volume of water was greater. But this is not the crowning feature

Near to our camp a small stream runs along over a rocky bed till it nears dark River, when it falls abruptly over a precipice at least 50 ft into a natural amphitheatre [sic] scooped out of the rocky hills. Behind this stream of water & beneath the overhanging rock a thousand men could find comfortable shelter. In wildness & grandeur it far surpasses the falls of Minnehaha & yet I presume its existence is known to but very few. The Mountains of Tennessee abound in scenes of Natural beauty, but the natives seem to have no appreciation of such things. About noon having settled matters in camp, the Inspector & myself took a ride through town [number "168" to order pages] to see what was to be seen. We found the inevitable Court house in the center of the court house square, as is the custom in all southern towns.

All business places were vacant & closed or occupied for some purpose by our army. Some few families still remained but they were generally of the class that couldnt [sic] get away. Looking through an open window and seeing the dinner table set out, in one of the houses we were reminded that we had had nothing to eat since morning, & not much then. The Inspector prepared to "move at once on their works."

I was a little more cautious, & remained outside while he went in & reconnoitered. He soon came out & reported that we could get dinner such as it was.

We made a very tolerable meal however of corn bread string beans & new potatoes, & all for the sum of 23 cents each, which was exceedingly moderate for Confederate prices.

We were also entertained by several females [number "169" to order pages] of various & uncertain ages which added nothing to the expense, & not much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

They regaled us with a tariff of prices which had prevailed there during the reign of the Confederacy. Coffee \$5.00 Soda \$5.50 Calico dress pattern \$40.00 a pair of shoes fifteen to twenty five dollars, &c.

This state of things they allowed was brought about by speculators.

Poor foolish ignorant beings!

Bridgeport Ala Sep 2, 1863

Our bridge being completed we commenced crossing the river about noon Our cavalry had occupied the opposite shore for two or three days, so there was nothing to fear from the enemy. The troops of our Division were to cross first, the transportation to follow afterwards. We made only four miles passing through some fine cornfields & over the spur of a mountain, into a valley where we halted for the night. [number "170" to order pages] We had not got into position when we received information that our bridge had gone & part of our train was in the river. This was immediately suggestive of a night without shelter or blankets or any thing to eat. But in order to prevent the latter alternative we sent Lieut Johnson & one of the Orderlies back to the river for rations. They returned about 10 o'clock in the eve—with a basket of provisions, & confirming the news of the loss of a large portion of the bridge. The loss of transportation however was inconsiderable. The bridge was again put in order so that teams crossed the next day, & arrived in camp late in the P.M. The place where we camped rejoices in the name of Hog jaw valley. I dont [sic] know whether this would properly be included in the class of jaw breaking names.

On Friday at 10 A.M. we commenced the tedious ascent of the mountain, which is nearly as high & perpendicular as [number "171" to order pages] Holyoke at Harkanan [sic]. There is a magnificent view from the summit, taking in a large extent of country in Ala & Tennessee. The view of the river from this point as it winds among the hills at this point is particularly fine. On the top of the mountain we found a large table land & marched 6 or 7 miles before halting, over a level country & good roads. Our wagons arrived about 12 o'clock at night, all except two which rolled over & went down the side of the mountain, 30 or 40 feet before stopping, in an inverted position.

A detail of 40 men were sent back & the two wagons & mules came into camp at day light all right.

Saturday we started about 7 A.M. & after marching 6 or 7 miles commenced the descent of the mountain into Look out Mountan [crossed out] Valley. Negleys Division were camped at the foot of the hill & we moved on two or three miles farther to the town of Trenton.

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To day for the first time we entered upon Georgia soil. This makes Seven Slaveholding States in which we have performed Military duty, since entering the service, & it is just one year this day since we evacuated Decatur, & commenced our Northern march towards Nashville. It has taken us an entire year to regain what we lost at that time. But I trust we hold it a little more securely than we did then.

Sunday Sept 6th

We resumed our march at 12 o'clock, taking a Southerly course down the valley. Only marched about 5 miles. We made our camp in a grove near a house where I was fortunate enough to get a quart of milk for my supper. Monday we marched four, or five miles again & were camped by Brigades about 3/4 of a mile apart. Our Brigade occupied a high ridge of ground near the [number "172" to order pages] plantation of a Mr Nesbit, a rich secesh aristocrat whose property is mostly located in Macon. We realized 1500 pounds of Bacon & 30 or 40 Bushels of Potatoes, from his place & have also found some bacon at other places.

This valley is narrow in extent though quite productive. Corn seems to be the only crop, which has received any attention for the past year.

Tuesday Sep 8

We remained quietly in camp all day. The weather is intensely hot, & we are content to do as little as possible.

Wednesday Sep 9

Another quiet day in camp with occasional visits from citizens most of whom want protection, or pay for something the soldiers have taken. I notice that such people dont [sic] receive the same attention they did a year ago, our consciences are not so tender as they once were, & a Rebels [number "174" to order pages] corn field & potato patch is no longer sacred property.

Thursday morn Sep 10

Was aroused at 3 1/2 o'clock A.M. by an Orderly bringing orders to march at 5 o'clock. This movement was supposed to be consequent upon the evacuation Chattanooga [sic], news of which reached us the day before.

We got started at half past five & pushed on as rapidly as possible for 8 miles, when we had orders to leave all the Regimental wagons, but one, to each Reg. This was strongly suggestive of a foot race but at present we could only conjecture. The day was intensely hot & many of the men gave out & dropped behind. We arrived at the base of Lookout Mountain, & commenced the tedious ascent about 2 o'clock P.M. It was a terribly fatiguing operation both to men & beast. The mountain I should judge 800 ft high & much of the way the road was very steep. [number "175" to order pages] But as all things have an end we finally arrived at the summit, & made 2 miles further when we camped near a large cedar creek. We found here another of the immense chasm, where the water falls, from 80 to 100 feet, into a huge basin and en passes [sic] off. The water under the fall has great debth, [sic] & it was full of soldiers who enjoyed it to the full extent, & looked like Lilliputians from the top of the bank. There seems to be no

limit to the freaks of nature which this mountainous country exhibits. Here on the top of a high range of mountains, is a stream so large as to be dignified with the name of river, flowing along only a little below the surface of the ground, like any well disposed stream, until all of a sudden it flows into a huge rocky basin, more than 100 feet below the surface of the ground, & from thence onward it is enclosed by high perpendicular rocks. I wonder that some enthusiastic Hydropath dont [sic] secure one of these sites for a [number "176" to order pages] Water cure establishment, they afford such unrivalled facilities for shower baths.

Numerous caverns exist in other mountains, which furnish great quantities of Saltpetre & Iron Ore. They have been the principal sources of supply for the Rebels since the breaking out of the Rebellion.

Friday Sep 11th

The march was resumed at 5 o'clock A.M. our Brigade in advance. A march of 9 miles carried us across the table lands, & brought us to the summit of the mountain, on the opposite side. This hill was more rough & precipitous than any we had encountered, but as we were at the top we thought we could manage to to [sic] make the descent.

Many were the congratulatory remarks that we were not obliged to go up such a hill. We found in the valley the other two Divisions of McCooks corps, & Stanley with most of his Cavalry force. [number "177" to order pages] It is a beautiful valley & I should think more productive than any we had yet seen. Our Cavalry had a skirmish here a few days, upon their arrival, & lost one or two men. After a useless & tedious delay of 2 hours, we were assigned a camping place, & camped in order of battle. Everything remained quiet for the rest of the day, but during the next it was evident things did not work smoothly. Wagons which we expected did not arrive, & it was reported that trains were being taken back up the mountain. Early on Sunday morning—about day light—an Orderly came to our quarters saying Gen Sheridan wanted to see the Col at once. The result of the visit was that we were to take the back track as speedily as possible. It seems that Rosecrans plans for once had not worked smoothly. Our Corps arrived here on time, but Gen Thomas Corps which was to have been at La Fayette, at the same time failed to connect [number "178" to order pages] in consequence of the occupation of the latter place, by the principal portion of Braggs Army. Two Divisions of Thomas [sic] Corps in attempting to reach their destination were attack & driven back, which left Bragg in a threatening [sic] position, almost between our two Army Corps. This of course was not a desirable position, for us, hence the hurried order to form a junction with Thomas as speedily as possible, which could only be accomplished by a circuitous retrograde movement, over the road we had come. All through that lazy Sunday our trains toiled up that steep & rocky road, an operation we thought impossible when we came down. A detail of men was required for each wagon & piece of Artillery to help it over the rocks. It was after dark before the last of our Brigade had reached the summit, & such clouds of dust as we were forced to pass through. Sometimes I could hardly see

my horses ears it was so thick. The road was lined with teams [number "179" to order pages] & men & everything seemed in inextricable [sic] confusion. We could neither find Gen Sheridan or learn where he had gone. Learning the direction of the other Brigade, of our Division had taken, we followed on at a venture, & after 4 or 5 miles of marching found the location of Gen Sheridens [sic] Head Qurs. & went into camp for the night.

Next morning we got started at 4 1/2 A.M. We crossed over the mountain down on the opposite side, making a march of about 21 miles, & camping near the spot we occupied a week before

We rested here until noon of the next day, when we again received order to be ready to march immediately. We only marched a few miles reaching the base of the mountain a little before night. We were now on our way to join Gen. Thomas, who was on the opposite side of the mountain. It is impossible for any one to form any thing like a correct idea of the topography of this country without a map.

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The country is principally made up of mountains. In reaching this place we have crossed & recrossed four mountain ranges, higher than any I ever saw. It is a singular feature in their formation that while the sides are very precipitous, the top is a level plateau, varying in width from two to ten miles, frequently having cultivated farms thereon.

Wednesday Sep 16

We commenced the ascent of the worst mountain we had yet encountered. Our whole Brigade was called into requisition, to assisst [sic] the Battery & Ammunition train up the mountain. In one place we had to put drag ropes on the carriages, man the ropes with 20 or 30 men & haul them up by man strength. The entire day was consumed in getting 2 Brigades of our Division over the mountain a distance of 4 or 5 miles.

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Thursday Sep 17

We are now "lazing toe," in what is known as Mc Larners Cave, on the east side of Look Out Mountain.

Friday Sep 18

I was interrupted at this point yesterday by the arrival of an Orderly, with orders to prepare to move immediately. It was understood that we were to go out about 4 miles, & take a position in the general line of battle. We had hardly marched a hundred yards, when Gen. Sheridan sent in great haste for 2 Reg. to be sent to him immediately. The whole Brigade was finally formed in line of battle, & lay in that position all day. The

immediate course of the excitement was the appearance of a long line of Rebel Infantry, coming through one of the Gaps, two or three miles from here.

They did not come up to attack us, & it is presumed it was only intended for a reconnoissance. [sic] We are now this [number "182" to order pages] morning waiting for orders.

Opinions vary as to the probability of a battle. It is known that the Rebels are massed in large force, within 12 miles from here.

It is surmised that Longstreet, is with them with his corps Our Cavalry had considerable skirmishing yesterday, but with unimportant results.

Otis Moody Last Will and Testament

In view of the uncertainty of live, and the peculiar danger of my present position, I feel called upon to give some directions for the disposal of my effects, in case I should be removed by the Providence of God from this earth. And first, I desire to bear record to the goodness of God in bestowing upon me innumerable blessings. He has preserved my life and health through many dangers, and trails, and I can freely testify to the blessedness of the Christian Faith.

I declare the following statement to be my last will, and testament for the disposal of my property.

First: - I give and bequeath to my eldest sister, Mercy, all my Real Estate located in the state of Minesota [sic], according to description, to be found among my papers, and I do further give her the additional sum of Three Hundred (\$300) dollars in cash. All the balance of my property both real and personal, I give and bequeath to my brother Andrew, except that I desire to have my pocket testament which has been my companion during the Campaign, sent to my friend, Miss. Annie F. Noble.

And I do hereby appoint my Brother Andrew to be the sole executor of this my last will and testament Made and signed on this the 24th. day of March 1862. in camp of U.S. Forces. near New Madrid. Mo.

In presence of

Charles Hills.

Albert L. Coe

Rufus Rose.

Otis Moody. (Seal)