

Camp on Stone River near Murfreesboro  
Hd. Quarters. 88 Ills. Vols. Feb. 28, 18

Dear Mother,

To day I received your interesting Favor of Jan. 30th, and it is needless to say that I was pleased, aye! delighted to hear from home. I think that you are over anxious concerning me. It only tends to make you nervous and sick. Do not fear that I shall not always be as well as at present. Camp Life seems to agree remarkably well with me, and as for Secesh Bullets, I believe you are more afraid of them, than any soldier exposed to them. I cannot forbear smiling when I peruse your warnings, Mother. I believe you want to make a Baby of me. A very pretty Soldier I would be if I followed many of your cautionary words of advice. I know just how you feel concerning a careless reprobate like myself, but you must not feel offended, Mother, if I do not adhere strictly to your advice, although a Mother's Advice is to be highly prized. Allow me to ask an Old Question? What do you know about war? I think, Mother, I could impart some few words of advice on that (I am afraid Knotty Quest'n to you) myself.

Now, Mother, you must not be displeased with my raillery, as it is far from my intention to make fun of so Dear a Parent, but I cannot forbear touching lightly upon your groundless fears.

You say that your Patriotism is cooling. It is not so with me. I say, like Old Gen. Greusal, "Give 'em H-ll a while longer, Boys. Give 'em H-ll." (Excuse the Quotation.) I think we can stand it as long as they can. Never say "Compromise." However severe the war, I say fight until they cry enough. They are not as desperate as these Blacked Hearted Hellions of the North are trying to make out. It does make me mad when I read of these cowardly Traitors at the North who, while we are enduring the hardships of Camp, are only encouraging the Rebels in arms to new efforts. The Soldiers do not feel disheartened, but their breasts tingle with indignation when they hear of the efforts of the Peace Men, or rather Traitors of the North. Our Boys say, let the Old 88th go back to Illinois and they will clean out every Secesh in the North. I should pity the Editor of the Chicago Times if he should fall into the hands of many of our Boys. I believe they would drown him in Stone River.

Is Mr. Van Duzor as sound as ever in regard to the Union and the Glorious Stars & Stripes? How proud those who are spared to go home will be, when after the subjugation of the South they are marched up the streets of Chicago, their tattered Banner waving triumphantly, o'er the not until then Home of the Free, and the land of the Brave. I can imagine with what applause our gallant troops will enter Illinois.

Traitors of the North will then Hunt their Holes very suddenly, I guess.

I have the pleasure of seeing Lyman White every few days. I do not think I can be with him. My position here is a very good one, and in Col. Chadbourne I trust I have a friend almost equal to Lyman, although Lyman White always has seemed approaching to perfection in my mind. Col. Chadbourne is very! very! kind to me, and takes better care of me than I do myself. Col. Chadbourne is now commanding the regiment, and Col. Sherman the Brigade, in place of Greusal, resigned.

For the last week I have neglected writing, owing to the very plausible fact that I have had no time, but I shall endeavor to write to some one of the Family every week. Tell Lizzie and Howard to write often.

I am sorry Uncle Warner nor Father did not see Capt. Whiting when he was home on a furlough. Capt. went to Bates Stone & Co. but Uncle Warner was not in. I wrote a long letter to him and sent it by Capt. W.

Has Annie Van Duzor received a letter? I wrote her some days ago, about a fortnight, I think. Perhaps she has not received it, but it is high time, I should think.

Clifton is still growing, despite "Old Grim War," I understand.

Clifton will yet astonish the New Englanders. I am happy to hear that Aunt Eliza intends coming west. She is such a good Old Lady. I trust she will spend many happy hours on the Prairies.

My sheet is about full, but of little of interest I fear, so I will close.

Remaining Ever Your Affect.

Charlie

Camp on Stone River near Murfreesboro  
Hd. Quarters 88th Regt. Ills. Vols.  
March 8/63

Dear Mother,

Your splendid long letter of the 1st inst. was received yesterday; also one from Carrie, and one from Howard and Arthur. You can judge I enjoyed myself yesterday, perusing all the welcome epistles from those far distant.

You say you fear that many of my letters have failed to reach you, and therefore I thought I would number all my letters hereafter, commencing by calling this one No. 1, so if the next letter you receive should be No. 3, for instance, you would of course know that there was one missing. What do you think of that plan? So Lizzie has gone East. I had no idea that she intended going so soon. I am glad for her, as she will enjoy many privileges denied her at the west; I should think you would miss her very much indeed. She was such a bustling little Housekeeper while at home. What school does she attend? It seems Madison Ferris has at last concluded to "go to war," providing he can have the opportunity of filling a 1st Lieut.'s position. Well, it is better late than never. You spoke of sending me the "Life of Adjt. Stearns." I am very much obliged to you, but our former Adjt., now A.A.A.G., received one copy from home and kindly loaned it to me for perusal. Adjt. Stearns was a fine character, but our, now A. A. A. Gen. Ballard, is just as fine. He is a noble little fellow and is much loved by all. Your speaking of church puts me in mind that we have not had Religious services for several months. When our Parson does make an effort to hold Divine Service, his audience generally numbers 6 or 7, perhaps 12, but he will preach as contentedly to those few as if there was a thousand present. He is a Fire and Brimstone Methodist, a regular "Git up an Howl." When our Surgeon died, he stated that he believed his soul was lost. He has a large blank book in which he writes the denomination of every Church member in the Regt. and if not a Church member each one's belief &c, and if a man dies, if you wish to know where his soul is, the Parson of the 88th can tell very nearly. I, nor any sensible man would like such a style of Chaplain. It is not for him to say where the immortal part of man has taken its final abode.

Our Regt. as well as our entire Corps has been away for five days. They are now at Franklin, I guess, a town 18. miles distant. We heard considerable cannonading in that direction yesterday. If the Regt. remains out much longer I shall go out with the mail. I should have gone out with the Regt. but my Horse was hardly able to walk. Col. Chadbourne said I had better remain, but that I could

go if I wished, but as he had a large number of Orders he wished copied, I remained to employ my time in writing. I went down town yesterday on the Quarter Master's Racker to see the Pay Master about our Pay Rolls. I met Lyman White while there, and spent about an hour very pleasantly in talking. He is enjoying good Health and Spirits. He does not change at all, he is the same Lyman White of old, the same pleasant and affable Friend. I like him very much indeed. I have not as yet seen Prosper, as he is not a member of the 19 Ills. He reenlisted a short time since, in the Regular Service. He now belongs to the 4th Regulars (Cavalry).

Chauncy Sheldon has obtained his discharge. How soon does he return home? Poor fellow! he has suffered much for his patriotism. He possesses the right kind of pluck, I can tell you. I am glad for his sake that he has received an honorable discharge, but our ranks have lost a soldier as true as tried Steel, one who was last to complain of hardships, and who would laugh at discomfitures; he always cheerfully made the best of everything and done his best to make everyone cheerful about him. I consider him one of my best friends.

Ed. Caswell is busily shoving the quill on my table. He is writing home, I believe. He is our Regimental Blacksmith, and a regular worker, "A perfect old Trump." When I want a little job done, such as a ring put in my Saddle, my Horse shod, &c, he will drop everything and down his old sledge will come on a Horse Shoe and it is on my horse double quick time.

I should think, by your last, that you were enjoying your full allowance of mud. With us the country is drained by numerous brooks, creeks, ravines, &c, so the mud is not near as formidable as it is at the North, in Spring time.

Did not Mary Viets receive two letters from me, which she has not answered? before she left for Oberlin? She has written heretofore very promptly, but my last two letters have received no reply.

I am surprised to hear that the Clifton School numbers so many scholars. From where do they come? I should think Clifton was increasing rapidly in population. I suppose Arthur and Pliny attend school regularly, do they not? Has Annie Van Duzor left for the east yet? Lizzie wrote sometime since that I owed Annie Van Duzor a letter, and that she was expecting one. I have written her since, but have received no reply. Please mention it to her, as

she may feel hurt. Tell her I have written her, and have been expecting an answer from her for sometime.

Frank Ferris I suppose is well as usual. How does he like the idea of Madison's enlisting? I owe him a letter and must answer it soon. Howard and Arthur will have their letters answered tomorrow, providing I can spare time. I guess Howard was a little out of sorts when he wrote his note. He said he had not received the money for the pigs he had fatted &c. I could not help laughing when I read and re-read his curious missile. I wish he would write oftener. He only favors me semi-occasionally. Father scarcely ever writes.

Does Uncle Warner visit Clifton occasionally? He has been very kind to me, and has done all in his power for me.

As it is high time I should be traveling for my mail, I will close, hoping to find another letter in to day's directed to your humble servant.

Give my love to Father and all, accepting a little mite for yourself.

I remain Your Affect.

Charlie

Head Quarters 88 Regt. Ills. Vols.  
Camp on Stone River, Murfreesboro, Ten  
March 13th, 1863.

Dear Mother,

Thinking perhaps another letter from me would not come amiss, although I have written twice since receiving your last, I embrace the present opportunity of scratching a few lines. I received three or four of your letters, at one time, about a week or more ago. Of course some of them were old, but they, never the less, were interesting. I have just returned from town, where I had the pleasure of meeting Lyman White. I dined with him at Col. Simmons' Office, and spent several hours very pleasantly (as I always do) in his company. I expected a letter from home to day, but was disappointed in not receiving any, on my return. Have you heard from Lizzie since she left? I wish, unless you prefer to keep her letters, you would send them to me.

Has Chauncy Sheldon arrived in Clifton yet? If so, please ask him to write me. Adj't. received his discharge papers sometime ago, and I should think long ere this he would be at home. Poor fellow! he has suffered much. Col. Sherman is throwing a bridge across the river, opposite our encampment, so that in case our pickets were driven in, and our Brigade was not sufficient to support them, we might retreat over the bridge, instead of swimming the river, when swollen. I think that is the object he has in view.

The fortifications at Murfreesboro are very well built and make a very handsome as well as formidable appearance. Many of the works are made of Green Cedar rolled tightly and bound in bundles of about six feet in length and two or three feet in circumference, packed solidly together and piled up, fort fashion. It looks very fine to see those long green banks, trimmed and built so neatly and compactly. I think a solid shot would rebound if it struck fortifications built in this manner, and I suppose that is the reason of building the works of that material.

This army since Rosecrans took command is under complete discipline, all is quiet in town, no drunken soldiers are to be seen staggering along the streets of Murfreesboro, in fact, everyone without a pass is handed over to the tender mercies of the Provost Marshal, by the Provost Guards, who are constantly patrolling the streets, in all parts of the town, in quest of individuals who are without the requisite papers. Rosecrans' Head Quarters are in a fine house, on High Street. Bragg, while he was in possession of Murfreesboro, occupied the same building as his Head Quarters.

Frank Scudder has been offered a 1st Lieutenancy in a Negro Regiment (so he says). He is going to accept the offer, I believe. He would do anything to obtain a pair of Shoulder Straps and a right to wear them. He may receive a commission through the influence of friends, but never by true, meritorious conduct. He has worked hard to obtain a commission here, but has met with poor, if not just success.

The grass is as green as can be, and everything bespeaks of Spring. The citizens say that it is a very late Spring indeed. It seems unnatural to see so many plantations with everything in idleness. There will be but little done in the way of farming, in this part of Secessia this season. How the inhabitants will subsist is a song as yet unsung. I guess Old Jeff. will "come to time" before his twenty years are out. I do not think there will be an advance movement, until dry weather takes the place of wet, at least I hope not. As soon as definite intelligence from Vicksburg reaches us, and not I think until then, a movement in force will be made, but then (Old Rosy) as the boys call him, will commence to buzz in good earnest, and it will not be all buzz either. Gen. Rosecrans possesses the entire confidence of his men, and that is almost enough to insure success. No one fears when he leads.

I went over to the 4th Regulars, day before yesterday, in hopes of meeting Prosper Mayhew, but to my disappointment I found that his company was absent, and it was feared captured, but nothing definite has been heard from them. At all events, some tall fighting would be necessary in order to capture them, as the 4th Regulars do not submit to capture very tamely. Our Surgeon Dr. Pierce is home on a furlough of 20 days. He is an excellent surgeon, and a fine man. He was formerly of the 36 Illinois, but owing to the death of our Surgeon, Dr. Coatsworth, and the resignation of one Asst. Surgeon, he was transferred and promoted to Surgeon, with the rank of Major. I think he has gone North, on account of the non-arrival of his commission.

As soon as our Division returns from Franklin, I am in hopes our Regiment will be paid off. The Pay Master Major McIntire, is all ready to hand over Our little old Cash, as soon as the 88th makes her appearance.

George McCracken, the Adjt.'s Clerk, and myself are the sole occupants of the Colonel's Tent, during his absence. McCracken is a young fellow from Toledo, Ohio. He was a Baggage man on the Michigan Southern R.R. and a good fellow. I have jolly times with him and the Sergeant Major once in a while. We generally have a rough and tumble every night before retiring.

I hear Sellers has again commenced the selling of Liquor. Does he keep it in the same style as formerly? It used to be a perfect old Rum Hole. Has he a license yet? I should think the people would close up or tear down some of the Grog Shops. Serve them, as the soldiers serve Sutlers who are inclined to cheat, and ask exhorbitant prices for their goods. Sometimes the boys will tear down a sutler's tent, and appropriate the goods for themselves free gratis for nothing. Our boys served our Sutler in like manner, while in Chicago, and they promise to call upon him again in like manner, unless he mends his ways.

How soon does Carrie return from Dubuque? Have you a girl yet? I should think there would be more than you could attend to alone.

You wrote in one of your letters that Aunt Eliza intended to come west in the Spring. How soon do you expect her? I have lost her address and therefore have neglected writing her. Tell Howard and Arthur to write soon and often. I suppose Pliny and Ellie are too much engaged in their studies to write. I have received two or three letters from Pliny, but I guess none from Ellie and Louis, but never mind, they haven't forgotten me I guess.

From Your Affect. Son,

C. H. Kingman

Camp Schaefer. Head Quarters  
88th Ills. Vols. March 22nd/63

Dear Mother,

Tis Sunday eve. but how different from the peaceful Sundays at home. Each man's musket is placed where he can grasp it at a moment's notice. Day before yesterday morning, the rebels attacked our picket line, only about a mile from our camp. Our Brigade was ordered out to support the reserves if necessary, but after about two hours' pretty sharp skirmishing and one Cavalry charge, which resulted unfavorably for the reb's, the enemy skedaddled, as a matter of course. Our Division yesterday was reviewed by Gen. Sheridan, preparatory to a grand review by Gen. Rosecrans tomorrow. They made a very handsome appearance, and I doubt not had the enemy seen the efficiency of our gallant division, as they marched in review, they would be more careful in attacking our Div. Picket.

Lieboldt's Brigade was on picket at the time of the attack. The main fire of the enemy was against the 2nd Mo. and it was perfect folly to think of scaring them. It is composed entirely of Germans who never retreat.

The number of casualties I do not know. A few of our cavalry were killed, as well as one or two Infantry.

Our Regt. has at last been paid off. I received \$66.00 from Government.

Lyman White wished very much for me to go home with him, but as Col. C. was absent, of course it was impossible. I have asked him to obtain leave of absence for me, but as yet I have seen nothing of it. I have spoken to him twice in regard to it, but he says that Gen. Rosecrans has not as yet issued an order, stating how they shall be given. I think as soon as possible I shall have a furlough, but it is rather doubtful. I suppose you are again enjoying the company of Mr. White. Was not his sudden appearance unexpected? If you have anything to send me, he will bring it, I guess. I should like to receive a little butter, as I can assure you it would be most acceptable. Everything of that kind is very dear. Butter is worth .60 cts per pound, Potatoes \$6.00 per bu., Onions \$6.00 per brl. and all else in proportion. Clothing is also extremely high. The military Equipment Stores are coining money. They charge what they please and have a crowd of customers daily, notwithstanding.

There has been several promotions made in our Regt. lately. N. P. Jackson, Sergt. Maj., has received a 2nd

and efficient officer, and I think is in good repute with our Genl Comm'dg.

I have a very fine black colt 4 years old this spring. I caught him two or three days ago, when our Regt. was on picket. The Major also obtained a fine Bay Mare at the same time. I have turned over my other horse to the Quarter Master. Corn and Hay is not very plentiful. Hay in particular is very scarce. Both are brought from the rear and issued to the Regts. the same as Soldiers' Rations. The country for 15 or 20 miles around is stripped of everything in the shape of fodder, so we are obliged to be careful of our feed. 12 lbs. per day is the allowance of corn for our horses. Rather small allowance, but sufficient, if not wasted. I have received nothing in the shape of letters from home for sometime.

One of our mails was captured a short time ago, and perhaps I was unfortunate enough to have several letters captured. Please write often and

Oblige

Your Affect. Son

Charlie

Camp Schaefer Apr. 12/63.

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Yours was found enclosed in one from Howard, and I will now endeavor to make some kind of an acknowledgement, although it will be unintelligibly written as I am in a great hurry.

Our former Adjut. and lately the A.A.A.G. of this Brigade is dead. Services were held down town this A.M. Col. Chadbourne made several fine and touching remarks, of which I will endeavor to send home a copy. Col. C. is a very fine man, morally and physically, and is much beloved by his command. He treats me firstrate and I trust I appreciate his kindness.

Why do you not write something definite concerning your removal to Dubuque! or are not all of the necessary arrangements made yet?

I suppose you are now enjoying your vacation. I wish I could be allowed a vacation, but I guess it is useless to think of one at present. I have a friend, a Lieut. on Sherman's Staff, who is endeavoring to obtain one for himself as well as for your humble servant. Perhaps he may succeed! if we remain here, but if we advance it is wholly improbable.

I am sorry to learn that L. A. White is ill. I hope it will not become serious. Uncle Warner wrote that he was meeting with fair success in recruiting, of which I am glad for of all others I am anxious for him to wear the so much coveted shoulder strap. I met Gen. Rosecrans the other day on a bridge. He looked at me & of course I saluted him. He pleasantly returned the compliment, leaving a good impression of the gallant soldier on my mind. He is a "Trump," I can tell you. He goes to church with the soldiers and, in the House of God, no doubt considers the lowest private his equal in a moral point of view. A sight of him fills the troops with enthusiasm, and cheer after cheer rends the air after every remark he may make. I tell you he is our man.

You are a good boy to write me so often and if you knew how gladly letters from all points are welcomed by me, I guess you would feel well repaid for the few moments occupied in writing to your brother.

I have not much to write, so you will have to excuse me with a short letter this time. With much love to all I remain

Your Affect. Bro.

April 19, 1863

Dear Bro. Arthur,

As I have been writing to Mother and Howard, I thought it would not do to make a very large bridge of your nose.

One of your questions is, if I may be allowed to quote, Will you give me Abe? Well, Arthur, as you have taken such excellent care of him, and it is so uncertain when I return home, I guess I must grant your request, providing you still minister unto his wants daily, and allow no bigger dog to whip him. I guess he has forgotten his old master Charlie. Do you think he will recognize me when I come home?

I wish you could be allowed to examine our formidable works here. You might then form some opinion of the strength and durability of "Old Rosey's" Trenches. Soldiers are still kept at work upon them, and I should think that in course of human events, it would be pronounced "Finished." It seems to me that Murfreesboro is already sufficiently well fortified, but older and wiser heads than mine seem to think otherwise.

I think before many days have elapsed, the deep booming of Cannon will again be heard proclaiming that another bloody contest has begun; movements are now being made which strengthen my belief, and I am in strong hopes that the next letter I write home will be a record of another battle as fierce as the late one of "Stone River."

How soon does Lyman White intend to terminate his visit at the north, and return to the Army of Cumberland?

Does School still keep or has vacation commenced?

I suppose you are now deeply engaged in gardening, laying out beds, planting seeds, &c. Ellie I'll warrant is not behind you all, if his beds do have a shapeless form and he plants seeds of all kinds in one hill. He is a little worker and strives to have an A No. 1 garden. How I would like to see the little rat. Is he up to all manner of shins as he used to was or has old age sobered him down a little?

How is Arthur Howe, Esq.? I suppose he has soared pretty near to the moon by this time, hasn't he? Does he associate with you now, or does he choose the companionship of sage old men?

Frank Ferris I presume is all war again, is he not? I hope he will come with Mr. White down to this forsaken portion of humanity.

How many scholars does the Clifton School number?

Now, Arthur, in your next, answer all questions.

With much Love to all,

I remain

Your Affect.

Bro. Charlie

Received Apr 25th 1863

from Charlie



Camp Schaefer Murfreesboro

Tenn. Hd. Qrs. 88th Ills. Apr. 19/62

Dear Mother,

To day, I have been the recipient of four letters, and three News Papers, and I think it is time to commence answering them.

I am now daily expecting the pleasure of seeing Mr. L. A. White's congenial countenance appearing in Murfreesboro. Our Commissary Sergeant has gone over to Van Cleave's Div. this afternoon and will stop at Bridge's Battery on his return, for the purpose of learning the time of Mr. White's return, if he has not already arrived. I was in hopes Mr. White would give up a Lieutenantcy in the Battery, for a Commissaries Commission as Captain, as I would probably be with him as a Clerk. Frank Ferris I hear is determined to enlist. Why does not his Father consent? I think it would be good for him to pass a few months of his life in Dixie; it sounds very well at home, but a soldier's life is not what these, or most Recruiting Officers represent it to be, as any soldier can assure you. Howard is full of it; what in the world could he accomplish midst this mighty mass of humanity? He surely does not contemplate coming down to Dixie. If Mr. White would take him with him, Howard would fare tip top, but of course you will not sanction his going in any position.

I received a letter from Annie Van Duzor to day; she says Clay will reenlist as soon as his term expires. I think he shows good pluck, as well as patriotism.

Carrie I suppose is again numbered among the little circle of Clifton Young Ladies. Henry wrote that she intended returning home April 16th. I hope you have entirely recovered from your late illness, and are now enjoying good health and spirits. Do you still accomplish your various household duties without help?

I wrote Lizzie a few days since and enclosed \$5.00 which was all I dared send at once, our mails are so liable to be taken. I also sent \$25.00 to Chicago for Uncle Warner to place to my credit in some bank, or wherever he thought best. Does he often go to Clifton now, as he formerly did? I should think he would favor Clifton with his presence quite often, game being so plenty, and he such an excellent sportsman.

Arthur wrote that Abbie was dangerously ill. I hope she is enjoying better health at present. Pneumonia I believe you said was the prevailing complaint in Clifton, as it is with us in the army.

The weather here is very pleasant and warm. I went in swimming last eve. with Capt. Chickering, two Lieuts., Frank Scudder, and myself. Lieut. Lawrence jumped into the river before he had become cool from our walk. When we came from the water he was taken quite sick and fell upon the bank almost insensible. Upon swallowing a little liquor he revived, and we succeeded in getting him to camp and into bed.

There is nothing marvellous transpiring and but little that is not marvellous. With much love to all

I ever remain,

Charlie

Camp Schaefer near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Head Qrs 88<sup>th</sup> Ills. April 26, 1863

Dear Mother,

Although I have not received a letter from home for sometime, yet knowing that you would be expecting one from me, nevertheless, I take the present opportunity of writing you a good long letter. Some of you have doubtless written me and perhaps I will receive several to day when the mail arrives. I have been a little unwell for the past two days, with the dioreah, accompanied with some fever. I am as gay as a Top, to day, however; have just returned from the river where several of us enjoyed a fine bath, and are feeling quite refreshed.

Our Brigade has been on outpost duty for several days. They were stationed about four miles from camp on the Shelbyville dirt road some distance beyond our Picket Line. I carried the mail out daily, generally accompanied by one of the Brigade Post Masters. My pass is good yet although our Brigade has returned, but of course I have no occasion to pass on it now.

How soon does Lyman White return to the Battery? I am awaiting his arrival with some impatience, I must confess, as I long to hear directly from home. Carrie I suppose arrived from Dubuque sometime since, as the last letter from her stated that she was to return home I think in two days, and some time has elapsed since I have received anything in the shape or form of a letter from her.

Our Chaplain is now busily engaged in haranguing perhaps 20 or 30. It is a pity that we have not a man who could be of some benefit to us, one who knows when to soothe and when to excite the feelings of a man; with our Chaplain it must be all excitement, which is oft times very injurious, especially when a man is dangerously ill. I scarce ever attend any of his services, although I occasionally drop in to prayer meeting, thinking that the hour thus spent would do me no harm and perhaps might possibly do me some good.

Col. Sherman having been relieved of the command of this Brigade by Gen. Lytle, has returned to the regt. We chaps at Head Quarters do not have such good times as when Lt. Col. Chadbourne commands, and on that account wish Col. Sherman might always command a brigade.

I rode over to the 4<sup>th</sup> Regulars a short time since on business for the Pay Master. I saw Prosper, who of course was glad to see me, and had several if not more questions to ask. Poor Fellow, if he had never enlisted I think he would have been much better off; he has been sick a large portion

of the time since leaving home; and on two occasions, he was at death's door. The stretchers were brought in to carry him to the dead house, but each time he recovered. Is he not very foolish in not accepting his discharge, it having been offered to him twice? He is unable to do duty now, or was ~~not~~ when I saw him. I told him if he could obtain a discharge, I thought it his duty to go home.

Alonzo Sylvester has been on the sick list for some time. He is considerably bloated, and is feeling very homesick. I think he is far too much like Jeremiah ~~S~~ - to be a good soldier. The rest of Clifton's soldiers in this Regt. are as tough and hearty as Bucks. You would not recognize in them now, the steady fellows who left Clifton about 9 mo. ago for the war, they are all pretty wild now but can just take care of themselves in any brush.

There is nothing very new or marvellous transpiring here at present, although as a matter of course Mother Rumor is constantly busy, which accounts for the number of reports circulated daily.

John Morgan's Wife was brought into Murfreesboro day before yesterday, and Old John himself barely effected his own escape. Dick McCann, his right hand man, was captured by our cavalry but by some stupidity on our side, he escaped also. We are still under Marching Orders and are liable to move at a moment's notice, and the sooner that moment comes, the better it will suit me, as I am satisfied that the rebels will not attack us at this point, especially while there are so many troops to garrison it.

Portions of the army are almost constantly out scouting, or on out post, and from cavalry reports I should think there was quite a large rebel cavalry force hovering around us, but I think not much Infry very near. We can tell but little of what is on the tapis (?) unless we happen to be engaged in it. I guess you know about as much concerning our movements as we do. All that we must do is to obey orders and trust to Rosey and "The Almighty."

How is Mrs. B. K. White? I hope she has recovered from her late severe illness. Arthur wrote that she had been very low, indeed. I am glad none of the children have been ill. Has Jeremiah Sylvester settled his enlistment affair yet? I hope he will have to go to Dixie and shoulder a musket, be obliged to make forced marches, &c. I think he has turned out pretty small for a man of his outward dimensions and nothing is too bad for him.

I think Mr. Walker very kind to offer to send me a knife, and am glad to think that he takes so much interest in me. I trust I may merit the esteem bestowed upon me by my numerous friends, and may I never commit an act of which they would disapprove.

Many! Many! temptations beset the path of a soldier and many there be who entered the service pure minded, ~~who~~ and go out corrupted, many temptations there are which those at home think not of, but I sincerely hope that I may return home at least as good as when I enlisted.

How about the Copper Heads of the North? Do they begin to see their folly, or are they determined to hold fast to their treachery and have their necks broken, on the return of the army. The boys feel very angry toward them, and would give a month's pay if they could be allowed to teach them a lesson after their own style.

I declare I know not if I have answered any of your questions, but as my sheet is full, I will wait until my next edition.

With much love to all, I

Remain Your Most Affect.

Son

C. H. Kingman

P.S. Address  
88<sup>th</sup> Ills. 1st Brig. 3d Div.  
20 A. C.

R. P. M. 88 Ills.

Camp Schaefer near Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Hd. Quarters 88th Ills. May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your interesting favor was rec'd yesterday, as was also a copy of the comical Yankee Notions, and the interesting Home Magazine. I am very much obliged to you, Arthur, for mailing them to me, and as for your writing too often, that is utterly impossible. If you should write every day the letters would not arrive too frequent I can assure you.

I am sorry your watermelon seeds failed to sprout. If you plant more I hope you will meet with better success, for watermelons are so delicious in summer it would be a pity for all the seeds to decay in the ground. Has Father any hired men this spring yet? I suppose he intends moving to Dubuque in the fall certain, does he not? Lyman White has not as yet made his appearance in Murfreesboro, he will probably come to day; they are expecting him momentarily at the Battery, and I hope for his appearance sooner. I shall ride over this afternoon, soon after dinner.

Frank Ferris has given up the idea of enlisting, has he not? Tell Howard he is very foolish to think of going. You at home can form but little idea of soldiering, so Howard had better profit by my advice.

Do you want me to send you the Nashville Union occasionally? If so, let me know. It is a small paper but it expresses a strong Union sentiment and mayhap will interest you.

We are now enjoying the benefit of Shelter Tents, and to tell the Truth there is not such a vast amount of enjoyment either, derived from living under their low walls, but never mind, it is all for the "Old Flag," and they are firstrate in dry weather and will do for the summer season. We are willing to put up with considerable to prosecute the war, and bring it to a termination. Tell Chan. Sheldon his letter has been received and I will endeavor to answer it before shortly. Now, Arthur, as I wish to answer other letters from home, you will please excuse me. Hoping that your gardening &c may prosper, I ever remain

Your Affect. Bro.

Charlie - K.

Camp Schaefer near Murfreesboro  
Tenn. Hd. Qrs. 88<sup>th</sup> Ills. Vols.  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863

Dear Mother,

Your interesting favor bearing date of April 26<sup>th</sup> was received day before yesterday, and I am now endeavoring to write a few words in reply. I am pleased to hear that so many of the Cliftonians take such interest in Charlie Kingman. I little thought that I possessed much love from Clifton's citizens, but it seems I am agreeably mistaken and will endeavor to merit their esteem, assuredly I shall write a note to Mr. Walker expressive of my thanks, as soon as his present is received. He is very kind to remember me in such a manner, and I hope I may sometime repay him in a more appropriate manner, than by merely thanking him. I guess Mr. White's recruiting tour was blessed with fair success, and I hope his recruits will be the means of obtaining a senior 1st Lieutenantcy for him. Col. Chadbourne feels much interested in him. He gave him a fine letter of recommendation to Gov. Yates. They are old schoolmates.

I hope, Mother, that the grounds will be cleared up in the vicinity of our domicile. I cannot refrain a smile when I think of how you used to coax me, I, us & co. to Clear Up, every spring; has a path been made to the front gate yet, or is that in prospect? I presume the church grounds are now looking quite nicely, most of the trees I believe are alive, are they not? How I would like to be at home and attend church to day, to sit on a real seat, and listen to an actual Divine. Here in the army if we attend services we sit on the lap of Mother earth and listen to the not over brilliant remarks of a Methodist graduate. Our Chaplain is a very conscientious man and really thinks that he is the source of more good than most other chaplains combined. Of course he is of some benefit to the regiment in obtaining and distributing religious reading, and in visiting the hospital and doing likewise, yet he is not the man we want. He knows not when to comfort, and when to excite the feelings. It must always be excitement.

Carrie has given up all idea of Teaching music I believe. Do they intend having a melodeon in the church or will the members do without? The debts of the church are nearly canceled, are they not? How do the congregation like Mr. Hildrith. Some I believe thought him superior to Mr. Saggar. I suppose he improves as he becomes more accustomed to clerical duties. He was but a graduate when he came to Clifton, was he not?

Do you think that our fruit trees will bear this year? It would indeed be nice if you could gather fresh

fruit occasionally. It would be a rare treat for the Cliftonians. I have not had the pleasure of eating much fruit of any kind. Oranges sell, two for .25; apples three for the same price, and not remarkably good at that. Everything saleable here, brings exhorbitant prices, and ready sales, too. Shelter Tents are now substituted for Sibleys, which have been sent to Nashville and stored. We are still under marching orders and are liable to move at a moment's notice. Something startling will transpire before long, I am confident, and something telling, to. Old Rosey I'll warrant has some deep laid plsin maturing, which ere long will be disclosed by a conflict, and it is hoped victory with the enemy. Why does not Carrie send me one of her Photographs and also why have you not sent me one of yours? I received a few lines from Lizzie yesterday. She is enjoying her usual good health, with the anticipation of enjoying an abundance of fruit this season. Mrs. Burraye is very kind to her and she seems to take as much pleasure in Lizzie's sojourn as she does herself.

I am glad Chauncy Sheldon's limb is better, as he is a fine fellow. I have long since discovered his sold worth and am proud to call him friend. I rec'd a letter from him day before yesterday. He still expresses the same attachment to our country, and our countries chief. He still expresses the same patriotic sentiments, the same feeling toward the Copperheads, as he did at the commencement of this war.

The warm weather is commencing, but I hope it will have no injurious effect as regards health upon the regt. I have heretofore always been blessed with good health, and I hope the blessing will continue, for I have a dread of an army hospital.

Col. Sherman is again in command of the regt., having been relieved of the command of this Brigade by Brig. Genl. Lytle, an Ohio man, and a good fighter. The Fortifications are progressing finely, a considerable being kept at work continually on them.

I shall try to ride over to B.'s Battery this afternoon to see if Lyman White has arrived; am anxious to see him. If he comes to day or tomorrow I will write immediately.

No news of any note are at present transpiring, tho' some are anxiously hoped for. With much love to all

I ever remain

Your affect.

Son

Camp Schaefer Tenn.

Hd. Qrs. 88<sup>th</sup> Ills. May 9/63

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your as usual interesting letter bearing date of May 3rd was rec'd yesterday, and I now at this early moment seat myself to acknowledge it, as well as one rec'd from Carrie.

I am pleased to hear that you are about to have so capable an instructor in the fair Miss Lyons. Hope you will be pleased with her, and strive to learn all you can this summer.

Pliny was quite fortunate on his fishing excursion, I suppose you enjoyed a morsel of the sun fish.

I suppose you received a Nashville Union that I mailed to you several days since. I thought it might interest you.

We are all feeling quite downhearted on account of the gloomy news rec'd from Hooker's army. I trust the news will be less conflicting and much more favorable to day, but I fear I shall be disappointed. I think it will not be long before we make a grand forward movement & I trust it will be crowned with success.

I know that Dennis Gilden has rec'd a letter from you, and has answered it already. Tis strange you have not rec'd his reply.

Are you not having asparagrass pretty early this year? or is this the usual time for it to begin to sprout?

Edward Caswell has been a little under the weather for the past few days, but is lively now. Alonzo Sylvester is not enjoying a soldier's life very muchly, has not been on duty for a long time. I think Uncle Sam can dispense with all such soldiers. Charlie Miller & Gilden are sound, especially Dennis, who is the life of Company "B." He has recently been promoted to a corporalcy and I think he will merit the office.

How have you invested the \$10. which you rec'd for your services in taking care of the School House?

We have enjoyed bathing for some time, and I assure you it is quite a luxury to have such a stream as Stone River to bathe in. I am very much obliged to you, Arthur, for sending me the Yankee Notions &c. Am glad that you intend sending me a Frank Leslies.

Frank Scudder is strongly in favor of receiving a commission as P.D. of a colored regt. He expects to receive orders to report to Brig. Gen. Wild before long for instructions.

Our Brigade is at Salem on Out Post duty. I go out daily with the mail and enjoy the trip very much.

There is nothing new transpiring, everything moves along in the same daily routine and I still bear the name of

Charlie

Rec'd May 16"/63

Camp Schaefer, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Hd. Quarters 88<sup>th</sup> Ills. May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Dear Mother,

Your interesting favor was received by yesterday's mail and as usual it was welcomed most heartily, and its contents read with a vast amount of unmitigated delight.

We are now suffering under the enjoyment of fine weather, although a little too warm for comfort. It is reported that Bragg has advanced four miles and that our cavalry videttes are in sight of theirs, whether a grand forward movement on their part is contemplated a short time will probably show. As the news from Hooker are not of the most encouraging I hope something may be done in this department a little more successfully than in the other armies.

I hope Aunt Eliza will succeed in obtaining an escort to the west ere long; you are probably looking forward to her arrival with much pleasure. Will she not be glad when she sees Howard and Arthur, she having cared for them in their infancy?

I am sorry to hear that the Path & other improvements are still in the prospective. Hope you will be able to have all desired improvements made this year. Fruit will indeed be a great luxury and much to be prized in the heretofore fruitless village. Hope the peaches will not be blasted. Do you think the apple and pear trees will bear this year? From all accounts should think Miss Lyons was amply qualified to teach Clifton's Academy, although she is yet but sixteen, the young ladies doubtless are glad that another has been added to their little circle. Is she not a relative of the Howes or an old acquaintance of theirs? Presume her Father will build in Clifton.

I am sorry that the trees in the church yard have done gone and died. I should think indeed there would be an effort made to replace them, and some pains taken to beautify the grounds surrounding, a driveway, paths be laid out so that teams would not cut up the entire yard, but I suppose all this is also in the prospective and will be until fall.

I suppose Mr. Ferris has a beautiful place this spring; a fine garden both vegetable and flower, may be attributed to his love for gardening. He had quite a nice one last year, when the land was new and tough. Frank, I suppose, is busily engaged in farming operations now Madison is away. Suppose Frank is superintendent in chief. Suppose he has given up all idea of entering the service. Should think he would be satisfied to remain at home. Did Lyman White encourage his enlisting or disapprove of it on learning of his Father's wishes? He wished very much for Frank to return to Murfreesboro with him in the capacity of clerk.

I have received two cans of butter sent by L. A. White, but nothing else. Therefore presume he will bring the remaining articles when he comes. The butter is most excellent and we enjoy eating it much as it came from America, by Mr. Bartholomew, the man sent in charge of the trunk from L. A. I also received yours as well as Father's letter; although when they came to hand they were quite old, I read them with much interest. I also received a few lines from Uncle Warner, who kindly wrote that if I wanted for anything at any time, to write him and he would endeavor to send me either by express or through Board of Trade whatever I desired. I sent \$26.00 to him before I received Father's letter. He said that he would try and place it where it would draw an interest. Shall continue to send him money, unless Father wishes to use it this summer and invest it in the fall as he spoke of in his letter. If he wishes my spare funds, of course he may have them in welcome, providing he does as above, as I wish to attend commercial school and brush up my already acquired knowledge and learn much more than I ever knew, and I think I will be able to raise cash enough myself to finish my education, so much for so much.

Our Chaplain has written something for your Sabbath School Paper, which I presume is still published occasionally. I hope it will be an interesting document, but of that you can judge when you receive it.

I thought you said that Mr. Hildrith was going to write me a lecture or something similar. I presume, if he has written, I have failed to receive anything from him. Should dislike to write a reply, although I like him much.

Col. Chadbourne is still absent at Nashville on a military commission. It was his intention to return today, but owing to some good cause, no doubt, he has not arrived. Shall expect him tomorrow, and I hope he will then make his appearance, as we miss him much.

Capt. Whiting's wife, also the P.D.'s, Surgeon's, and Col. Sherman's are sojourning in Camp Schaefer during our stay here. They seem to enjoy Camp Life very much, Mrs. Sherman in particular, who I think prefers a life in the field to a life at home surrounded as she doubtless was, with everything necessary for her comfort and happiness. I like her much better than I do the others, she is so pleasant and affable. She is very devoted to her husband and yet is one who possesses much courage; while the other ladies will weep on the approach of a conflict, she remains as cool and collected as can be and helps the Col. to don his garb of war. Many a poor boy in hospital may attribute the alleviation of

pain to her gentle hand. Edd Caswell can assure you of that better than myself, as he has been an inmate of our hospital and I have not.

I sent Howard a dollar to purchase me .50 cts. worth of Postage Stamps. Has he received the letter in which it was enclosed? You did not speak of an answer I wrote to Carrie's last, so presume she has not rec'd it. All is quiet on Stone River, but I little know how soon the rattling of musketry and the deep booming of cannon may proclaim another battle in progress.

With much love to all, I ever remain

Your Most Affect. Son,

Charles H. Kingman

P.S. Tell Arthur I will answer his letter soon. Enclosed find a few lines from A. C. Thomas,  
Chaplain 88<sup>th</sup> Ills. Vols.

Nothing new astir, & as it is about time to go with  
my mail I must bid you adieu.

From Your

Affect. bro.

Charlie

Rec'd June 6<sup>th</sup>/63

with not much gladness.

A. F. Kingman

Camp Schaefer, Tenn.

Hd. Quarters 88th Ills. June 6<sup>th</sup>/63

Dear Mother,

Yours of the 31st ultimo was received to day, and not knowing when I again may have the opportunity of writing you, shall embrace the present opportunity of scribbling a few lines in acknowledgement. Our camp is broken up, the brigade being at Salem on "Out Post Duty," holding themselves in readiness to march. Our tentage, baggage, & camp equipage are all loaded on the wagons and the desolation of ~~a~~ camps recently broken up meet the gaze. There was considerable fighting on the different pikes yesterday and day before, but it has entirely ceased, and I think the Brigade will return tomorrow and pitch tents in their former places, and marching orders be countermanded.

Has Father received a pipe from me, made of sweet brier root by a wounded boy of C. I while in hospital? I enclosed it in a small box which I sealed tightly and directed plainly. Hope it is at hand ere this. 'Twas rough, yet from the associations connected with it thought it might be acceptable. Has Carrie rec'd a letter from me in which was enclosed a rose from the grave of Ben. McCulloch's Father?

Am much pleased to hear of the arrival of Aunt Eliza and of her unusual good health. Hope she will be contented in Clifton until fall, when father will remove to Dubuque.

You may give up all idea of seeing me at home for some time, as there is no prospect of my obtaining leave of absence. Sorry you are disappointed, but as I am not at all homesick I can wait until opportunity offers and then try my best for a furlough. I would not ask for one now. Our army is in such an uncertain situation, being liable to move tomorrow, and perhaps sooner; yet it is my opinion that we will remain hereabouts for a month or more longer, but I do not really know.

I received a Photograph from Lizzie two days since & think it very good.

Perhaps will contribute something in the way of a mighty brief epistle for your Sunday School paper, when I have leisure, but fear I can write but little of interest, as I am a very poor correspondent, but they will no doubt take into consideration the source from which it come and excuse all deficiencies. You well know how averse I am to writing anything of the kind.

I think Grant perfectly right in not accepting the proffered surrender of Vicksburg on the proposed terms, & am confident he will soon force the besieged to surrender on any terms. Mother, rather, yes far rather, would I remain in the service seven years, than give the accursed rebels an inch of ground if we could prevent it, and I think the boys are all willing to risk their lives until the rebellion is put down as it should be. Do you think there is a man in our regt. who would be willing to compromise with them, for the sake of returning home to his family? Let me answer for them, "No." If you have seen a copy of the resolutions adopted by them sometime since, you might judge whether they would entertain for a moment the thought of a compromise with the detested Copper bottoms. The Boys are as anxious for battles, as many, at the North, are feeling just the other way for them, yet they would willingly fight the last battle, as of course they prefer a life at home, to one in camp.

The warm weather has not as yet affected my health in the least, and I can assure you we are often favored with some very warm days. I have had no diarrhoea for a long time and hope I may never suffer ~~from~~ with it again. Diarrhoea in the army is far worse than what we have at home, and it is much more difficult to cure.

I rec'd quite a lengthy letter from Annie Van Duzor to day. She seems to be very busy, but nevertheless is enjoying herself muchly; from her learnt that she had become an Aunt by the birth of a young Balch. Is her sister Mary at home or is she with her husband's friends? Hope Mrs. Ferris is enjoying better health. Am much obliged to her for remembering me. I think she is a very amiable lady and one whom everyone may respect. Yes, Annie F. is owing me a letter. Hope she will not long be thus my debtor. Lizzie also has not answered my last. Will you please ask Chan. Sheldon why he does not ~~acknowledge~~ my last, and tell him if I am not in receipt of an extremely long letter from him shortly, I shall surely sentence him to severe punishment in the shape & form of a very brief note of wrath, on account of his dilatory conduct.

Give my best regards to Kirke and tell him I often think of his class, on Sundays, and of the many interesting moments spent under his tuition. With the exception of the bustle of camp breaking, all is quiet. Lyman White has not as yet arrived. There is nothing in particular that I want, so you may send me anything you please, and it will be perfectly acceptable, I can assure you. With much love to all, I ever remain as usual

Your Affect. Son.

Chas. H. Kingman

Hd. Qrs. 88<sup>th</sup> Ills. Vols. Infy.  
Camp Schaefer June 15-

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Having a leisure moment this afternoon I thought I would occupy it in writing you a few lines partic'ly as I wished to send you a Photograph of our illustrious chief and partly to inquire why all of you at home have failed to write this, or rather last week; tis now about a week since I received a letter from home and I, like the frenchman, "Like it not very much." I have just completed a letter to Chauncy in answer to one received today from him, so you perceive it is no fault of mine which causes the non-reception of the much prized letters. I do not owe a single letter, but there is a dozen or more due me, some of which I hope will arrive tomorrow.

I can tell you nothing in regard to our intended movements, as we know of nothing about to transpire until it is all over, or we are actively engaged, so news from me would be old by the time they reached you. I shall send you a Nashville Press by tomorrow's mail, trusting the local news will be of some interest to you. Has Father received a Pipe from me yet? I mailed one to him some time since, but you have said nothing about it, so judge it has not been received.

Suppose the Cliftonians are at present all exceedingly busy attending to farming operations. Has Father planted his corn yet, or is he doing so now? How does your garden flourish? I trust the bugs have neglected to pay their wonted visits this year, and that you will be able to raise any quantity of fine melons. Stock I suppose are all right, or have you not invested very largely in the quadruped tribe? All is quiet before Murfreesboro, nothing of interest at present transpiring. Presume you have seen particulars of the hanging of two Rebel Spies at Franklin, Tenn. Was it not a bold and daring enterprise those officers undertook, and how near a perfect success. There was also a man hung in Murfreesboro for committing murder; 10 or 12,000 were present at the execution of the unhappy man, who died pleading Not Guilty, to the last.

Please give Old Abe an extra stroke for me.

Give my love to Aunt Eliza and the entire family, yourself included, & allow me to Ever Remain

Your Affect. Bro.

Charlie

P.S. I do not style the above a Letter, but having a few moments before dark thought I would write a few lines & enclose the Photograph.

Cowans Station south of Tullahoma  
Tenn. Hd.Qrs. 88 Ills. July 9/63

Dear Mother,

Having a few moments to spare this morning, thought I would occupy them in writing home. Since last I wrote many quite interesting & many exciting incidents have transpired, many hardships endured, such as hunger, extremely wet & disagreeable weather, and rapid marches, but all has been endured with excellent spirit, knowing as we did that the enemy were dispirited and ready ~~to~~ many of them to surrender; from prisoners taken in this vicinity I learned that it was with great difficulty three or four regts. of Georgia & Alabama troops were prevented from laying down their arms and surrendering to our forces before Tullahoma; in fact one of the regts. threw down their muskets while marching over the mts. and dispersed in every direction, and I am confident the entire rebel army are very much demoralized.

We left Murfreesboro on the 24 ultimo and without exception it has rained every day, more or less, since. The enemy disputed our passage at Liberty & Hoovers Gaps, but after a few hours' contest at both points we drove them from the Gaps and proceeded upon our march without further opposition until within a few miles of Tullahoma, where they kept us in check until they removed the larger portion of their stores, but were obliged to leave us as a token of their esteem four or five large siege guns, which they in their hurry neglected to spike, although they were thoughtful enough to burn the carriages.

Since we have been here, I have been beyond our cavalry videtts several times in company with Realf, Serg. Maj. Our object was to obtain anything and everything in the eating line, such as butter, milk, vegetables, &c as well as blackberries, which grow here in abundance and of the largest size. We failed to meet any worthy members of Mr. Bragg's army, but succeeded in filling our receptacles, vis. bags, shelters, &c much to our as well as the Comdg Officer's satisfaction.

We were in reception of glorious news day before yesterday, the fall of Vicksburg, and the complete rout of Lee's army; the news were confirmed yesterday and a national salute of 34 guns were fired by every battery in this dpt. We have established a regular camp at this point & will probably remain here until our trains come up, and perhaps longer. Many have commenced to prophecy in regard to the termination of the war, fixing that happy time at different periods, of course, yet they all agree in saying it will not be long before the Southern Confederacy succumb to the laws of the United States.

Tis needless to say that we are all feeling quite jubilant, and are always ready to perform anything at any time our beloved leader may direct. He possesses the entire confidence of the army. Many of the boys are in need of shoes, myself included; my boots are sadly the worse for wear and such was the case when we left Murfreesboro, though not so much. Consequently, I took the precaution to bring a pair of shoes, but when near Tullahoma, one of the Color bearer's shoes became unwearable and his feet extremely sore, so like a good Samaritan I gave him my shoes, thinking my boots would last until I could draw shoes, as I rode on horseback, but a glance at my laughing boots plainly shows that it was a slight mistake, and I console myself with the thought that if even my boots can put on such an extensive smile tho' (much to my disadvantage) I can at least take it all as a good joke and wait patiently until Uncle Sam issues his leather stock.

I fear I shall be unable to write many letters save to those at home for some time. Please inform Lizzie, but tell her I will write her as frequently as I possibly can. Shall endeavor to scratch a few lines weekly, as heretofore, to the Kingman family at C-, tho' many of my epistles must necessarily be brief, and poorly written like the above. My present posture is at least wholly unfavorable to insure a neatly written missive, so please excuse everything amiss. I received a note from Aunt Eliza a short time since, and merely acknowledged it by a few lines with the promise of writing a long letter at the first opportunity. Please give my love to her and tell her my promise will necessarily have to remain unfulfilled until I can spare time.

Hoping that you will all write often, I remain as usual

Your Affect. Son,

Charlie

Cowans Station, Tenn.

Hd. Qrs. 88<sup>th</sup> Ills. July 19/63

Dear Mother,

Your interesting favor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. was received a few days since, but being destitute of everything in the stationary line I was obliged to defer writing until now. I believe I owe Carrie, Howard & Arthur letters, but this is my only sheet of paper, so it looks very doubtful whether they receive answers written to day. Never-the-less when I finish this poor scrawl, will endeavor to obtain another sheet. I was much surprised to hear that Charlie Sheldon & Frank Ferris had finally determined to enlist. How soon do they leave for Dixie? Shall indeed be delighted to see Sheldon as well as Frank & Harvey. Chauncy I suppose takes charge of the farm & poor fellow! How I wish he were with us now. He is such excellent company, always cheerful, never grumbling, or finding fault, like many of our soldiers. No doubt he longs to enlist again with Charlie. Suppose his wounds trouble him considerably yet, do they not?

Yesterday I went to Elk River with Col. Sherman, who went from there by cars to Murfreesboro. The weather was excessively warm and the trip 10 miles, but although decidedly unwell I returned to camp at night, feeling only a little tired. I have a very severe cold, which is very annoying to me as I am obliged to continually to blow my horn.

With I could have spent the fourth in Clifton. I believe I could enjoy a civilized picnic hugely after so long an absence from an enlightened community. With us the day was spent as all other days are in the army, save the discharge of 34 rounds by every battery in the Dpt. but the glorious news made up for all deficiencies in the celebration. Nothing could be better. A National Salute, early in the morn, the reception of a dispatch at about 11 A.M. announcing the fall of Vicksburg & the success of Meade on the Potomac. Thank heaven! we can no longer sarcastically say, "All's quiet on the Potomac," for methinks Old Lee can truthfully say that Gen. Meade has let all Bedlam loose about his ears. Is it not too bad that Lee succeeded in crossing the river? Sincerely do I hope Meade will unlike his precedents add laurels to his already famous name. Cars crossed the completed bridge at Elk River last eve. Another train huffed into Cowans Station this morn, which warns us Old Rosey will soon shove ahead. Where in this world we are going to, time only will enlighten us, but to some place where we will encounter the foe I'll warrant, for such is the style of Rosecrans, he marches to fight, unlike Buel, who marched for the sake of marching. As my sheet is full, will necessarily terminate with much love to all I ever remain

Charlie

Recd Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>/63

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.  
Cowans Station, Tenn. July 25/63

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Have just finished a letter to Howard and having time to write another, will scratch a few lines to you, who have proved yourself to be my most punctual correspondent.

The mail has gone to day so yours & Howard's letters will not be mailed until tomorrow. The cars now run to Stevenson, Alabama. Companies from our Regt. are detailed daily as guards.

Maj. McIntire, the Pay Master, is visiting us for the purpose of presenting us with a few Green Backs. The green box, his inseparable companion, is safely lodged in the Q.D.'s tent and a guard posted in vicinity. The Maj. is now busily engaged in examining the Pay Rolls, which must be just SO, or they are useless; tomorrow or next day will probably find us flush. Think I shall make Lizzie a little present as before, she like all other vimens need a well filled purse, for without money how can they purchase new Hoops, Collars, Ribbons, &c. You see I am admirably posted as to their numberless wants; the remainder of my spare funds I shall doubtless send to some safe place or other; at all events, the blasted Stulers will not get all of it, "That's so."

Arthur Caswell is quite unwell; with that exception the Clifton boys are all enjoying fine health. I have been decidedly unwell for the past few days, but I am tough now, have entirely recovered from my severe cold, and can again bark from beneath my Purp Tent in my natural voice.

Received a few lines from Henry yesterday. He seems to be enjoying good health, and is not afraid of the draft, so in the language of the soldier I say, "Bully for him."

If Charleston falls, and Old John himself is captured, will it not do much towards rendering the Southern Confederacy a corpse, and I prophecy that she ~~would~~ will have but few mourners.

Sherman made quite a good thing at Jackson, did he not? It is reported that Johnson has surrendered to either Sherman or Grant. If so, we will probably receive particulars to day. Where is Bragg? Is something we would like to know. Rumor says that he has sent two corps to reinforce Lee & Johnson & Harder's corps is somewhere near Chattanooga, but we cannot tell. In military circles it is believed that the rebellion is receiving its death stroke and many think that we will be home on the 1st of January.

Hope that your investments are thriving. How  
are the vegetables, & farming products in general? Write all  
about the farm. Give my love to Pliny, Ellis & Lewis and  
accept a large share for yourself.

Your Affect. Bro.

Charlie.

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols. Inftry.  
Camp Roberts, Bridgeport, Ala. Aug. 12/63

Dear Mother,

Having a few moments to spare this morn, thought I could occupy them in no pleasanter manner than in writing home.

Frank Scudder left us two or three days since for the purpose of reentering the service as Q. D. of a colored regt. You will doubtless have seen him, and learned all news of interest, ere this reaches you, yet I thought a few lines from me would be acceptable, if there was nothing but second hand intelligence contained therein.

We are preparing for a long march, drawing extra shoes, clothing, &c, all baggage save what is absolutely necessary for the health of the owners is ordered to be neatly packed and left in store, the regt's are also ordered to be in readiness to move at short notice. I have this time taken the precaution of well supplying my Portfolio with stationary, a.i. 3 quires Paper, 4 pkges. Envelopes, bottle of ink &c. I think lack of paper will not be my excuse for not writing hereafter.

The rebels have for the past week kept pretty secluded and show themselves on the opposite banks but occasionally. Col. Sherman with several other officers escorted under a Flag of Truce the mother of the Brig. Gen. comdg the rebel brigade opposed to us at this point, across the river. They were received by the Gen. & staff quite cordially. Our Officers took some wine over and the parties, both friend & foe, drank to each other's health. Anderson is the name of the Secesh Commander.

There has been no firing across the river by either party since we arrived. The rebs seem to have suspended operations on the bridge. Whether they have completed their arrangements for blowing up the piers when we attempt to cross, time only will show.

I received four letters day before yesterday, two from home, one from Mary Viets, & one from Lizzie, which you forwarded, answered her letter the same day. I also wrote to Carrie & made Frank bearer of the missive.

The Adjutant's Clerk is now filling the office of Quarter Master's Sergeant, the Adjt. is desirous for me to become his clerk, but thinks the Colonel prefers to have me remain as Forager (which I much prefer), but doing the Adjt's

business would be of great benefit to me, as it would improve my handwriting, and render me a better accountant. These two with several other reasons prompt me to obtain the situation if possible. I am losing precious time enough as it is, which, if devoted to the pursuit of knowledge at home, would be of invaluable benefit to me. So I think what opportunities for acquiring knowledge are to be had, should be always improved.

The ladies Mrs. Sherman & the Doctor's wife Mrs. Peirce are again with us. Will return to Murfreesboro when we break camp, I presume. Many think that when we move it will be sometime before we settle into camp life again, and that our course will be by way of Atlanta to Mobile and mayhap other Gulf cities. Perhaps we may even be the army which will take Richmond. Would it not be a good joke on the Army of the Potomac, if so? War news are quite passable nowadays, are they not? Fort Wagner will eventually fall and then of course Charleston is ours, which I hope our forces will completely ruin. The death of the Arch Traitor Yancey is also very good news for us; is it not a pity that such a gifted man should die a Traitor to his country?

The weather here is exceedingly warm, presume you think you are enduring some pretty warm weather in Illinois so perhaps you can judge of the temperature in Alabama. Suppose Uncle Marshal will move to Dubuque next month. Does Father say anything about going, or has he concluded to remain in Clifton? I hope he will move this winter sometime as I have ever since I learned of Father's intentions made up my mind that I should return from the army to find my home no longer in Clifton but in the pleasant city of D-. Father never writes me. I presume he thinks the rest of you will keep me posted. I know he dislikes letter writing so will take the will for the deed. Howard writes occasionally tho' not very often. Arthur writes the most frequently of any, and he generally has something interesting to relate that the rest of you neglect to say anything about.

I learned from Mary Viets that Miss Nellie Gallup was expected to return with Mrs. J. C. Howe, and several other bits of intelligence I had not heard of.

I had a fine time with Charlie Sheldon & Frank Ferris a short time since. Both were in good health. Imagine Frank considers soldiering a little rough, as I did when I first enlisted. He will soon become accustomed to it and like better.

Hoping to hear from you soon and if possible  
sooner, I ever remain with much love to Father, the Boys,  
and all of the "K" family

Your Affect.

Son

C. H. Kingman

P. S. Excuse the wrinkled state of  
my paper as it has seen hard usage.

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.  
Camp Roberts, Bridgeport, Ala. Aug. 16, 1864

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your interesting favor was received yesterday afternoon. I think you are improving both in your writing and composition, which make your letters much more interesting. The one of yesterday was particularly well written, and was unusually interesting.

Since I last wrote there has been considerable excitement here, owing to the destruction of the bridge by the rebels, who fired it a little after 12 o'clock night before last; a section of Houghtaling's Battery was brought to bear on both sides the bridge, and the way they transmitted tokens of regard in the shape of shells was not slow. They went shrieking through the air and exploded on the opposite side, but with what result I do not know. A Spy swam the river last night and returned this morning, was closeted with the General sometime this morning. He is a member of the 4th Ohio. Cav. but is acting in the capacity of a Spy for Gen. Ros'y. I was sound asleep when the bridge was first fired and did not wake until the Guns commenced throwing shell. Everyone at Head Quarters were prepared to receive a response to our salutations but the enemy no doubt concluded that burning the bridge was a sufficient evening's entertainment for us. I thought several days since that my next epistle would be written from vicinity of Atlanta but it seems Old Rosey's plans have not matured as soon as I expected, and the redoubtable 88th is still at Bridgeport, Ala., expecting to move "momentarily," if not sooner. You did not mention Frank Scudder's name, so I presume he had not made his appearance in Clifton when you wrote.

Frank Colth I should judge is considerable of a hunter as well as Howard. I thought Land Hill Cranes were very difficult birds to shoot. Certainly but few have been shot in Clifton and she boasts some pretty good Sportsmen, or did before this rebellion, and they will not be out of practice when the war closes, although a little different game is hunted here (a la Butternut). What say you?

When you meet Chan. Sheldon, Annie Van Duzor, and several Clifton young ladies, I wish you would tell them from me that unless they write in answer to my last several missives I shall write them so often that they will be obliged to neglect all duties to read my letters. I wish all of my correspondents were as punctual as you, but I am sorry to say that the remainder think a few lines written semi-occasionally is sufficient for me. If they could see me once in while writing letters, they might favor me a little more frequently, and I am inclined to think that if you sometimes were obliged to labor under the difficulties I am obliged to often do, in order to write as Mother terms it my weekly letter, you even would procrastinate, i.e. Put off.

I should go out in the country to day, but as tis raining think I have a good excuse for remaining in camp, don't you? I got drenching wet a few days since, and perhaps much to Mother's astonishment, I wore my wet clothes the remainder of the day, wore the wet under clothes all night, and in the morning put on wet clothes again, and much to my satisfaction found that the painful Rheumatism I have been troubled with had nearly departed, vamoosed. For the past week or two I have been troubled with a slight rheumatism in one of my knee joints caused probably by a cold and exposure to the weather. I am all right now, however, and can handle my walking pegs as lively as a Jumping Jack.

The Rebs just sent over a Flag of Truce. The party has not as yet returned, I believe. Of course, their mission is unknown save to the General & few of the Staff.

So Frank Ferris longs for a piece of Beef Steak, ha-ha. He may and will if he sees the service this regt. has, be satisfied with Sow Bellie, which tho' dead & cured is yet alive. Perhaps a yoke of oxen will be necessary to draw an inference. If so, hitch on.

I declare, Arthur, I am afraid this will be but a poor letter, to say the least, composed as it is of nothing in particular, and a little of everything, but you know, Arthur, that "variety is the spice of life," so will say no more.

How are all the Clifton Boys who are too young to be soldiers? Presume Arthur Howe remains from school nowadays and pays attentions innumerable to the pretty School Marm. Charlie Sheldon tells me that she is an excellent young lady, and so forth (think him a little partial).

Now, Arthur, trusting that you will not leave this scrawl in a conspicuous place where it may be seen of men, I with much love to all ever remain

Your Affect. Bro.

Charles. H. Kingman

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.  
Bridgeport, Ala. Aug. 21, 1863

Dear Mother,

Having a few moments before the train leaves in which to scribble a few lines homeward, will endeavor to inform you in as few words as possible that I am perfectly gay, suffering as usual under the enjoyment of most excellent health.

Gen. Rosecrans favored us to day with his presence, he came down about an hour ago in his Dummy (Steam Car) has in company with Gen. Lytle and escort gone down the river for some purpose best known unto himself. Gen. Stanley also is here, as well as Col. Ducat, Inspect'r Gen. who I should judge was fond of a good joke, as I was bearer of rather a funny message to one of his associate officers about ten minutes since. We are under marching orders & have sent all surplus baggage to Stevenson to store, so that we are all ready to wake up some fine morning and discover that we are upon the march.

I have not received a letter from home since a mighty long time ago, to say the least. Hope that you will all soon have a perfect mania for letter writing & that I will be the recipient of them all. Presume you will consider me selfish, but please bear in mind that you are not aware of a soldier's feelings in regard to letters. Would please me if I could receive a dozen letters to day if possible.

I have written several letters since receiving the last from Clifton, which plainly indicates that I am not a tardy correspondent, if I am a selfish one, exacting an answer from each of the family for every one of my epistles.

Has Miss Nellie Gallup arrived in Clifton yet? or is she still an expected visitant? Have not heard from Charlie or Frank since I saw them at Elk River. Charlie promised to write me, but like the remainder of my correspondents he has failed to do it; but I have not failed to discover that this ink is about 2/3 full of tallow and that it is about time to close, begging of you to consider that this poor scrawl is devoted to scolding, coaxing, &c. With much love to all I ever remain anxious to receive letters,

Your Affect. Son,

Chas. H. Kingman

Excuse the penmanship.

Camp at foot of Look out  
Mts., Georgia Sept. 6, 1863

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your kind letter was received to day but a few minutes since, and as we move this morning in a very few minutes to cross the mts. thought I would scribble a few lines to save Mother from worrying herself to def about me on account of not receiving any letters. I am well as usual and am enjoying myself while on the march by visiting the natives &c. Clifton boys are all "gay as larks" and stand the rough marching exceedingly well. You have but little idea of the roughness of the mountain roads we are now traveling over. In many places if the teams should divide but a short distance from the track they would be precipitated hundreds & hundreds of feet to the bottom of the ravines. The scenery, however, is grand - unequalled by any that I have seen either east, west, north or south. Will write more concerning the country when I have time. B's Battery is moving with Negley's Div. on the same road with us, so shall probably see considerable of the boys. It was some of the Co. "B" boys that were fired upon at Bridgeport, Charlie Miller & Dennis included. It was very foolhardy in them for acting as they did - will write concerning the expedition in my next.

Rec'd a letter from Henry K' to day. He expects his folks next month. Uncle M' is to take charge of the Key City Mills, which are again running under JK's supervision, he having bought them.

What does Father say relative to Dubuque nowadays; hope he has not given up the contemplated move.

I declare I hardly think you will be able to read this poor scrawl, yet tis lack of time which accounts for my rapid writing. The 2d Brig. is moving out already. We are to be the rear guard of this Div. to day and tis near time to fall in, so will be obliged to bring a terminus upon this - whatever you may call it.

With much love to Father, Mother, and all of the K- family, I ever remain

Your Affect. Bro.

C. H. Kingman.

P.S. The papers come thro' all right. Rec'd Carrie's letter and would answer it if had time. Ask her to "make believe" she has not written and favor me again soon. Also ask Mother and all and every one of my correspondents to write me often.  
& oblige

C. H. K.