

NO. 478. 0000 IN. IN LINE
Chatanooga Sept. 27/63

Dear Mother,

Having an opportunity of sending a few lines by McCook, private-mail, thought I would scribble a few lines that you might be assured of my safety. We have commenced a terrible battle. Last Sunday's fight was unequalled even by any day's fight of Stone River. The Major's Horse was shot under him and he again escaping. The Major rode my horse after his was injured and I took his from the field but was obliged to leave him before going far. I however saved the Saddle & accoutrements. Our Regt. loss is 77 killed, wounded & missing. It is the general opinion that the rebel loss is greater than ours, and although they drove us, they did not attain their object, vis., Chatanooga. We are fortifying here & making preparations for a renewal of the fight.

Clifton boys in this regt. are all right & in good spirits.

Yours in haste,

Charlie

P.S. Lyman-will

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.
Chattanooga Oct. 23, 63

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your interesting letter enclosed in one from Howard was received yesterday morning, and as you stated, I have neglected answering your several letters received lately. I thought it too bad to delay longer. You must not think that you have been forgotten, or that the letters of the older members of the family are of more interest to me is the reason thereof - for in numerous instances your letters contained much interesting matter that the other family correspondents deemed unworthy of notice. No, Arthur, your letters are always welcome and I guess are generally quite promptly answered, but our condition of late has been such that but little time could be devoted to letter writing, consequently quite a large number of letters as yet unanswered occupy places in my Portfolio. I shall however endeavor to answer a large portion of them this afternoon, as I shall probably take another trip across the mountains in a few days. But I presume you are anxious to hear something relative to our present position. We, that is our Corps, having been consolidated with that of Crittenden (now relieved), moved from our position on the extreme right several days since, took our new position, our regt. is on the left of Fort Negley behind solid works of earth and timber; Miller's Battery "M" 1st Ills. Artill'y point threateningly from the casemates toward the Rebel Camps, which are plainly visible a short distance in our front. Mornings as well as evenings we can distinctly hear their Bugles - and their bands, which often entertain us with various "martial airs" a la Secesh. Nothing save the occasional booming of one or more of our heavy guns in the various Forts of ours, break the prevailing quiet of our military life, save also the Pickets, who sometimes discharge a shot at one another. Last eve as usual we fired two or three shots from our guns on the left, the shell bursting on each occasion in one of the enemies camps. They did not respond, tho' our shots evidently done some mischief. Bridge's Battery, in which Lyman White is a Lieut., is stationed but a few yards from our Hd. Quarters, in Fort Negley. He as well as Sheldon are both absent in Nashville. Lyman left sooner after the battle, quite unwell. Sheldon you are of course aware is absent on account of his wounds, which I understand are not very severe. When they return I anticipate many social hours talking on several topics, the chief of which will undoubtedly be Clifton matters.

I suppose you have ere this seen full accounts of our late severe battle. The Cinn. Commer'l gives the best and most authentic account. I will try to obtain one and send you as perhaps you have not seen it.

Our Regt. Head Quarters are at present in a house consisting of three very large rooms on the lower floor. One is occupied by the Major now in command, one by the Adjt., Doctor, Sergt. Major and myself, & the remaining one is used as Kitchen & Commissary - much to the satisfaction of the cook. The family who until lately occupied the abode left an excellent Cooking Stove. The two front rooms are nicely plastered & each have large fire places. I have a Bunk in one corner of the Adjt's R- and with three blankets over me with the soft side of a pine board for a mattress sleep like a King. I hardly think a hair mattress would be endurable now, I have become so used to a soldier's couch. Now, Arthur, as my sheet is full you will have to excuse me for this time. With much love to all, I ever remain

Yr Affect bro.

Charlie

P.S. Excuse all mistakes as I am constantly interrupted.

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.
Chattanooga Nov. 5, 1863

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your real interesting letter was received yesterday, and as I start tomorrow for the mountains thought I would occupy the larger portion of to day in answering letters. Have just finished a long letter of two sheets to Lissie, which I hope she will receive in due season. It seems that she has failed to receive my last, which accounts for her disappointment.

Communication is now open with Bridgeport by water tho' the rebs still hold the summit of Mt. Lookout. Steamers are now constantly plying up & down river, bringing rations for our army, which has been subsisting upon one-quarter and half Rations for sometime. Hooker is blazing away at Lookout from one side and Gen. Thomas from this, and I surmise that the climate will soon become to warm for secessia on its heights.

Great indignation is felt throughout this dpt. on account of the removal of Rosecrans, and the author of that raft of lies published in the Chicago Tribune should be strung up by his heels for uttering such base slanders - Rosecrans deserves great praise and no censure for the manner in which he handled his troops throughout this campaign, during the engagement of Saturday & Sunday, instead of being in Chattanooga saying his Pater Noster he was upon the field of Chickamauga exposing himself a hundred times while encourageing his men and directing the course of battle. I was upon the field during the entire engagement and can vouch for Old Rosey's presence. He came up to where our regt. was in position on Sunday and gave directions to our Battery, in person. He inspected our lines and in person he rallied our boys when through McCook's incapacity the rebs repulsed us after we had been driving them for sometime, they numbering more than two or our one. McCook and Crittenden should bear the censure and all praise be given to Old Rosey and Thomas. How well our army fell back upon Chattanooga, thus securing our end desired - the concentrating of our army. Any one engaged can tell, we were guided by a master hand and it was that of Wm. Rosecrans. Where was the author of that epistle during the battle? probably in the rear with some correll of mules beyond danger and almost beyond hearing of our guns, quaking with fear. Think you he could remain within these lines if he were known? No, the boys would shave his head and drum him out of camp. Old Rosey has not fallen a whit in the estimation of his army, rather he has risen. I am confident that he will soon be reinstated and all charges preferred against him by McCook and Crittenden cleared.

McCook has never possessed the confidence of his command but instead their dislike and lack of confidence in his ability.

Gen. Sheridan, our Division Commander, again proved himself a hero and won again the admiration of his entire command. Johnson, who done so poorly on Stone River Field, fully redeemed his good name on that of Chickamauga. Davis as usual displayed his Bull Dog tenacity, while Thomas's Div. Generals all showed themselves worthy of their commands. The Regulars in this battle fought but poorly, while the volunteers reaped all the laurels.

Lyman White is in Nashville. I received a long letter from him yesterday, in which he stated that Charlie Sheldon had gone north on a furlough. His wound, tho' not severe, combined with an attack of ague, had well nigh "played him out," but I think a visit home will tend to recruit his exhausted strength.

(Balance of letter missing.)

(The following, bound in after the letter of Dec. 13, 1863, is probably the balance of this letter:)

Lyman wrote that he expected a box from the north, containing a variety of Goodies, and invited me to call at the Battery after his return and enjoy a general good time with a feast included. He thought perhaps there would be something for me as it would be shipped from Clifton. Hope you have sent a copy of Eaton, as I intend improving the winter evenings before me in study.

I understand that you are progressing finely at school. You have never told me what branches you studied and how far advanced you were in each. When you write again you must tell me all about your school &c, which will be very interesting to me. Presume you have skating in Illinois now, do you not? Should judge it was about time for Jack Frost to make his annual appearance, from all the signs you told me of. Should judge that a severe winter was in prospect. With us in Dixie it will be mild in comparison. Rainy weather is generally substituted here in room of cold in the north. For my part, I should prefer the latter as I am not at all partial to dripping garments and muddy roads. Presume, however, we will pass quite a pleasant winter if the rebs can be persuaded to stay awhile and not cut stakes and run, which if they should conclude to do would oblige us to chase them to some other hole.

cleanly dressed and wears a better look than formerly. Have not seen Prosper since leaving Murfreesboro, his regt. always being absent in the rear attending to Raiders &c.

I wish you would ascertain what Corps Jake Spies is a member of, as two Corps of Grant's Army are in this vicinity - also the Division and Brigade and their members.

You will have quite a supply of pin money for winter's use when you have disposed of your Bossy. Should judge that you had made herding quite a profitable business during the summer. Was surprised to hear that pork was so cheap. Howard wrote that a man near Middleport offered quite a herd of Grunters for the enormous sum of \$000,000,001. Should think it a paying business and would recommend farmers who have plenty of corn to invest.

Suppose Uncle Marshall's family are now residents of Dubuque. Has Father given up all idea of moving, or does he still intend going? The corn crop is of but little acct throughout the entire state, I presume. How many bushels do you think will be gathered per acre? Tell Mother and Carrie I will write them in a day or two or as soon as I return from my proposed trip. I returned day before yesterday from a jaunt to Pikeville, 50 or 60 miles distant across the Mts. Had quite a tedious journey of seven days, the weather and roads being very bad. I have sent my horse to Stevenson to recruit, so I am obliged to ride studs, many of which are of the Gothic style (slightly) with quite prominent projections, and Back Bone. Cannonading is the order of the day generally tho' quiet has reigned to day save the occasional booming of a gun.

You must bear in mind, Arthur, that I am writing this scrawl at a 2.40 rate, was interrupted once, and had to go for an unexpected mail which took sometime to distribute. I was not rewarded with a letter to day, which is unaccountable. You must all write often.

With much love to all, I ever remain

Your Affect. Bro.

Charlie

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.
Chattanooga Nov. 17-1863

Dear Mother,

Your interesting favor of the 8th inst. was received last eve upon my return from "Walden's Ridge," where I have again been on a foraging expedition. Was absent five days and enjoyed myself muchly in riding over the country in search of niceties for the inner man. I succeeded in finding an abundance of everything and having a pack mule with me I managed to bring back quite a young cart load of various commodities. Think some of making another trip next week in company with one of the Brigade Post Masters. Have engaged many articles of the citizens, such as apples, onions, honey, &c. So you can imagine that we, that is, these Hd. Qrs., manage to live. I received a few lines from Howard yesterday from Dubuque. He seems to be enjoying himself finely, expected to enter school the next morning. He did not state what school he should attend, but I presume the same that Carrie did while in D-. Hope he will pass a good examination and be able to enter the High School. Believe he has been studying lately, has he not?

We have not been paid yet, but the Pay Master thinks he will be able to pay us tomorrow. The clothing account for the year is to be settled. I have drawn about \$40 worth more than the allowance, but the Company Books have been lost so I shall be so much ahead and have nothing charged to me. I am glad on that account that the books were lost. I think I shall purchase most of my clothing hereafter and draw my \$50.00 allowance in cash. A great deal of the Govt. clothing now issued is very poor and lasts but a short time.

I rode over to Bridge's Battery the day before I left for Walden's Ridge, but Lieut. White had not returned from Nashville. Think I shall call again this afternoon. The Battery has been assigned another position and is now in Fort Wood, about a mile from our Regt. Wish you would send me one or two pair of Drawers by Sheldon. Those you sent last winter are not worn entirely out yet - that double seat or reinforcement that you put in is a great thing and deserves a patent. Riding on horseback as much as I do is hard on unmentionables, I can assure you, and if you have anything that you think would be useful to me you can send it as most everything in the way of apparel is very scarce here and of exorbitant price. Wish I could take a trip north and purchase what I need. Think I would be very apt to forget what I needed in my hurry to see the folks unmindful of the "Peaches," but I am well aware that a Furlough in my state of health is preposterous

to think of so will content myself a while longer as a soldier. I enjoy soldiering in my position and were I allowed a furlough occasionally would willingly serve my time in Uncle Sam's service. Have become accustomed to the formality and strict discipline of military life, and am not now afraid of committing some heinous offence punishable with the ball and chain, &c. as I formerly was. Think I can go through the war without being Bucked and Gagged or punished in any way, however strict a disciplinarian may be in command. Col. Sherman is very severe and yet he has never had cause to reprimand me, if I do say it myself.

Sherman is still in command of the Brigade and our new Lieut. Col. in command of the Regt. Capt. Smith, at present acting Major, will soon receive his commission as such, Major Chandler having been promoted. Both are excellent men and efficient officers.

What has changed Father's intentions? I thought that he had decided upon moving to Dubuque this fall. Presume Uncle Marshall's family have become quite nicely settled. He runs the Key City Mills, does he not? Lizzie wrote that Elbridge was either to enter business in Baltimore or Boston, I believe. I had not heard anything about it before so was somewhat surprised to learn that himself and family were already at the East. His wife I suppose is the cause of the change.

Has Carrie given up her idea of teaching music in Kate Viets' place or has Katie concluded to return to Ottawa? I received Eaton's Arithmetic by mail several days since in good order. I hope the Ladies' Petition for a Station House will meet with approbation and that Pres. Osborne will for the love of the ladies if nothing more grant their request and immediately take measures for the erection of a neat and substantial Depot.

Does Aunt Fannie accompany Mr. Viets to New York or does he go alone? Should think she would be anxious to go, having been tied in Clifton so long. Oh! I hope Father will be able to go into some kind of business before long as I consider farming mighty poor play, and I guess he does too, although he will not own it. Seems to me some misfortune befalls either the corn or small grain crop every year, and the farmers instead of laying up treasures for the coming year lay them out on the double quick. Yes, I would rather be a soldier by far than a Prairie Farmer.

I judge from your letter that you had not seen Col. Chadbourne. He promised to see you, but presume he has not had time to visit Clifton yet. How soon does Charlie Sheldon return to the seat of war? Am glad that his health is improving. Lyman wrote that he looked very poorly when he left Nashville, having had an attack of the Fever and Ague while suffering from the effects of his wound, which

of itself was sufficient to make a person pretty sore. I heard that Chauncy was talking of going to Nevada territory. What in the world does he contemplate doing in that region? Presume Mr. Lyon has quite a fine residence already which will be quite an acquisition to our little village. Suppose he intends to occupy his time in farming-experimenting, &c &c.

There was considerable sharp fighting on our extreme left early this morning. Have not learned the cause or result. Everything is now quiet, save the occasional booming of a gun. Nothing of interest transpiring. Hooker has had quite a battle six or seven miles from here. We could distinctly hear the musketry and more plainly the war of artillery. Tell Arthur I will answer his letter as soon as possible. With best love to Father, Aunt Eliza, and all hands, I ever Remain

Your Most Affect.

Son

Chas. H. Kingman

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.

Chattanooga. Nov. 27th 1863

Dear Mother,

Having a short moment to spare this eve I thought I must occupy it in scribbling a few lines to you that you might know of my safety.

Missionary Ridge is ours, the 88th Ills. was among the very first to reach the summit of the ridge and plant its banner in the rebel works, our loss however was considerable, as the entire brigade charged across an open field and up the side of the ridge, which in all was a distance of not less than a mile and a half, took three lines of trenches and finally when we reached the summit captured all of their Artillery and turned their iron guns upon them with fearful effect as they retreated in utter dismay, leaving ammunition, provender, clothing &c, besides many soldiers and officers who fell in our hands. Tis officiously reported that in the charge the Rebels lost 15,000 men. Couriers coming from the Cavalry which are following up the rebel rear, report that Stanley (Our General of Cav.) captured to day 27 pieces of Artillery, and 7000 prisoners, making a total of about 100 pieces of Artillery and 22,000 prisoners.

But all this has not been done without a fearful loss as the bloody field will show. Lt. Lane of Co. B, this regt. & Lt. Bingham were killed. Capt. Smith, Co. A, Lt. Laurence, Co. F, Lt. Chester, Co. G, Adjt. Cole, Lt. Litworth, Co. E, were among the officers of the 88th wounded. Our total loss in killed and wounded is 54. Clifton Boys of Co. B are again all spared without a scratch, to feel proud in after years that they were in the charge upon Mission Ridge. The Rebel horde are perfectly demoralized and have fled in great confusion, burning and tearing up everything in their flight. Tis generally believed that they will not stop this side of Rome or Atlanta. Our Corps will probably move tomorrow morn to reinforce Burnside, so you need not be surprised to hear from me in the region of Parson Brownlow. Our forces are in the best of spirits flushed as they are with our recent glorious victories. Chickamauga is fully redeemed. Competent judges say that the brilliant charge of Wednesday is far the greatest thing of the war. Will write particulars when I have time. Am scribbling this on a table which we captured from Gen'l Bragg's Hd. Qrs.

Burial parties have been busy yesterday and to day interring the dead, which are very very numerous. I rode over a small portion of the field and saw sufficient to satisfy me that although we were the attacking party our loss is the least. Dead Rebs. are lying everywhere,

lieing rigid in all positions, some show with how much agony they died, while others are stretched out as if a sleep, save the ghastly wound. The rebs generally turn black soon after death, probably from the effects of whiskey and gunpowder. I will not make you shudder with horror by a description of the battlefield, as you will probably see accounts in papers which will seem fearful enough to you. I believe it will be weeks before I forget the awful ghastly stare of the dead of both sides, with open eyes and mouths. Tis to dreadful to think of, yet nothing of that kind troubles one when engaged in the bloody strife. We can almost ride over a corpse without notice, can see comrads fall without a tear. A soldier's heart is hardened while in the fight. Tis afterwards that he feels.

But I must close, tho' I fain would write a much longer epistle. Tis reported that Burnside is driving Longstreet & that our corps will not move to his support. Lieut. White I presume is safe as his battery is in Fort Wood out of reach of the rebel missiles. With much love to all I ever remain

Your Most Affect. Son in great haste

C. H. Kingman

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.
Chattanooga Dec. 13th/63

Dear Mother,

Have just arrived from Knoxville, where our corps is at present incamped. I came through on horseback with the Brigade P.M. Was four days on the road, it being a distance of 125 miles. Shall return tomorrow morning with ten or twelve days' mail, so will probably have no opportunity of writing you again until I come back. Am enjoying excellent health tho' travelling so constantly fatigues me very much. Think some of going up next time in the boat, as tis very unsafe travelling on this side of the river and there is a great scarcity of provender for our animals on the other. We are continually receiving favorable reports from Burnside. The latest is that Longstreet's trains have been burned and that his command is effectually cut off from Virginia, Burnside having possession of Bulls Gap. Knoxville is a very pretty city about thrice the size of Kankakee. Its citizens are chiefly union of the Brownlow party. Tis rumored that our Division will garrison the post and Burnside move elsewhere. I think it about time for this Div. to have something else than active field duty, at least for a short time.

I received a letter from Lizzie last eve. Shall endeavor to scribble her a few lines but I have not time to write more.

Hope you will be able to send me some drawers by Sheldon as they will come in excellent time. I wouldn't take a small farm for those socks you sent me, they are such nice ones. Those for sale here are miserable ones about 4/3 cotton and the rest old rags. Has Carrie received a letter from me yet in which was enclosed a V? Have not heard from her since, so presume not.

I see Lyman White occasionally. He is a 1st Lieut. now, having been promoted since the death of Lt. Bishop, who was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga. He takes a great interest in his Battery, especially in its drill and appearance. Think he will make one of our most efficient officers.

You must all continue to write often if I do fail to write as frequently as usual, for you may imagine my time is now pretty well occupied in travelling to and fro with the mails. When you write Howard I wish you would tell him how we are situated and that I will write him when I have a few moments to spare. There is so many things to attend to that I don't know which to do first and which to leave undone for lack of time.

There is nothing marvellous transpiring, although the rebels may think so. Have we not been teaching them some pretty severe lessons of late? Now, Mother, I must close. With much love to all. Don't neglect to write often.

Your most Affect. Son,

Chas. H. Kingman

Head Qrs. 2nd Div. 4th A. C.
Huntsville, Ala. Jan. 8th/64

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Having just one moment to spare will scratch a few lines as a surety of my safety and tremendous good health. Our Corps has at last gone into winter quarters at this beautiful place and I anticipate much leisure time this winter, a portion of which I shall certainly devote to letter writing and the way you will receive epistles from me will be in the usual manner, I presume, but so often they will finally be quite nuisances. I was very sorry to hear of the death of Old Abe. He was such a faithful old dog. I kept the lock of hair you sent me a long time, but finally lost it.

The Clifton boys are all right. Balch & John Jackson have both been heard from. They are all right but are prisoners and will undoubtedly see a hard time.

I am in a hurry so will have to close. Shall write as soon as possible and continue to write all winter; in fact shall do but little else but write, I hope.

I want to write Father a few lines, so will terminate.

With much love to all, I ever Remain

Your Affect. Bro.

Chas. H. Kingman

P.S. Lizzie's letter was received yesterday.

Chattanooga Jan. 31st, 1864

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your letter of the 19th inst. is at hand claiming my attention, which it shall receive in the shape of a lengthy epistle, though of but little interest I fear. I arrived from up river day before yesterday. I found my Div. somewhat scattered, the 2nd and 3rd Brigades being at London and our 1st Brigade at Kingston. They have been ordered to construct winter quarters, so I presume Kingston will be my winter home and a very pleasant one it will be, too, I imagine. The 1 Brigade are the only troops quartered in vicinity, so Col. Sherman comdg the post will be the supreme authority. I shall probably return tomorrow or next day to remain, think I will build me a log cabin for a domicile as it will be much more comfortable than a Dog Tent. Rob. Crawford was as hale and hearty as ever when I left Kingston, as well as Charlie Miller, Dennis, & the Caswell boys. Rob is acting as Orderly Sergeant and will probably receive a warrant as such as soon as Kent receives his commission as 1st Lieut. of Company "B." Lieut. Charlie Lane was killed at Mission Ridge, I presume you have heard, was shot in the breast and died instantly.

Has Mother received my Photograph yet? I enclosed it in a letter to her the last time I was down. I think it but an indifferent picture yet tis the best the town affords.

I have seen the guns you spoke of, that are parked near Thomas's Head Quarters; Ladies Buckner and Breckenbridge included, many of them are excellent pieces but rather old and out of repair. Most of the Smooth Bores have been considerably injured as the Rebs, being short of ammunition, have used bars of Rail Road iron as a substitute for Solid Shot, which have cut the inside of the pieces shamefully, making great gouges of the otherwise smooth bores. Ladies Buckner & Breckenbridge are 12 lb. Napoleon's, cast at Augusta, and New Orleans, and are fine pieces. Some of our Regt. captured at Mission Ridge several muskets used for shooting an explosive bullet. They are savage looking ~~rifles~~ guns, and surgeons say that wounds inflicted by one of those bullets is terrible. They do not explode until they strike their destined object. Imagine then what a frightful wound one would make by exploding after entering a person. They have an advantage over us in them, but our Greek fire more than balances the acct.

I have not seen Lieut. White for some time, his battery being I understand at Marysville, about 40 miles from my command. Harvey I presume has joined the Battery

ere this, has he not? Suppose he has grown very much since I left. Mr. Van I have no doubt is as patriotic as ever, and much as near a Copper Head as he used to was. How is Vanykes' house progressing? Is he building on the site selected before I came away or in town? I should think that you boys would have enough to occupy out of school hours. Think you have chores that were mine when a Farmer boy. Presume you have become quite a horseman by this time. I hope you have had the sleigh repaired and are enjoying the fine sleighing I understand is so general throughout the north. You Yanks must have suffered during the cold snap, from letters received by different members of the Regt. I learn that many lives have been lost on different roads, Trains blocked up &c. &c. Some write that the late Snow Storm has never been equalled in Illinois. Waal, if that's even so I'm right glad we'uns hain't where youins be, is Illinois hanywhere near Chicago? (True Southerner.)

I guess I shall have to give you my interest in the sleigh as I guess you have completely jumped into my boots, doing my chores, beaung the girls &c. Oh! dear, there is no other way but to give the whole suit. Presume you use my skates now, do you not? I don't believe I could stand on a pair of skates at present, it is so long since I buckled one on; at all events, I should be afraid to play tag and have you for catcher for I fear it would be but a few strokes before I would be catcher myself. I declare my ink is so poor I have a great mind to substitute water in its place, but I am so near the finals of this weighty missive I'll worry it through. You must give my love to Pliny and Ellie as well as the entire family and a few of the pretty girls you take sleigh riding; and by the way, you must be good boys and obey Mother & Father for I am bad enough for the entire family, and for all practical purposes, now, you must not make fun of this as tis so.

Hoping that you will favor me often with your interesting letters, I Ever Remain

Your Affect. Bro.

Chas. H. Kingman

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.

London, Tenn. Feb. 10th, 1864

Dear Mother,

Yours of the 1st inst. was received yesterday by Steamer Lookout from Chattanooga. I am not at present obliged to travel between this point and C. in charge of mail and have become quite settled in I hope my destined winter home. I have a wall tent for my Post Office, in which I have built a fire place, bunk, table, &c, but this arrangement is merely temporary as I am to have a log cabin built as soon as the trains can haul the logs. Then I propose to enjoy a little "solid old comfort" this winter. Col. Chandler will go home on the next boat to bring down Recruits. Had our corps not been transferred to this Dept. of the Ohio I should accompany according to promise, but furloughs are not at present granted in this Dept. I was going to take you by surprise but ~~my~~ as it seems, my cake has turned out to be still dough and here I am with a splendid prospect of not seeing home for sometime if not longer. Col. says he will call on Elbridge while in Chicago and relate everything concerning me and several of my pranks, too. At least he says he shall tell him what a Scapegrace I have become &c.

I think it real provoking that my hopes are thus to be blasted. I have been thinking so much of going North and have felt sure that I would be able to, and just when ready to start, to ascertain that I cannot go. Col. Sherman applied for a leave of absence but it was not granted and Col. Chandler would not be able to go if it were not on government business. I believe I shall not try to obtain a furlough again as I fear it would be useless. I can offer no good reason unless a false one, but I would lie like fun if I thought it would bring a furlough. I received a letter from Lizzie yesterday & she says her last term will expire in three weeks. She seems to be enjoying herself very much both at school and at the Burraye's(?). (This letter is almost unreadable; it is almost blank paper in appearance, it has faded so much.) I should have sent her money (balance unreadable).... expecting to go North and have consequently kept investing it in one thing and other which pays me something (balance unreadable)... trips I would make 10, 15 and 20 (balance unreadable)... which is something (ink very faded, and paper rubbed considerably)... stock of stationery... on hand all the while and have quite an establishment in that line. I have not seen Lyman for more than a month, his command being at Marysville, a distance of thirty or forty miles from here. I believe he is in command of his Battery.

Genls. Schofield and Stoneman(?) arrived on the Lookout and the cursed Gen. Foster was expected on the same craft with but few good wishes for his safety or anything

else. I do not know how Schofield will ... this Dept. but hope for the best. He caused much dissatisfaction in the Mo. Dept. where good Old Rosey has taken command. Nothing that the News Paper Weather Cocks can say about him will lessen our attachment for him. His old Army of the Cumberland still has confidence in him if the people of the North have not.

You will undoubtedly perceive that my ink is of the best quality and my paper of the finest tissue. I commenced my letter on the ... I discovered my ... I have some good Comm'l Note. Am glad that you have received my Photograph. Shall expect one of yours ere long. I lost the one I brought with me in the Stone River Stampede. I shall write to Father tomorrow if I have time and send in same mail as this, and shall hope for an answer.

I have been over to Brigade Head Quarters this morning and was presented with a very handsome little Mule by the Wagon Master. He is as fat and sleek as can be. Shall use him instead of a horse.

I understand that the all the Pay Masters are again in Chattanooga again, contemplating paying us off once more. We shall probably soon have the pleasure of seeing their welcome faces in London. I shall have considerable writing to do soon in the Adjt.'s Office working on Muster Rolls &c. I received a S. School Paper from Annie Ferris a short time since while she and Mr. Hildreth were Editor and Editress. Think it very interesting.

But I must close as tis sometime after Dinner Call and my stomach says Dinner is ready, but I think with... enjoying myself according to the...

With much love to all...

...

...

received Mar 18 '64

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.

London, Tenn. March 8th, 1864

Dear Bro. Arthur,

Your interesting letter of the 29th Ultimo was received this morn, enclosed in one from Carrie & as I wrote a sheet of Foolscap to her yesterday I think it may suffice for a day or two for an answer to her unusually long, and her last brief letter, so will answer your letter to day, and during this hour of the day. So I proceed. Should judge that Carrie did have a pleasant surprise, both on account of her present, and the visit - presume a general good time followed the arrival of friends, and as usual among the girls the accustomed kisses &c preceded their departure, for if they do not kiss among themselves they will needs do without it, as masculines are in great demand but none to be had. Consequently, the kissing among themselves. You and I can't see the good derived from kissing among ourselves, can we, Arthur, but if there is a pretty good looking feminine standing no whar about with Ruby lips &c eh! is'nt there some fun then in kissing. I expect you are beginning to beau Annie Howe around ain't you, or Lena Van Duzor? I'll have to look out for you, boy, have just thought that you are about 15 years old, the age in which boys think they are of immense importance to the surrounding public, the age in which they think they know about twice as much as their Father and a little more besides, but I trust you do not feel so, for you and I have a good Father, a blessing many a poor boy has not. You must strive then and please him, and most of all obey him. This I trust you always do, so I will say no more about it. Presume you are beginning to think once more of a garden, farming operations &c &c. Am sincerely glad that everything indicates a prosperous year for farmers, for surely they have persevered against many obstacles for the past several years. They certainly deserve an abundant harvest this year and a fair price for their products. I hope Father will be successful this year and move somewhere where his fine business qualities will profit him. Nashville seems to be the magnet now for enterprising business men. Many persons are becoming rich, who commenced business there and in other places within vicinity, on a mighty small capital. Many men have made fortunes out of this cruel war and many more are to be made.

Suppose that you and Pliny have fitted up quite a work shop over the Cattle Linter, where many ingenious articles are manufactured by those willing hands & inventive brains of yours. Is Ellie the same little Scamp of old or is he sobering down as he grows older. Should like to see the Jackanipe firststrate. How the little rascal used to

ride horseback without any saddle & I presume he has improved since I left. Suppose you are Father's right hand man now and with the help of Pliny make fun of considerable hard work, making things fly in a hurry when you roll up your sleeves to Clean out Cattle barns &c. The Wilber Wheadon you spoke of, I know very well, as well as I know all of the Regt. You may rest assured that you will never see an 88th man that I am not acquainted with. My position you must know makes me many acquaintances. Wheadon is a member of Co. "I" of this Regt. He was w'd, captured, and paroled in the action of Chickamauga Sept. 20/63. He is a pretty good kind of a fellow, though is not sharp enough set a very large river on fire. Hope however he will pay Clifton a visit as he is a good boy. But I perceive my sheet is gradually filling up, warning me to write

Your Affect. Bro.

Charlie

While I have an opportunity.

P.S. Much love to all & rem'b'r me to Aunt Eliza.

Head Quarters 88th Regt. Ills. Vols.
Camp Laibold near London, March
21 - 1864.

Dear Mother,

Having neglected to write for several days I will endeavor to make up in some measure for my delinquency by now penning a good long letter - fear I should omit the quality and refer only to quantity, as I fear my letters would bear but a poor comparison with those written by most soldiers. Shall not make excuses for my negligence of late, for to tell the truth I have for the past week or two felt decidedly ill, which probably accounts for the blue streak in my letter to Carrie. What a sympathizing epistle I rec'd from her in reply - surely there was sympathy enough in those few lines to console a man sentenced to be hung. Of course I appreciated her motives, yet I could not refrain from smiling at so much sympathy for so slight a cause. If I do occasionally feel a little low-spirited, it is of short duration. If you could peep upon me unawares sometimes I think you could vouch for my good feelingness. 'Tis very seldom that I am troubled with the blues, yet I must confess my whole corporacity was anything but lively when I wrote to Carrie.

Harvey Van Duzor made his appearance in Camp Laibold day before yesterday much to my astonishment. He had not then joined his Battery, but probably has ere this, he being enroute for the front. I noticed but little change in his personal appearance. I recognized him immediately when he opened the door of my sanctum & stepped in. You can judge that my first exclamation point was as usual indicative of surprise. Was unable to learn much news from him, as he had not graced Clifton with his presence for four months. Of course there were some trivial news I had not been apprised of by mail, such as the numerous improvements in town, additions, &c.

Presume Charlie Sheldon has again returned home. In Nellie's letter received last eve she spoke of his enlistment in a Cavalry Regiment whose field of operation was in vicinity, or in California. What in the world is he thinking of & Why the change from Artillery to Cavalry? I am confident that he would have received rapid promotions if he would remain in the Battery. At least Lyman told me as much when I saw him last.

You may give up all idea of seeing me in Clifton within 16 months. I spoke to the Colonel yesterday morning in regard to a furlough, but could obtain no satisfactory answer. He asked me if my wife was very anxious to see me &c. &c. and concluded his tirade of provokingly witty questions by leaving me as much in the dark in regard to his opinion as ever, but I am confident he will not allow me to leave at present. Besides I have no plausible reason for applying for a furlough save a woman's reason, simple Because, and I fear our Commander would

scarcely approve a leave on such an excuse. So you may watch for my appearance in about sixteen months, at noon. Please have dinner ready, as I may be hungry. I guess I will be able to serve my three years out without a furlough; at least I have a pleasant prospect of so doing.

I received six letters by last night's mail, from Mary Viets, Nellie Sheldon, Lizzie, Carrie, Arthur & yourself, & I can assure I devoted some time if not more in perusing the same. I wish I might receive the same number by every day's mail. Should never find fault with the number or frequency of the always welcome epistles.

I received the package you sent by mail, and returned sincere thanks to Carrie in a long letter on foolscap, thinking I was indebted to her for the present. Now don't feel Jealous, Mother. & by the way! think she has not acknowledged the receipt of the long letter. Everything which is done up strongly weighing not over 4 pounds will invariably come through safely by mail, unless some grey back runs a train off the track and appropriates the mail matter.

Am glad that Howard is doing so well in Dubuque, & I hope his heretofore good success will continue to attend him. I am confident that he will make a man and a smart one, too, notwithstanding the temper he has. I wonder if he and I will fight as we used to, some two years ago. I declare, didn't we use to have some jolly fights - and a confounded good lecture afterwards, accompanied with the awful prophecy that we would surely come to the gallows. I tell you a real boy cannot exist without a tip top quarrel occasionally, at least I think so, if I have outgrown that period myself when like cats and dogs our existence was made up of eating, drinking, quarreling & sleeping, and quarreling first. But what a letter this is destined to be: or what isn't it destined to be? is something I cannot as yet determine upon.

News are scarce, and we are not possessed with the faculty of making some, like old Dance Gossip. Isn't it strange that we of the masculine gender have no desire to gossip &c. as the opposite gender do. It seems no trouble for a feminine to write several yards of paper full crop lined besides of news when there is seemingly none whatever. I declare I am forgetting that I am writing to my Mother, who desires no such nonsense, so must be keeferful. Suppose Robert Crawford has arrived at home ere this and you have undoubtedly seen him. Am daily expecting the return of Kent, as his 20 days' furlough has expired. I think I wrote that everything that you sent by Frisbie was lost, much to my disappointment, so had not the pleasure of eating some of Carrie's snaps or using the patriotic needlebook, which I should have prized highly, being destitute of such an affair.

Tell Arthur I will answer his letter as soon as possible. Have not written Father yet, as I intended, but shall do so before long. With much love to all, I remain

Your Affect. Son,

Chas. H. Kingman.

P. S. ----- Forgot what I was about to say.

Will answer Carrie's letter tomorrow if possible. Arthur's letter enclosing a lock of Abe's hair was received, and I am really obliged to him for his thoughtfulness.

Head Quarters 88th Regt. Ills.
Camp Laibold April 7/64.

Dear Mother,

Yours of the 28th Ultimo came to hand yesterday, and as a matter of course its contents were perused with genuine interest. I am sorry to say that the feelings which haunt you relative to my furlough, may now be dispelled, as tis a decided fact that furloughs have ceased to be granted in this Dept. The Colonel would otherwise approve one for me, but it is now too late to hope for a leave of any kind, and I fear it will be useless to watch the down Train longer, with the expectation of seeing yours &c. emitted from the Passenger Coach. You may rest assured that I shall not sell my services to Uncle Sam for another period of 3 years. Would, however, if we could remain in Illinois to hang, shoot, kidnap & then mysteriously loose some of those Copperhead disturbers of the peace in Illinois, those bands of desperadoes in vicinity of Mattoun are doing some mischief, are they not? I wonder how long they could stand before the bristling bayonets of the 88th. Presume they have no discipline or order and are in fact nothing but Mobs. Gov. Yates I am confident will cut their career short, and put an end to the affair by making way with some of the Ring leaders.

I was not aware that I was in your debt to the number of letters you mentioned. How long a time, including 3 days of grace, will you allow me for payment? I am heartily sorry that I cannot be the source of so much public demonstration of Joy, as the raising of a flag in honor of my return home. I trust you did not mean at half mast, for I should feel glad that I was debarred the privilege of honoring Clifton with my presence, I'd walk her streets with all the majesty of an out and out Soger of the Yankee Legion.

I scarcely think the ensuing campaign will open as soon as you surmise. Yet I am as confident that it will open with a great victory for us in vicinity of Richmond, that heretofore Bug Bear of Potomac Generals, and I trust it will close with a final and lasting success to our arms. Our Western armies I think will remain if not in inactivity, in the positions they now occupy, until Grant succeeds or fails in his advances towards Richmond.

Kent returned day before yesterday, and as a matter of course I thanked him heartily for representing in such eulogistic terms the sunny side of my character. If everyone you chance to meet give such a good account of me, omitting to touch upon the bad, I think it no more than Justice to state to you that I am a hugely wicked young fellow, sadly failing in walking the path of the good and just. In fact I am an

exceedingly bad boy and am growing from badder to worse fastly, and if someone does not stop me in my downward career - &c. ----. I, or my visual organs, were favored yesterday with seeing our present Commandant Gen. Schofield, and his family, consisting of two little boys and a girl, wife, and I judge a sister. He is a very plain man and should judge fond of his family.

News here. I can state are full as scarce as in Clifton, for there are none here whatever, and no one of a gossiping turn to make any. Thus our deficiency.

With much love, which I trust will atone for the briefness of my epistle, I Remain

Charlie, in a hurry.

Head Quarters 88th Regt. Ills. Vols.
Camp Laibold April 11th, 1864.

Dear Mother,

Your favor sent by Crawford was rec'd this evening upon his arrival, and as a natural consequence, after asking numerous questions relative to the K. family and Clifton in general, I betook myself to my quarters to peruse your good letter. You said truly that letters were always welcome, & I say welcome in the superlative degree by soldiers. I wrote you two days since, and Carrie yesterday, in my letter to you I stated that it was impossible to gain a furlough &c. and in Carrie's I contradicted the statement, saying there was still some prospect, those prospects are now nowhere visible. Our Div. will move during the ensuing week to Cleveland, a distance of about 50 miles, & how much further I know not, probably, however, we will remain in Cleveland for several weeks. Think you had better send the shirts as soon as convenient. Should also be glad to receive the drawers, both cotton & woolen, as I wear the unmentionables the year round, as I am confident it is much healthier, exposed as I am to the scorching rays of the sun during summer days, and the damp cold dews of summer nights, often lying out with nothing but the blue canopy of heaven for a roof & nothing but an Overcoat for a bed Quilt, & said roof is often uncomfortably leaky, especially during a rain storm. I also invariably wear woolen shirts, in fact woolen clothing of all kinds, even socks, during the summer, and I feel just as comfortable as if I was decked in stiff, starched, linen. Please be careful and wrap the package securely, and direct plainly, as the mail in the Army is handled in no delicate manner, but by honest persons of course. You need not think that I would say anything against the mail fraternity, as I have something to do with lethers myself.

Crawford promised to call this evening and tell me of Clifton matters, as yet he has not made his appearance & tis growing late. Presume some of the boys are engaging his attention, and he has doubtless forgotten his appointment. You can judge that I have one question to ask him & I shouldn't be surprised if I could ask a few more.

Col. Sherman returned about a week since. Am confident that he would approve a furlough for me if I applied with any prospect of having it approved at Dept. Head Quarters, but all applications that have been sent up lately, have been "Resp^yly Returned Disapproved." So the Col. says it is useless to apply.

I saw Lyman White to day as well as Harvey Van Duzor. There Div. is now quartered here preparatory to marching to Cleveland. They have had a pretty rough time this winter, being short of rations and poorly provided for in every respect.

I do like to have a good long chat with Lt. L. A. He always has some news to communicate. Harvey is well, and though having a pretty rough initiation, declares that he likes soldiering firstrate. Bridge's Battery, as well as Woods' Entire Division, are looking rather jaded, and dirty. You home people know nothing of real soldiering. You must not take "Feather Bed Soldiers," as we style them, as fair specimens of Uncle Sam's boys. Those chaps that are always on furlough or on duty near ~~at~~ home, are of a different specie from the real Yanks. They can always dress neatly, can always sleep under shelter, can always fill their "hopper with good grist," will never wear ragged pants and worn out shoes. Just imagine "our corps" as we marched into Knoxville. The entire command had participated in the brilliant battle of Mission Ridge, which being gloriously won, they without rest marched the ensuing day but one, enroute to the relief of Burnside. Yes, marched, the boys with worn out shoes, and with rations which they had to steal from citizens along the route. ~~Yet--they~~ marched cheerfully, and as we marched triumphantly into the city of K. with banners flying, and drums beating, the poor barefooted soldiers trod the ground, as rebels never trod before, without heeding their bleeding feet. (Some of the boys' feet were terribly sore, sore enough to confine them to their rooms if at home.) I think we are destined to be the instruments for accomplishing large things in vicinity of Atlanta. When the Spring Campaign opens we shall know it. We in the army will know it and feel it, & you at home will be aware that a terrible rumpus is raging in vicinity of where the Cumberland Army is, the Army that will persist in annoying and bringing on quarrels with the Rebel family. Yes, I believe that there will be a desperate fight in vicinity of Atlanta, & I trust it will end in a general defeat of the rebs. Oh! that we had Old Rosey for our leader. The entire army place the utmost confidence in his ability, and I think prefer him to all other double starred officials.

I have not heard from Lizzie for a long time & to tell the truth I have not written her for a long time. I fear she thinks I have forgotten her, she is so sensitive, but she has been expecting to return home for so long & has been visiting from one place to another so much, that I have neglected to write thinking that I would atone for my negligence when she again became a resident of Clifton. Howard writes frequently, and seems to be getting along as well as could be expected. I trust he will succeed in his endeavors to become a thorough business man. I am indeed sorry to hear of the dangerous illness of Uncle Alvin, yet I trust it will not end fatally.

Uncle Warner has been suffering considerably with a bruised foot. Do you know whether it is well yet or not?

Presume Charlie Sheldon is at home now, enjoying its comforts and pleasures, poor fellow! He has been quite unfortunate since his enlistment. His is too sensitive a nature for a soldier's, he is too easily shocked by the looseness of morals exhibited by old soldiers. Chan. makes the best soldier of the two in my opinion, while Charlie the best citizen and church member. Charlie is too good to mix among the generality of soldiers, while Chan. is a reckless, good hearted fellow who can hoe his own row regardless of Tom, Dick, or Harry. But I must hurry this letter to a close, as tis growing late. My chum is already making the cabin melodious with his snoring, warning me that I should do likewise.

Shall see Lyman again tomorrow, I hope, and frequently hereafter, for I shall certainly give him a call whenever he is within travelling distance of yours truly. I have not written Father yet as I intended and he had ought to thrash me for neglecting to do so. Think he will have to be satisfied with much love as usual until I can write him. The lock of Abe's hair which Arthur sent me was received in good state of preservation. I could not refrain from smiling at the gay ribbon attached to the beautiful tress. I wonder if Abe has any idea how much his old Master thinks of him. I hope he will recognize me when I return for I should dislike to have him snub me and disown all prior friendship. Tell Arthur that he must not part with him. Has Mary Viets received a lengthy Discourse from me lately on the evil of procrastination and its results? If so, warn her that she should profit by my advice and write me ere long.

Hoping that the "smallpox" will be only a word in our family, I ever Remain

With much love

Your Son

Chas. H. Kingman.

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.
Camp near Cleveland April 27/64

Dear Bro.

Your interesting letter was rec'd by to day's mail. This evening I seat myself to acknowledge it. Do you perceive what a paragon of promptness your brother is? Do thou in that respect follow his example.

The package containing shirts, soap, and HouseWife was received yesterday, to say that everything proved satisfactory would not do the articles, nor my feelings, justice. The shirts are just what I wanted. They are just right for me. As to the HouseWife, I think it is anead of anything I have seen. The Colonel's don't begin, would suffer terribly by a comparison. I am very much obliged to everyone concerned in the forwarding of said package, and would be glad to repay Carrie and Mother for their kindness in some manner. I was feeling rather poorly yesterday and rather out of sorts, though I am certain I came out of bed head first and in a becoming manner. Yet notwithstanding, I was decidedly unwell & consequently in low spirits, so I must needs give vent to them on paper in the form of a letter to Carrie, I believe. I wish now that I had not sent it, as tis a decidedly poor specimen of chicography, as well as composition, a senseless scrawl.

We, that is, the 4th A. C., and I am an important member thereof, tho' not personally acquainted with Gen. Howard, are now camped in vicinity of Cleveland, the troops, more particularly Artillery, occupying their time in Target Practice &c. Tis the prevailing opinion that we shall move sometime. Dame Rumor has not stated when, and she being on bad terms with the Gents of the Stars, I doubt if she really knows. The Col. received notice from Major McIntire this evening, that he should start for the front the 1st of May to pay this Brigade. Four months' pay is due at the expiration of April, so presume we shall be paid to the 1st of May.

I saw Harvey Van Duzor about three weeks ago, as well as Lieut. White. They were both well and seemed to be in good spirits, enjoyed several hours with Lyman. Presume Edd Caswell has left Clifton ere this, having enjoyed himself hugely while at home. I am sorry that I was unable to obtain a leave, but tis useless to cry over what ish gone up, so I will let it drop.

My little mule is as fat as can possibly be and full of tricks. I wish you could see the little snipe. He is so pretty: short ears, unusual large chest, and a cunning head, & body as round as an apple. I could easily obtain a horse for him if I desired, but I prefer him. I received the Locke of Abe's hair, which I presume was an equivalent for a wag of that expressive tail of his. Truly was he christened "Old Abe," and if not as intellectual as his illustrious namesake, he is surely as honest, and I hope loyal.

We are having very warm weather here at present, farming (what there is) is in a forward state. Wheat &c is looking well.

The News Papers are now eagerly searched for news from the Potomac, news that will be good for the ear of every loyal man, news of a grand victory! Will it not sound strange? the Potomac Army have achieved a grand success, the enemy have been put to rout &c. Yet I trust we may be able to read words to that effect ere long under the head of "Midnight Dispatches."

But I must close with much love to all -

From Your Affect. Bro.

Chas. H. Kingman

Head Quarters 88th Ills. Vols.
Camp near Cleveland, Tenn.
May 1, 1864.

Dear Mother,

Your long epistle enclosing one from Arthur was received by to day's mail. I also am in receipt of one from Carrie - but will answer yours this eve.

We have marching orders for Tuesday, all surplus baggage has been sent to the rear, such as tents, extra clothing, &c. The Col. even retains but a valise to carry all of his baggage in. He gave me his Saddle Roll, in which I can pack two changes of clothing, the nice Housewife Carrie sent, Towel, Soup, etc. etc. My valise containing the remainder of my clothing will go to the rear with the rest. & no knowing when I shall see it again. Every preparation is being made for a long and active campaign. Ordnance stores in large quantities have been rec'd by the Div. In fact, everything necessary for a vigorous campaign. Tuesday morning we will probably be enroute for Dalton and "Dalton or Death" will be the motto. Other brilliant achievements will be added to the annals of this Dept. ere another winter relieves summer of its arduous marches and movements.

I fear that many brave men will be sacrificed upon their countries altar within the ensuing month, yet tis a great consolation to be aware that who will be taken, or who will be left is not for mortal to know. You little know how a person feels when the roll is called after action, as he listens to the different company commanders as they state their casualties, eager to hear if some friend is yet alive or, if wounded, how severely &c. I am confident it will not be long before we ask the now frequent questions, Who was killed in Co. A or who in Co. "B" and to search the ranks for the familiar face of some chosen comrad, a search which is too often vain.

If our Regt. participates in another severe engagement, we will not have men enough together to form a company. Our effective force is now but a little over two hundred. When we left Chicago we numbered 850 strong. What a contrast the 88th of then, with 88th of now: nearly 600 souls either dead by bullet or disease, save the few who have been discharged, but the men which fill the ranks of the 88th to day, are men which the sight of cold steel has no impression on, men who have endured all the hardships, braved all the perils throughout our different years' campaigns, and who next Teusday will probably enter upon another one unequalled in severity. I trust, however, next fall will terminate our struggles, with the subjugation of Jeff Davis' Copper Headed Legions.

I have been very busy of late making out Returns, Reports &c. Shall have to work like fun tomorrow as tis our last day in camp. I shall endeavor to write every few days, tho' I can vouch now that the majority of the epistles will be extremely brief. Yet twill serve to enlighten you as to my health, whereabouts, &c. from time to time. I expect Edd. Caswell tomorrow and as I of course am at the Train daily shall keep a good watch for him, and if he chance to come, I shall immediately take him under my protection, until he gives the latest news by rail.

But I must close, and seek - I was going to say pillow for effect, but I will tell the truth, the soft sides of a dozen rails, and forget myself in sleep.

With full rations of love,

I as usual Remain

Your Affect. Son,

Chas. H. Kingman

In a foam.

Catoosa Springs - Georgia

Camp in the Field. May 6th, 64

Dear Mother,

Having about five minutes to spare before going out with the mail, I will devote them to you. We are now within about 12 miles of Dalton, the enemies pickets were stationed where we are now encamped, but of course were obliged to fall back as we approached. A large quarrel is expected "momen-
tarily". Johnson is evidently in force at D. but I anticipate an evacuation rather than a general engagement. Certainly some fighting is necessary but I think it will be done by our right wing principally. At all events, something may be expected in another week from some quarter.

The Catoosa Springs, 37 in number, are a great curiosity, and a strange variety of waters, sulphur springs of all kinds, viz. the white, red, blue, excelsior, &c. in fact, mineral waters of all kinds are to be found on the estate known as Catoosa Springs. A splendid hotel, bowling alleys, ball room, out houses &c. are still in good repair, Gen. Howard making the hotel his Head Quarters. I should judge that the Springs have been a place of fashionable resort for the wealthy class all over the Confederacy. Citizens say that the hotel barnes had accomodation for about 1200 boarders the year round, pleasure seekers, invalids, and I expect husband seeking damsels.

I saw Lt. White yesterday as well as Harvey. Lyman is looking well, better than I have seen him for some time. His Battery occupies a position in the front. Think I shall go over again to day, as he told me yesterday that he had received a box from home of huge dimensions, containing goodies of all kinds, which he should open in honor of my presence.

I received the packages from Caswell in good condition. The snaps were more than good and served Frank Mallory, Brig. P. M. and myself for a lunch on our way back to Cleveland for mail. I am enjoying excellent health, freeze to death every night, lieing upon the ground with the protecting branches of some huge trees for ~~a~~ my only shelter. I love to lie upon my back and watch the stars glimmering through the tree tops, knowing that they ~~gleam~~ twinkle on the same, at home. I very seldom catch cold from lieing on the ground, or from being exposed to the weather, so you need have no fears on that account. But I must close as tis high time the mail was on the road.

With much love to all, I ever remain

Your Affect. Son,

Chas. H. Kingman.

Camp in the field Enroute
for Atlanta, Ga. May 20/64

Dear Mother,

Have a few seconds in which to scribble a few lines, so will necessarily be brief. I am suffering as usual under the enjoyment of excellent health. Our army is pressing the enemy hard, engaging them daily at some point. They are disputing our passage at every available point, but are always forced to give back.

Arthur Caswell, Charlie Miller, and Dennis Gildia are slightly wounded, neither dangerously. We are now about sixty miles south east of Dalton, and about 50 from Atlanta. I anticipate several severe battles ere we reach that point but old Sherman is bound to possess it. We have captured several thousand prisoners. The exact number we have no means of knowing as yet.

Presume Lizzie has returned ere this with Miss Gallup.

Received your long letter two days since as well as one from Carrie. Wish I had time to answer them all. Please tell Howard to write often, if he ~~is~~ receives no reply's at present to his epistles -

In great haste. I ever Remain

Your Affect. Son,

Chas. H. Kingman.

Camp in the field 88th Ills. Vols.
May 21st, 1864.

Dear Bro.

As we are still in camp awaiting the completion of arrangements for a vigorous forward movement, I cannot allow the opportunity to pass unimproved of answering all letters which as yet remain unanswered.

The baggage train have received orders to store the baggage, as the wagons comprising it are to be formed into a supply train, the army to move with 20 days' rations. I carry my household goods on the back of my nag, two changes of clothing, needlebook &c. in my saddle roll, two blankets, poncho & leggings on my saddle ~~roll~~.

The preparations that are being made evidently shows that the Grand Div. of the Miss'pi intend to accomplish something of importance within the next few months. For the past week or two we have been advancing daily, engaging the enemy whenever he made a show of resistance.

The casualties of our Regt. during this campaign are 57, including many killed or mortally wounded. Dennis Gilden and Charlie Miller were wounded three days since, but neither mortally. Arthur Caswell is all right with the exception of a slight scratch on the knuckles which does not prevent his doing duty. I wrote Mother yesterday morning as our Div. was moving out. I had but a moment to spare so merely scribbled a few lines stating my soundness of health, mind &c. Wrote Carrie last night and mailed this morning and you this morning, which will be mailed tomorrow. The cars run close at the heels of the army, or have thus far, but as soon as we cross the Attawa River I presume the old iron horse will not again be seen for several weeks, for undoubtedly the Rebs will destroy the Rail Road bridge.

I saw Lieut. White and Harvey Van Duzor two days since. Harvey gives entire satisfaction to the Battery Commanders. He is enjoying excellent health, and seems to endure the hardships of a soldier's life like a veteran. Lieut. White says that he makes an excellent soldier. The Battery is in good fighting trim, and wherever a brail(?) is, the six old Parrots can be heard speaking for themselves and the good old Flag.

I received a letter from Howard several days ago. He was to finish his collegiate course in two days, so presume he has ere this become duly installed as messenger in the 1st National Bank, Dubuque, Iowa.

Since we left Cleveland I have seen nearly all of the Commanding Generals of Corps Div'n &c in this Grand Div. of Miss. Have seen Gen. Sherman several times, as well as

fighting Joe Hooker, Osterhaus, Schofield, Howard and several others. Old Joe is a comical looking genius, but there is fight in him and it will come out, much to the dissatisfaction of the Rebel Gentry.

I received a letter from Nellie Sheldon a short time since, and shall make an effort to answer it to day. Mother wrote that the Station House was in progress. How far has it progressed already? Write and tell me about the various improvements in town? Have the good people done anything to the church yard yet in the way of improvement? or does it remain the same? As my sheet is full, I will merely scratch my name as usual

Your Affect. Bro.

Chas. H. Kingman

Battle Field near Dallas
Georgia. June 4th 1864

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 17th ultimo was received several days ago, was contemplating answering it yesterday but no opportunity officed. I wrote Arthur two days since & presume the epistle will be received ere this reaches you. The engagement still continues with unabated obstinacy on either side, day before yesterday a portion of the 23rd Corps (Maj. Gen. Schofield Com'dg) charged the enemies works and captured a Battery of four Guns with a number of prisoners. The 15th Corps I understand is gradually advancing. Our Corps which occupied the right center of the line still remains in the same position. A continual fire of musketry is kept up both day and night while the numerous Batteries, but occasionally open on the Rebel works. Nothing of importance that is generally known has been accomplished by our armies tho' tis the prevailing belief that Sherman is well satisfied thus far with the results of our protracted conflict, evidently he designs holding Johnson in his present position until some plan of Grants is consummated, when I am confident he will either by force or strategy enter Atlanta triumphant. We have a very large army here perhaps larger than you are aware of and I think considerable larger than the enemy, and unless he prove sharper than he did at Dalton and Resaca I doubt his success, and I think it extremely doubtful as it is. We are constantly improving our breastworks, rendering them daily more secure from musket balls tho' none of our works as yet are proof against solid shot or shell. I sincerely hope something will soon be done to relieve our force from their present position. Our Corps has been living for days and nights in the trenches upon their arms, ready to spring to their posts along the lines at a moments notice, and for the past three days it has been particularly disagreeable on account of the heavy rain, which tho' a blessing, is yet rather uncomfortable to a shelterless man. It has been very dry here for a long time, the dust nearly suffocating us until the late storm commenced. The sun is now however shining as brightly as ever upon our freshened community and I trust the weather will be favorable for the prosecution of Sherman's plans for the next week or two.

I think the 16th Corps will arrive today and perhaps take the place of the 4th and we move further to the left. Reinforcements are continually coming up.

Thus far I have been very fortunate in escaping unscathed tho' I have had some clear intimations of danger. Lt. White is as yet uninjured. Charlie Miller & Dennis are still back from the effect of wounds received at Days Ferry this side of Resaca. Robert Crawford is quite unwell is at the Div Hospital, the hardships and exposures of this Campaign have been too much for him. Kent is also on the sick list.

Presume Lizzie and Miss Gallup have become quite settled again in Clifton. If you could have few masculine additions to your society you could enjoy yourselves these summer evenings. Chau. Sheldon is the only available beau in town, is he not? Poor fellow! Wish you would explain to Nellie Sheldon why her last letter remains unanswered and that I shall be extremely gratified to hear from her whenever convenient, and wherever our army rests for a day or two I will atone for my tardiness.

There is nothing of interest transpiring tho' we are anticipating something hourly. The coming fall is looked forward to as the close of our conflicts, and I trust it will be so. With much love to all I ever Remain Your Affect Bro (in a rain)

Charlie

June 21, 1864

Have been appointed Div. P.M. please direct your letters hereafter - Hd. Qrs 2Div. 4 A.C.

Camp near Marietta, Ga
June 20th, 1864

Dear Sister,

I have neglected writing for some time on account of inconveniences and miserable weather we have been enjoying for the past two weeks. Alternate rain and sunshine of about ten or twelve hours duration each, the sunshine often being clouded by a passing shower in remembrance of the small deluge of a few hours previous and as you are no doubt well aware, that we are now daily engaging the enemy, moving hither and thither to new positions we are without shelter, and as it is rather inconvenient to write exposed to a pitiless rain storm, I must plead guilty of sacrificing your interest for my temporal welfare and a dry jacket. The enemy are slowly falling back surrendering work after work, which must surely dishearten their rank and file. We are now but a short distance from the Chattahoochie River and if Sherman succeeds in forcing them across that, Atlanta must inevitably fall into our possession. There is no advantageous positions between Atlanta and the river that the Rebs can hold "so say the prisoners" where they will retreat to, I am at a loss to think. I would that they might surrender and burst the Secession bubble by the fall of Atlanta, but I think the demagogues who hold full sway will struggle as long as they can maintain an army.

Our Regiment and the 36th Ills. were on the skirmish line yesterday, as usual the 88th done well, captured 12 prisoners including three officers who were very impudent and persisted in telling Gen. Kimball (our Brigade Commander) outrageous lies concerning their strength, position & ch but finally the Gen. told them they were d--d liars and that we could form a skirmish line around their whole army and go into camp and await their surrender. Mr. Secesh caved; our regiment also recaptured several of the 36th who had been made prisoners. One man, a member of an Ohio regiment captured a Lieut. and his whole Rebel Co. yesterday while they were eating breakfast, their arms in stack. The Lt. thought that the Yank had a whole Co. at his heels and did not discover his mistake until it was too late to retreat. You may judge his chagrin when he ascertained that he and his whole Co had been dupes of a Yankee trick. In several instances the Rebs have acted in an inhuman manner by having forces in ambush in the rear of their skirmish lines who throw up their hands to surrender and when our men advance to take them, they and the ambushed men pour a volley into them, but they have dearly paid for their folly in every instance. The taking of the last work but one in front our Div. they 28th Ky. were deployed as skirmish and when the Rebs were obliged to give up their works our men pressured them so closely they threw their hands in earnest in token of their surrender, but remembering our injuries the 28th poured their leaded missiles into the breasts of the helpless Rebs and many fell victims to their own cruelty who would otherwise escaped with life. If they still persist in such outrages I fear this war will be especially as savage as the Indian wars of long ago. Our men will retaliate every outrage and avenge a comrades slaughter at all hazards. We have, that is our brigades have, been in reserve today tho' a continual of clatter of musketry is

kept up by other troops. I am as yet ignorant of the results of the last day or two of fights. The enemy are in possession of very prominent point on our front where they thought perhaps they could do great execution with artillery. They opened yesterday but were immediately silenced by five batteries who were within range. I think they have not opened since from said point.

Sherman's headquarters are with the 4th Corps so judge that the severest conflict is expected in our front. I received the war maps and are greatly obliged for it, it is an excellent one, and will answer my purpose admirably. (Name unreadable) Kingman has changed wonderfully since I have his last photo, he is with his father on Winter St. or is he engaged in some other business.

Rec'd a letter from Howard a few days since, written in gay spirits. He seems to be giving entire satisfaction to I.K. I hope he will now so continue forth with the start he now has, he should surely be able to take care of himself hereafter.

I have not your letter with me so cannot think of any questions you may have asked. Presume the Sheldon house is nearly complete, is it not. What kind of a structure is it? Style? Etc. I wrote Lizzie since receiving your letter, and am expecting a reply today. What do you think of my adventures, If there had only been some feminine, with golden locks, blue eyes &ch, connected with it, this scrape might be made the theme of quite a romantic tale. Oh! How wrathly I was to think I was taken in such a plight. Presume you will see our account of it in the Chicago Tribune, as the Col. has written a better description of the capture and escapade I think to be published. I wish you would send me a paper if you chance to ----- who was ----- our insertion, as I should like to read his version of the story.

But I must think of closing. I beg you will excuse my hasty written scrawl, as my writing conveniences are mighty few on this campaign. Saw Lyman yesterday during the heavy cannonading but had only time to say "How do ye" southern phrase, and pass on.

With much love to all I I ever Remain
Your Most Affect
Bro.

Charlie

Big Shanty, Ga. June 24th 1864.

Dear Father,

Have a few moments this afternoon to devote to letter writing as the mails are very irregular. Think there will be none in until late this evening. I came from the front this morning and shall remain here until tomorrow evening. Everything seems quiet along our lines to day, save the occasional booming of a cannon. Our right is gradually swinging around towards the railroad in the rear of Marietta. I understood that Hooker was to advance to strike the R. R. yesterday P. M. but I think it was merely a rumor. Gen. Sherman is always in vicinity of the severest brail, and often needlessly exposes himself. Our Regt. captured 12 prisoners, including three officers, a few days since, while on the skirmish line. Our casualties were one killed. The troops are in good spirits, having the benefit of full rations (and the regular allowance of whiskey). When the enemy evacuated their last works and our force took possession, I rode along their lines and through their deserted camps. Everything proved that they were almost destitute of rations; in one camp I saw a mule, dressed and slices cut from the hind quarters, and other places, many slices of mule meat were left already to cook on wooden spits. Nothing eatable was left as is invariably the case with our armies. Everything betakened a great lack of food; the prisoners that we have taken seem to be pleased with the change, with the exception of a few of the officers who are very impudent. Tis reported that Hardie has superseded Johnston in command of the forces opposed to us. The Rebel Gen. Polk was killed by a shell from a Battery in this Div. I think he commanded a Div.

I saw Lt. White yesterday for a few moments on the road. He is looking well. Said Charlie Sheldon and Harvey Van Duzor were "all right." Charlie was to be made a Sergt. yesterday, and placed in command of a section (a Lieut.'s command). Lyman thinks a great deal of him and I am confident will give him a commission ere this stormy trouble is over. I was appointed Div. Post Master on the 16th inst. by order of Gen. Newton, but did not report for duty until the 20th. Col. Chandler was sorry to have me leave the Regt. and told me that whenever I wished to be relieved from duty in my present position to come back to his Hd. Qrs. as before. I received 4 letters from Mother and Arthur two days since, will answer them when possible.

How does the Station House progress? Should judge that it must be well nigh completed. From Ed Caswell's accounts I should think Clifton was improving rapidly, many buildings have been erected since I was at home.

(June 24th, 1864 - cont'd)

I sincerely hope that the crops this year will be unusually good, and command fair prices. Surely our Farmers have been laboring under many difficulties, and truly merit a recompense for their many days of fruitless toil. I wish I could be the means of helping you, but do you not think it best for me to deposit my spare funds with J. K. or Uncle Warner until I may have occasion to use them? to pay for my tuition as Howard has done? I shall have \$150. or \$200. to spare next pay day which I have intended to send to Howard for the above purpose. Shall afterwards send my money home - but I think my education should be my first thought, for a thorough one cannot be estimated by dollars or cents. But I must close as my sheet is about full. Please direct all letters Chas. H. Kingman, Head Qrs. 2 Div. 4th A. C. Hoping for the successful harvest this year which will be equivalent to plenty of "Tin," I ever Remain, With much love,

Your Affect. Son,

Charlie