

religious, to go to such a low called place as a dance. Why it is a place destitute of good morals let alone religion. But think He has truly said a bad tree bareth very sorrow fruit. And I can say further that the devil would have no better religion than that. You have truly said the old fellow has a great deal of influence not only there, but also in the army. While we are trying to put down this rebellion our officers is engaged in drunkenness and every other wickedness that could be immagined or some of them at least. And about your battle you had there on the ridge, I say let them fight it out. Its a pity they are any kind. Well enough this for the present, I would like to see you, dear, mighty well, but circumstances will not admit. You must wait patiently and prayerful and trust in God for the future. I trust through the mercy of God that I will get to see you again. But continue faithful the will of the Lord must be done. I must tell you that our govener gave us a splendid Christmas gift, he has sent us all an oil blanket apiece, which came at a very good time, for it has been rainy here since and they keep us as dry as kittens. I will send you a song ballad in this letter if it does not get too late to write it.

Though I am listening for orders to go to roll  
call. So I must close by saying: Fare well  
my love.

Write as often as you can.

Once a week if not oftener.

Write as soon as you get this.

Your affectionate  
husband,

John Truex

January 9, 1863  
Friday  
Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Please hand this to Mrs. Catharine Truex

Dear Companion,

I, this day, take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and in tolerable health. I have a bad cold which makes me feel bad but except that, I am well and have stood it extra well. I received two letters last night and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was all well. These letters is the first I have received from you in one month. The mail has been stopped for sometime and that is the reason I suppose but it is open now and will be from this on as long as we stay here. We started from Nashville the 2 of last month and marched about 5 miles and camped. The next day we marched 8 miles. The 4 day we came upon a bridge that had been burnt and the advance of our army made the first attack on the enemy. They run to Nolensville. There the 22 and the 3 regiments fought them for an hour and drove them from the town with no loss on our side. Now I will tell of our trip from this place, the bridge, here we stayed at the bridge and rebuilt it so we could cross it. The 28 we started at night and we marched all night and then for 4 nights and days we was on our feet and no sleep. The 28 of last month was the first skirmishing the enemy and we

was firing for 3 days before a general attack was made. On New Years Day we took our place on or in the center of our line. The evening of the 31 we was ordered to join our brigade and we started on the field and while we was looking our horsemen made a charge on the enemy, they made a heavy charge on the right wing. We was on a ridge and could see them here. We was to stay to support the horsemen. They made a heavy charge just before sun down, it was a mighty pretty sight. They made them give back and while we was looking on, the rebels fired a cannon and the ball went over our heads with no damage to any one. Then there was several balls pass over but no damage done. Then we marched to camp for the night. The next morning, at one o'clock, we went to our place, all was calm until about 8 o'clock, then firing on both sides. This was on New Years Day and if I must say a new world to many of brave boys. Here fighting commenced until Saturday night it ended. Friday was the hardest in the afternoon on the left wing for about 4 hours a continual firing of cannon and muskets was heard, then yells of our men and the rebels. A desperate struggle was made to brake our lines but all in vain. At sun down the firing ceased for a while then we in the center was ordered up. We had a small breast works. By this time it was dark but we were ordered to mount breast works, this was done then in line of battle for some

distance then ordered to fire. Then in front of us fired and fell down on the ground, then we fired and did the same and while in this place the bullets came like hail over our heads but none killed on our side or our regiment nor brigade and only 5 wounded and them in our regiment, Company I. One get his finger shot off, Company C two wounded not dangerous, two others, I don't know what company they belong to, but one was very bad wounded, he was shot in the thigh and it was broke and the enemy say that we at that time ruined them, we more than mowed them down. This was all our regiment done. Now I will say the losses on the enemy side is 23 thousand and our is supposed to be 10 thousand killed and wounded. I never will forget this New Years Day. We gave them a mighty bad licking. It was the blessing of God that gave the victory. I give it all to Him and thank Him for His love and protection to us. So now I must close with saying, pray without ceasing, in all things give thanks, so if we meet no more on earth we will meet in heaven. I can't tell how long we will stay here or when I will be at home. So be contented and do the best you can and write often and I will do the same. I have wrote all the items. The health of the regiment is getting better. So I will close for this time.

I still remain

Your beloved husband  
until death

John Truex

January 20, 1863  
Rutherford Co.  
Camp near  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Wife,

With much pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am sick and in a private house that is taken for a hospital, close to the regiment. It is a very comfortable place to stay at. I have taken cold and it has settled on my lungs. I am getting better now and have not been dangerous. Have been here five days. I yet feel to thank God that I am as well as I am and I do hope these few lines may find you enjoying the precious blessing of good health. I have wrote one or two letters to you since I have received any from you. I have wrote to you concerning the battle that was fought here. So I will tell you in this for fear you will not get it. I was in a battle that lasted for six or eight days and all this time with but very little to eat and exposed to the rain which was prevelant and no blankets to cover us of a night and then had to wade a river, this I think was the cause of my sickness. The health of our regiment is very delicate. I do not think there could be over 300 men found in the regiment able for duty at this time. The news has come to us here that the pluguglies has begun to rebell in the north which has caused some excitement here in

the army. Some swears they are going back to help them while others does not approve of their course of procedure. For my part I do not understand it all together. I want peace to be made and I want it made honorable and in accordance with our constitution but any other way would not suit me at all. I want you to write as soon as you can and let me know the opinion of some of your best neighbors concerning this thing that has taken place here. For it is a query to my mind. Now before I conclude, I will say to you grieve not because I am sick for the Lord will take care of me in sickness as well as health and I am looking forward to that day when I shall be regaled within the land of Song. I want you to be faithful, and don't forget to pray for me. For want of room I must close. So no more but ever remain your affectionate husband until death. Be sure and write.

John Truex

Jan. 23, 1863  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present of writing a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along. Hoping these few lines may find you enjoying good health. Well I can say that I am smartly on the mend. I feel tolerable well at present except weakness. I am in camp again but not able for duty. I expect to go to the hospital to sleep a few nights yet. Well it has been a long time since I've received any intelligence from you at all so I find it a little embarrassing to write not having anything strange. Well I can still say the health of our regiment is poor. This is the third or fourth I have wrote to you since I've received any from you but lest you may not have got them I will tell you in this that we have been in one battle that lasted near 8 days from first to last and we gave the rebels a tremendous flogging. Well I would like very much to see you again but expect it will be some time before I will enjoy that privilege for I can not tell how long this war will last. Well I have learned a little of late that is the south carries a badge of despoils on even the crown then fine buntings instead of having the eagle has the engraving of a bird that seeks the lonely desert thus representing their desire to be alone. So the negro question being the cause of this war is all a humbug. They make it a pretense but I am satisfied that it is

only through pretense. The rebels want a government to themselves and a monarchical one at that. Well now I will tell you a short but strange and foolish dream I had last night. Well I dreamed that I was traveling along a very pleasant but lonely road amusing myself with the works of God. As I slowly passed along by myself enjoying myself all alone free from war, all at once I was surrounded by a host of rebels and was taken prisoner. I made a tremendous effort to free myself from them. I made a tremendous bound exerting every nerve. I instantly found myself one hundred and forty four thousand geographical miles in another world inhabited thinly but with very pleasant people who looked on me pleasantly but with astonishment knowing that I was a foreigner while I was here gazing on the works of God joyfully amusing myself. Presently the thought of home came rushing in my mind. I sought to send them an address but finding no mail grieved with the thought thinking myself so far from home that it would be difficult to ever return and take a life time to do it. I awoke grieving about my family so I awoke and behold it was a dream. Now I can say I am glad that I am as well as I am and I do hope that the time may not be far distant when this war shall

come to a close. That I may again return home to  
your embrace. Grieve not for me but look up to God  
and muster all the faith you can and pray for peace  
and protection. Will not God avenge his elect  
that cry unto Him day and night. Pray for me that  
God may preserve my life and keep my soul unspotted  
from the world that I may return home safe and  
sound for I know the prayer of faith will prevail  
God will answer.

So no more at present but remain  
Your affectionate husband until death  
Write soon and often as you can

John Truex

January 27, 1863  
Camp near Murfreesboro,  
Tenn.

My Beloved Wife,

With pleasure I take this opportunity to let you know that I am increasing in health for which I have every reason to praise God. Hoping also that through His mercy you may be found, when these lines reach you, enjoying good health. I have not got any letters from you for some three weeks or more. I have wrote you four or five letters since I have got any from you. Our reg. is not in very good health at this time. We can't muster more than two hundred men out of the nine hundred that we started with. Now you can see that we have been run through the flint mill end foremost. The weather here has been some warmer than it usually was back in old Ind. It is wet, rainy and mud in abundance. The frogs has been, for the last week, singing their songs the welcome spring is coming. Snow is seldom. It snowed a little last night and this morning and the air is tolerable cold. Our officers has got up a petition to have our reg. sent back to Indiana for the purpose of recruting for 60 days but I do not know whether it will be done or not. If we do, I will probably get to come home. The news has also come that the people in the north has come to the

conclusion that peace shall be made irrespective of the war department and the war department is endeavoring to free the negroes calling on the north to help them in so doing. Now I fear that this will leave us in a bad predicament not knowing where to center our hopes. I wish they could, just for the sake of government, lay aside their views on the subject and unite on the constitution and its laws then we may have some hopes of peace, that is what I desire above all things. We have some fun here but if we happen to get out side of our picket lines it is not so much fun without we have a sufficient force to withstand the rebels for they are hanging around and when they think they can accomplish any thing they will make a dash. I want you when you write to let me know how you are getting along in the world for it has been a long time since you have wrote. I want you to write all you know and much as you anticipate I want to know how much you got for your pork that is if you have sold it and all other such things that you think would interest me and especially concerning your prospects of a better world.

I want to say that if I do not see you again on earth I expect to see you on the banks of Canaan where all our pleasures will be blest.

So I will close for the present or I will say further that I have not got any letters stating your condition since the one you wrote about the wagon being broke some more.

Yours truly

John Truex

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Tell Miss (Mrs.) Prusilla Plummer that I am fully able to write but not able to get any word from her.

R. E. P.

Jan. 30, 1863  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Wife,

With pleasure I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. Well my health is quite delicate today but I am slowly on the mend. I have wrote several letters since I've been sick. I have not been unable to help myself but two days. But have been donsie about one month. I received one letter from you the 28 dated Jan. 13. It gave me much satisfaction to hear from you that you was all well and doing well. It was the first that gave me any intelligence, how you was getting along, for a long time. It is a great satisfaction to me to hear how you are getting along. Well, Catharine, don't be uneasy about me. Though I am unwell, I believe the Lord will do all things well. Though sometimes the way seems a little dark through this world, nevertheless God's word stands firm. All things shall work together for good to them that love God. True, sometimes I get a little impatient and sometimes feel tired of the service while unwell, but when I reflect on the promises of God, I feel content myself and again, with renewed energy, press my march onward. I have wrote so often about the battle and have received so few from you that I feel a little at a loss what to write. Well I will say that we've been in one battle, the battle of Murfreesboro,

it lasted 7 or 8 days. The balls whistled pretty thick round us. I felt the wind of one burn pass my left ear. It felt tolerable warm. But not one of our company hurt and only five of our regiment wounded, one proved fatal. Company H also escaped with out getting any wounded. Well I can tell you the health of our regiment is very poor. We can only muster one hundred and forty men able for duty out of the nine hundred that started from Madison. The measles, mumps and yellow jaundice got among us at Gallatin. Our regiment has been going down ever since. We have the typhoid fever with us now, so we have been annoyed and are still annoyed. I will be glad to see you all once more and enjoy your society comfortably at our own fireside. But I desire peace above all other things that is on honorable terms and I hope the time not far distant when God will work out peace for us. But I must content myself for a season by writing to you. I must close by saying pray for me when it goes well with you at a throne of grace. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends, asking an interest in their prayers for me. Tell father Ault that Marten is not very well. Amos Carmichael has got about well again. R. E. Plummer is quite hearty. Fair you well my love for this time.

John Truex

Write soon, write often, write as much as you can for you can not tell the satisfaction it gives me to see the lines that you have penned. In one of mine I sent you a few graines of millet and I send you a little more in this.

Feb. 5, 1863  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Loving Wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. Well, I am slowly on the mend and I do fondly hope these few lines may come to hand and find you all well and doing well. I received yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> of Jan. and was glad to hear from you that you was all well and doing well. I have wrote several letters to you since we've been here. We've been here one month tomorrow. We've had fine rest after the battle. We had pretty hard times while on the battle field but I didn't mind that, we had such a glorious battle, it far overpaid me for all. I am interested but I would rather have peace as anything else. You can not imagine the desire I have to see you, but I suppose I will have to wait till my time is out or peace made, for furloughs is plain out and taking fence furlough and desert is not my name, except I was very close home I might step over a few moments. I must confess that I never knew how to prize peace nor family society till now. Nevertheless, I shall not repine but trudge along through the wearisome journey, still endeavoring to trust God for grace and protection. Nor do I want you to grieve about me. Well, you said it has been a long time since you received any letters from me. Well, I believe this is

six I've wrote to you within one month. And have only received two from you in 5 or 6 weeks. I think that there is something wrong with the mail or postmasters, but I hope the time may not be long till peace may again prevail and we be permitted to return home again. Well, I will tell you the seashash is deserting the enemy ranks daily and joining our forces. We've a new regiment partly made up of them, about four hundred of them in it. I think that we get as much help from them as deserts our army and if the rebs at home will just hold their peace I think the war will not last long. Well, we have not drawn any pay since we left Madison and the boys don't like it much. But we expect to draw soon but may be disapointed as we've been hitherto. Well, the health of our regiment is quite poor, we can only muster about one hundred and fifty able for duty now out of nine hundred that started from Madison. Our company can only muster 20 able for duty out of 87 and still going down. Joshua Younger, of our company is not expected to live more than one or two days. You can tell D. M. Plummer, he was acquainted with him. Well I would like to know what you and Drusilla Plummer has fell out about. If you are not too mad at each other, you can tell her that Brother Plummer is well and hearty. Well,

I want to see you all very bad but I do hope it may not be long till peace will be made. I do not know that I could write anything more that would be interesting to you. So I will close by saying pray for me and write soon and often as you can. You can not tell what satisfaction it gives me to hear from you. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. Fair well for this time.

John Truex

to

Catharine and family

Feb. 11, 1863  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Loving Wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along, fondly hoping these few lines may come to hand and find you all enjoying the blessing of good health. Well I have a pretty severe cold and some pain in my breast, back and head and my eyes is not well yet and I don't feel very well myself and my throat thinks its not very well and I have to cough considerably. Well with all this, if you would see me you would think I was happy as a jaybird. I am with the Co but not able for duty but you need not be uneasy about me, I have worked when I've been worse than I am now. I received yours last evening of the 29 of Jan and was glad to hear that you was all well but grieved that you can not get my letters no oftener than you do. I have wrote from one to two every week since I've been out except in time of battle or on a force march when we had no mail. We have not yet received any pay since we left Madison but expect to shortly for so long the boys has got quite much discouraged. Well our reg is gone down till it only numbers 140 able for duty and still going down. Several is gone to the spirit land, some have been discharged, some deserted while lie sick at the hospitals. Those things constoran me to groan within myself continually saying Lord pitty our doalful condition.

I would like to see you all once more very much but can not tell when but I hope the time may not be long. I do want peace above all things, may the God of heaven speed on the day of peace. Oh that He would remove corruption. From authority I fear it in the hearts of men that holds the reigns of government I see but little else here in men of authority would to God they were changed from nature to grace and the power of sin and Satan unto God. Well I do not know what to think about peace being made soon there is so much division in the north and the south knows it and it encourages them. We thought when we whipped so bad here that we would soon get through with the job but this bow-wowing around against the administration ruins almost everything. It encourages the rebels, discourages some of our men, kindles wrath in others while some are pleased with it. For my part I'm not in for fighting to free the blacks neither do I feel like grumbling so hard at the administration for from what I've seen I am quite certain if their slaves were taken from them they could not carry on the war long. The conscript has taken all but the infirm and squipt. They can oversee very well while the darkey does the work and thus the farming goes on as well as if they were at home and thus through the negro the rebels are fed. Now I would think it wisdom to deprive them of that food if possible.