Murfreesboro Tenn. SUN THE 11TH

A.D. 1862 Co. A. 40th Ind. Vols.

My dear Sister

With pleasure do I embrace this pleasant opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you know of my safety and good health still hoping this will find you all enjoying the same good blessings. We have been in a terrible battle on the 31st. and on 1st 2nd for on the 312C th 26TH we struck tents and began to advance on the Enemy at this place. we advanced with great caution in double column or in two lines of battle for about 25 miles through corn fields and WOOD creeks and run through briers all the way. our division was in front ON the 27 CAME NEAR? to the Enemy at Lavergne, a town 18 miles from Nashville. we was first in picket at night the NEXT ~~moving~~ MORNING ~~moving~~ their pickets were right close to us so the good old fun began. we fired on them and them on us for about 10 or 15 rounds and they began to throw grape and ~~shot~~ shell at us but then our lines were formed and we advanced on the enemy and took the town after loosing about 40 in killed and wounded.

page 2. they retreated to their rifle pits at this place and ~~as~~ US close at their heels giving them discharge after discharge of shell ~~canister~~ canister and musketry but we only had one man wounded until we got to the field of action on 28 Sunday we camped at Stuarts Creek nothing of importance only picket fighting and that only amounted to nothing but an annoyance to them in camp monday. The ____ came up to within three miles of the town but it was at the point of ~~this~~ the bayonet amid shower of cannon shot and musket balls had considerable of picket fighting had three men killed with cannon balls while we were getting breakfast nothing more of importance took place that day only they would shell us occasionally but we did not mind that. on the morning of the 31st they made an atack on our right with their whole force to turn our right flank and they were bucketaful and IN it took ____ PIECES of cannon before they were ~~picked~~ LICKED ____ to in the morning our whole right wing gave way and the rebs were not checked until they came to woods division and eighteen cannon that

made death rain among there ranks so that they were forced to fall back double quick O MAN? they fell in heaps at every volley we POURED in to them. there prisoners say that we killed 700 ~~p~~ of ~~their~~ them in 20 minutes they made ~~fo~~ FIVE bold SORTIES on our brigade during the day but were each time nicely replenished. we was under fire for about eight or nine hours on 31 Sat and our company had 16 wounded and one killed ~~dead~~ that was John Montgomery. he was shot in the head. I was the only man in our Co. about that did not get hit in some part ~~up~~ of there clothing with bullets our Division was the only one in the Army that held its position during the day and it had between 1100 OR twelve hundred killed and wounded. well now I can not tell it all to you this time the ~~14~~ 15TH NO. had lost in killed and wounded 226 men our loss I do not know exactly what it is but it is not so heavy as _____ man we confronted Capt. Cox Battery and the enemy shells and cannon balls just ~~filled~~ fell as thick around us just by dozens and we could

see them just as plain as we could see the balls that we ~~use the~~ USED TO PLAY _____ page 4.
with at school this may seem curious to you but it is so we could see them just as soon as they left the cannon. The balls flew just as thick as _____ Ever seen hail and ~~swo~~ SWARMING _____ just like horrible bees now I seen whole FILES Knocked out of ~~rights~~ REGTS by cannon shots the fights closed ONLY _____ WITH the darkness of the night this WAS ~~they~~ NEW years EVE we slept on the ground we fought on and could not sleep for the cries of the wounded rebels begging to be carried off and was perishing with the cold our wounded was all well cared for that night rosecans was in the ~~camp~~ thickest of the fight where spoke to us boys and told us to go in while we were a fighting the boys stopped firing and gave him three cheers and then WENT IN ~~to~~ to it again well I have written all my PAPER so no more at present but remaining ~~as~~ as ever your brother E. J WORK I will write ~~my next~~ the rest in my next writ soon.

Col. Blake got so drunk that he fell from his horse in the beginning of the fight AND was ~~that~~ PUT under ARREST BY ~~and~~ the LT Col. shortly afterwards WOUNDED after having his horse shot under him. he fell at he head of the Regt. cheering it on to victory.