10TH WISC

Lav. Mitchell
Aby 22. 1863

Murfreesboro Tenn
Feb 22nd 1863.

Dear Mumm

If my memory serves me as it should, my last letter to you was written just on the eve of our advance from Nashville. Since then I have passed through the memorable scenes of the 31st of December and have seen the New Year ushered in with the deafening roar of hundreds of guns dealing death and destruction in every direction, and again have settled down to another two months of dull and dreary camp life, begirt with mud and beguiling the inner man with delicate sow-belly and musty hard-bread. On the whole however the winter has not been

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as hard on us as the one we spent in Kentucky. The weather has not been so bad as then and something perhaps is due to the fact that we are getting to be old stagers in campaining.

You may well thank your stars that you are not in the same fix with some of your friends, and are still in a land where you can enjoy your festivals and Masquerades, and now and then take a quiet sip from the bowl by a rousing fire, talking over the busy scandal of the neighbors, or calling up the remembrance of some who are off to the wars. I do not envy you — I only wish you as there to enjoy it with you.

The Rail Road in finally completed to this place and only just now I heard the 'toot toot' of the steam whistle. Supplies are coming forward rapidly and things begin to look like a move — not in a day or two but before many days pass away. We have had another change in our numbering and what was before the 'Centre' of the 14th Army Corps is now the 14th Army Corps under Gen Thomas, who next to Rosy is regarded as the best man we have. McCook's 'Right' is now the 20th and Crittenden's 'Left' the 21st Army Corps. We are all looking ahead to one more big fight either at Tullahoma or Chattanooga. I dread it but it has got to come.

The old 10th is in pretty good condition, but far from being what it once was. Col Chapin as you know resigned on Surgeons certificate, but he can hardly be called a loss. McMynn a far better man takes his

place and our new Major,
Ely, now in command makes
things go smoothly so far and is
well liked. Our music has all
dwindled away to one fife, but
the Regulars are just along side
of us and have two fine bands
so that we get along very well in
that line.

Dr Marks has just started for
Wisconsin on a furlough if you
happen to come across him make
his acquaintance.

You must have become quite
accustomed to shoulder straps
by this time as you have so many
straying back home. Prentiss did
not stand it long, what was the
matter with him? Guppey it seems
has been through his maiden fight
and come out unharmed. He
always expressed the belief that
if he got into a fight he should

be killed or badly wounded. I wonder what he thinks of those batteries at Vicksburgh that have got to be stormed.

Every thing seems to be at a stand still in Eastern Departments as well as this, and I suppose we are not to look for much news for a month to come unless it be from Charleston. The papers I see are full of Politics and the people north seem to busy calling each other Greybacks Traitors and so forth. The only way to close this war is to fight it to the bitter end now. We have nothing to gain and every thing to lose by truces and attempts to patch up a peace and should the north concede any thing to the South, they themselves will fall in pieces.

I am a poor hand at letter writing and always sit down to it as one of the severest tasks I ever find, but really there is nothing of interest that one can find to write about here. If I were given to guessing I might spin you out some yarns that you would be ashamed to believe, but I feel by believe they would entertain or amuse you, coming from a man of so staid and sober a character as mine.

Yours of the 16th inst came to hand yesterday and you may tell Jane that to day I got the one from her in which she detailed the mishaps of my box for which I have so anxiously looked. Remember me to all my friends.

Yours Mitchell