

John Pender was left back at Bowling Green, We was camped here last night about a half mile of the sixth reg and last night Wille Bright came over and stayed with us till bed time. He said that he saw you and you was all well which was very gratifying to me. It is very likely you have heard that there is some hopes of peace that is all the talk here now. You do not know how well I would like to see home once more but I must leave the matter with God who rules over all creation. I want this unholy rebellion put down that is what I left you and my home and children and layed my life upon the altar for was to restore the union. By this I may loose my life but God in His love I hope will carry me through. You wrote in one of your letters that Shoemaker said they wanted to discharge me and I would not have it but it is a mistake. He ask me how long my eyes had been the way they was. I told him as long as I could recollect. He told me to stand to one side. The next day he examined me again and somebody told him that I said I could beat anybody in the state a shooting which was not so and he told me that I could go after the second examination and that is all about it. Now Drusilla as I will soon have to close let me tell you at the last to never give up living religious. Keep them children in the way that they should go for they may forget their Pa before I can see them. If John and White gets their discharge I will send you

another and if they stay till we draw I will send  
you some money.

So I must close by saying good by my love for this  
time hoping to see you again.

R. E. Plummer

Nov. 8, 1862  
Mitchelsville, Tennessee

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. My health is tolerable. I'm a good deal lame in my right foot and have been ever since we left Crab Orchard but I am now getting better. We have marched one hundred and 25 miles since we left that place and almost 90 miles of that I was not able to march with the regiment. I received your very welcome letter last Wednesday and was very glad to hear from you that you was all well but would be a good deal glader to see you. It grieved me to hear that you had not received any letters from me for so long. I wrote four or five in that time to you. I have never missed but one week since I've been in the service to the best of my knowledge and sometimes wrote two a week. But I hope the time will not be long till we will be permitted to see each other again and enjoy each others society and when the wanted peace will be restored to our government again and when the boys may all joyfully return to their homes. O that God may speed the day when right and righteousness will prevail and when righteousness may cover the earth as the waters cover the channel of the deep. I hope these few lines may come to hand and find you all well. The health of our regiment is only tolerable. The measles, mumps, typhoid and camp

fever is the chief complaints of our regiment. We are ordered to march Nov. 9. We have marched about 20 miles yesterday and today. I still remain well except my feet are both sore but I marched with the regiment. We are now camped near the railroad, ordered to move immediately.

Nov. 11, 1862  
Gallatin, Tenn.

I again seat myself to conclude my letter. We have moved six miles and are camped again. I am still well and I hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I have wrote this a good deal by the patch and must conclude. Do not think hard if you do not get letters often. Know we are now where we are hard put to it to get paper and may not get to write as often as usual. I have a great many more things I would like to write but have not time or room. So I must bid you fairwell. Take care of yourself. Write soon and often. Let me know how you all are. Give my love to all, reserve a good share for yourself. Tell them to write and let me know how they all are and what the news is for we don't get much here.

Respectfully yours,

John Truex

Nov. 24, 1862 A. D.

Mrs. Catharine Truex

Dear Wife,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present with the exception of my left foot its quite lame, but hope these few lines will come to hand and find you in good health. I have not heard from you for a long time. I want to hear from you very bad and would like much better to see you but must content myself by writing and will not repine. I am doing very well. We have got our tents and our coats and am looking every day for our blankets. We are pretty well fixed for winter. Don't be uneasy about me. I am doing very well about as well as if I was at home except family and religious privileges. We've had a fine spree of taking seashaish property. Last Saturday Cos D & G took 5 or 7 hundred dollars worth provisions & other things valuable to us. We have been in fine spirits thinking the war would soon be ended. The rebels is very tired of it & was quite much discouraged when we first came to Tennessee but since the election has went off & the strife of the north has got scattered abroad I think I can see hope spring up in their countenance. They seem sasyer and many of our soldiers have been somewhat discouraged. One thing I feel safe in saying the

strife that's been and yet is manifest in the north has & will cause more deaths than all the south. I thought it before I came here and now it is confirmed more fully in my mind from what I've seen & heard. Tell the people for me if they won't help us to not kill us. I think if they knew what I know, they would pursue a different course for I do know that every word spoken against our government or administration, if known in the south, causes the war longer & hotter & but little said but what they know and the story gets more favorable to them against it reaches them. I am sorry there is so much strife & division in the north for if they had been united the war would have been ended before this time I think, but I think if not too much opposed, we will conquer and close the war against spring. I hope the God of battles will be with us and guide us to His home and glory. I still say that I am traveling toward the better land. We still remain near Gallatin, guarding the R. R. I have many things to write if I had room but I hope the time will not be long till I'll be permitted to come home and tell you all about it. No more at present but remain your affectionate husband until death.

John Truex

Nov. 24, 1862 A. D.  
Gallatin, Tenn.

Mr. Thomas Truex,

Son, I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present. Hoping these few lines will find you and all of the family well. I want you to be a good boy and obey your mother. Stay at home. Tend the farm. The support of the family lies mostly on you and your mother and above all things live religious, lay up your treasures in heaven, that if you see me no more on earth you may meet me in heaven. Son, remember that without holiness of heart none can reach that happy shore. I would be glad to see you all but must content myself for awhile by writing. Hoping the time not far distant when we may enjoy each others society again around the fireside. I have not heard from Joseph Skinner for a long time and would be glad to hear from him. I want you to let me know whether you have or not and how he is if you know. Children, obey your mother, be kind one to another. I say to you all live religious. I must close my short letter by saying children remember your affectionate father. Meet me in the heavenly world. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends.

Yours affectionately,

John Truex

Dec. 1, 1862  
Camped near  
Gallatin, Tenn.

My Love,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines in answer to your two letters of the 20 th & 22 to let you know how I am getting along. I am not very well today. I have been troubled with my old complaint disease for about 4 days but not severe. I have been able to knock around all the time and I'm a little better this evening. You must not be uneasy about me. I have had my health better since I've been in the service than I've had for 2 years past. Well, I suppose you've heard that John Pender is dead. He died a faithful servant of God and his country. The health of our regiment is rather poor. James and Elzy Wever is sick. I think James is not long for this world. He took cold and settled on his lungs. We think they've both taking the measles. Well, you said Nathen Huffman would clear that field for one crop if you would board him. You wanted to know what I think about it. Well, if he will clear it and take off his crop in proper time and not be lying round boarding off you and doing nothing. I think it would best be the thing you could do but bind him to do it in a certain time and not give him more than one year to do it in, not 2 or 3 or 4 or when he pleases.

You know how we have been bit by others on similar occasions but I suppose he will be honorable. Well, you said Bro. Elledge was trying to get the 2 classes together again. Well it would be very consoling to me to hear of them coming together again except John R. Wilson. I would advise all the brothern for Gods sake keep him out while you are rid of trouble. So he was the cause of nearly ruining the class once, don't let him have another opportunity of doing so again. For if it had not have been for the trouble that he caused me to have I would not have been in the army today, for I thought perhaps it might relieve me of the trouble that was caused by the partiality that was showed toward him that caused the dissolution of our class. Well, we have no direct war news to tell you although I could give you a sack full of camp news and camp lies is flying around here thicker than cow flies in Indiana. Yes, I had almost forgotten to tell you that Richard Plummer is well and hearty and tell old Father Aults folks that Martin is well and well satisfied and all the rest of the boys from salt creek is well except Wevers two boys, for Elza has got the measles and James is taking them too. So no more but still remain your husband until death. Give my best respects to all but reserve a good share for yourselves. Write soon. Yes, send me all the thread in your next lrtter.

J Truex

Dec. 7, 1862 A. D.  
Camp near Gallatin  
Sumner Co., Tenn.

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present. Hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing. I received 2 letters from you a few days past, of the 20 & 27 th. The first for 3 weeks. Now I've just received one of the 13 th of Nov. and one from A. Foreman. I was glad to hear from you that you was all well. I was not well when I received the 20 th & 27 th but now enjoy good health. I have not been bad sick since I've been in service. The health of the regiment is very poor. There has been several deaths in our regiment this week. The boys are dying off very fast. I think its caused by our hard marching and exposure. Don't be uneasy about me, if I get sick I'll let you know. We have but little war news here except camp news, which is of no account. It would be a great satisfaction to me to see you all once more. But I must content myself by writing. You can not imagine the satisfaction it gives me to hear from you nor how I want to see you but if I never enjoy that privilege again, I hope you will forgive my many follies that has so often disturbed your peace. The time will not be long at fartherest if faithful, till God will say: its enough, come up here. It may be my lot to

fall in the army but I feel that all is right if I do. But I'm not afraid of being shot by a rebel. I believe the God of battles, in whom I trust, will protect me. I have no fears of the enemy. I believe our cause is a good one and as long as I have praying friends I, with full faith, believe I'll not be slain by the enemy. Sickness may take me home to rest from labors to reward. But fall where I may I feel that all is well. Brother J. M. Wevers sons are both sick and in the hospital. I think James will never recover. Joseph Cauver is sick, was left at Bowling Green, Ky., have not heard from him since. I just came down from the hospital and James is very low and must die if left there. Elzy is bad off. Please send word to Brother Cauver and Wever. We have no special war news reliable. We've plenty of camp news. R. E. Plummer is well and I believe well satisfied as most of the soldiers. I say most of the soldiers for I believe most of them would rather be at home if they could, with our union restored and government again enjoying peace. May God speed the time when peace may again be restored. Will you pray for it and for me and all the soldiers? The Lord in His word says the prayer of faith shall save the sick.

And will prayer prevail in behalf of our government.  
Give my best respects to all inquiring friends  
especially Brothers Elledge and Plummer and family,  
Spaldings and family, P. Moore and family and I  
can't tell who all. Father Carmichael and all of  
the brothern and all the M. E. Brothern. Tell  
Brother Carmichael that Amos is well. Please send  
me a little thread in your letters. A few thread  
in each, only a few in each, they will not make  
much bulk. No more at present.

Yours with a husbands love

John Truex

to

Catharine Truex

Excuse my scribbling and mistakes.

Dec. 22, 1862  
Nashville, Tenn.  
Davidson County

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present for which I have every reason to thank God. Hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing. We are now camped near the place above said, Nashville. Well now I will say to you I received a letter that Marion Plummer fetched and was very thankful to the Lord to hear from you and to hear that you all was well. I am truly glad and thankful for this blessing which the Lord gave me and it found me in reasonable health and for which I will ever give Him praise. His mercies has no end to them that love Him. We left Gallatin the 16, the same day that Marion Plummer left for home. We left about 1 o'clock and landed about dawn the next morning. We camped about one mile from the town, Nashville. This is the finest and the nicest town I have seen and the best country, the best land, all looks mighty well. Some of the finest buildings I ever seen. If this war was over I would like to talk to the citizens here about this country but as this thing called rebel is in the way for I don't like them and they don't like us but they have to like us now because they can't help themselves. There is a good many of rebels around here but they have to keep still. We went on Grand Parade today for Grand Inspection. It was a

grand scene. All of our brigade was present only those that was sick. Our brigade is the first composed of 5 regiments and 4 present and passed the scene all right on the roar. The General's Staff inspected us. I received that money that you sent to me by Plummer. I received 5 dollars and it didn't come amiss for I wanted it very bad for we all was out of money. We think we will draw before long. The health of the regiment is not very good at this time. Some is a quitting, better we can't muster now about 350 able for duty. The regiment took or got the measles in it and our company got them in it and we can't muster only about 30 for duty and when we left we could muster 75 all the time until we got to the Crab Orchard then our company began to fail. We had to march so hard and the dust was so awful bad. This was the worst but I think it is at the worst. Some of the boys is at Gallatin in the hospital. I think they will be up in a few days. We are looking for a grand battle in a few weeks. I was in hopes it was all done but I can't tell when this war will end. I sometimes think it is done but then I begin to think it will last till the 3 years but I hope it won't. I want you to write if the Weavers boys has got home or not. I heard they had but not certain. I can't tell hardly what to write to interest you more than I have. I still aim, by the blessing of God, to meet you in heaven, this is all that buoyes me up in all the travels and troubles and hardships that I have to go through

while I am here in this lonesome state or unpleasant life for a christian man, but I think it is better for me than the ungodly or the unrighteous for I am prepared to die when the Lord calls me hence. Now my dear wife and children and friends and brethren in Lord and His church, I want all of you to pray for me while I am a far a way from you that I may be able to come home if the Lord be willing and through His mercy I hope to meet you on earth again. I long to meet you and shake hands once more for this we must pray earnestly. The time passes by swiftly. Now I will tell you something of a soldiers life. The first is when we are wakened by the drum and fife, five o'clock in the morning, fall in line of battle in the time of five minutes or less time. We must lay with our clutterment by us nor mustn't mix them with anyone else's so we can fall in line quick, then to stack arms and then to quarters and keep on our rigging until ordered here then we spend an hour in telling tails or talk about home or something else to pass off the time then all at once the drum will beat then in the line the colonel will holler double quick time, then to quarters get breakfast, then guard mount, then drill two hours in the forenoon, then dinner, then after eating drill again, this making 4 hours per day besides other duties. So this is all right enough for our health and to make us better soldiers and to be better able to fight when needed and to fight with some skill.

So drilling is all right. I write it to let you know what there is to do and what must be done. Now this is a hard life in some cases then we see some good times with the bad. A soldier, he must keep jovial not down hearted nor grieve after loved ones at home. He must bannish this or as much as he can but this is hard for me to do for I love you dearly and this is a hard trial and a hard place but while it is hard I will make it easy in all cases I will bear it and try to lead others along in the right way. I will say something about Plummer. He is about like common as far as health is concerned. We all have a fine time here a talking. Plummer, he has his way. This keeps us alive when we would be dead or down hearted. If he wouldn't nor couldn't be here then we would be lost if he was gone. This is the times here. Plummer is well and wishes you all well, give his love to all. I have filled this nearly up and now I am at a loss what to write. Our brave has gone a foraging today. We aim to live off of them as much as we can. I believe we ought to take more than we do but we will make good our time more than we have done and I hope that we will take all from them. This I think would bring the war to a close quicker than anything else. We guard them too close. This is my opinion. I hope that our men will quit that way of doing but take all and more too if we can get it and that would be my way but I can't have my way in this matter but I give my

opinion and I wish how quick this war will end I will do all I can to bring it to a close. I will fight when needed and take all I can get prisoners or any way else to do honor to my country and my God if necessary I will pray and do all that is in my power for my beloved country and to my friends that I have left behind to mourn over my absence. Now don't grieve after me, if the Lord be willing we will meet again in this world, if not we will meet I trust in heaven where we will meet to part no more. So I want you to hold out faithful unto the end for at the end of the raise is the promise: life eternal. This is a great blessing the Lord has promised to them that does his will while here below. So I will say to you and all serve the Lord while you live. So I will bring this to a close requesting you to write when this you receive. Give my love to all inquiring friends. So no more at this time. But still remain

Your loving husband  
until death

John Truex

Dec. 22, 1862  
Camp near  
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Son,

I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present. Hoping these few lines may come to hand and find you all well and doing well. I would like to see you all once more very well but don't know when I can. Duty seems to demand my service here and God only knows whether I ever will be permitted to return home again or not but I hope I shall return safe and sound. I received a letter from your mother and was glad to hear from you but would rejoice more to see you but I must content myself till my time comes. I want you to be good to your mother and the family and attend to the affairs of the farm well and try to lay up something for yourself so that if we get back near Louisville you can come and see us and spend a few days with us and of a few dry jokes to cheer us up. Now Thomas I will tell you we have had pretty hard times since we've been in the service. The 82 nd has been trotted through. You was anxious to come in army but you may be glad you did not for you could not stand it. Our regiment has gone down a great deal since we left Louisville. Our company numbered 87 when we left and now we can only muster about 30 and balance of companies about in

proportion. I have stood the trip about as well as any of the boys. I will tell you it takes the stoutest of men to stand the service, for the young can not stand it though they are ever so hearty. There was Elza Weaver, he took sick and was started home but I do not know whether he got farther than Louisville or not. It would do you good to see this country for it is so beautiful. If I had a farm here and my family with me and the negroes was all on the other side of Jordan, I would like to live here the best kind. Thomas, I am sorry that George will not let you go a sparking. You had better wait till he gets big enough to go along with you then there will be no trouble about it. Now Thomas, as my time is growing short to write for we are ordered to be ready to march at daylight and it is now that time of the day I am looking to have to start every moment so I will give you some advice before I close. I want you to always respect and honor your mother so that if I never get back you may be a help to her in her old age and above all things remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Oh, how I would like to hear of you joining the church and devoting your time to the service of God that if I never see you on earth again may I have a prospect of embracing you as my son in the Lord on the other shore. Remember these as if they were my last words. So no more at this time but ever remembering you in my prayers.

Your father,  
John Truex

Dec. 27, 1862  
Tenn.

Dear Wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. Well, I can say that I am well at present and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I received yours of the 12 th on the 22 nd and was glad to hear from you that you was all well. I am glad to hear that you are getting along so well and your industry in getting the corn gathered, but sorrow to hear that Brother Shoemaker has acted so inconsistent in letting the pigs destroy that at his house. He ought to have more respect for a brother than that, especially one that sacrificed his life for his interest as well as theirs, and the bargain was closed in the buckwheat trade for that was about the last he said was about that. But let him have it and only try the harder to get him to live religious for I had rather give it all to him than for him not to live religious, I may never see him again. And I may not see him any more on earth. Tell him for me to be prepared to meet me again in the better land. I am indeed both sorrow and vext to hear of the degraded hate of that Tlafferd class, it is a pity that they would go so far. They ought to think that it is not only a scandle to them but it is a disgrace to the cause of God, and a shame to a neighborhood for people to profess to be