

I did not leave Camp, as I never do, or very seldom. Pack up and start is the word and about 11 o'clk, we moved off for "Grant's Ford" on the Pearl River to intercept the rebs. Marched some ten miles and rested while the Pioneers went forward to build a bridge. But soon came the order (Sat. morn) to move, and we went "across [??]" at this point where we arrived last eve just before dark, some ten miles from yesterday morning's Camp. It is expected we leave today for somewhere, we hope "up the river." From all accounts the Rebel Army is demoralized and dispersed, and news keeps coming of successes, which we receive with caution. This morning, "they say," Charleston, S.C. is ours!

Well, my Allie, can you realize what a tiresome, busy time we're having? Our stop near J.[Jackson??] gave me an opportunity of [??] up as I had lacked appetite for some days before, but altho' "hard tack" is scarce (we've been on "half rations" since we came here) we have an abundance of fresh meat, (as they drive the cattle along and butcher every night), and we manage to procure plenty of corn, and roast or boil it, and a few potatoes. The change proved an excellent thing for me, and I am feeling as well as I have at any time.

We are now camped beside the railroad, on a level plain with thick grass and woods on the rear. It is cloudy and cool and very comfortable. Now there are many questions I ought to answer. I have written to Dan P.[.] Jamestown. Had a letter from Bowen a few days since. Said it had been received but they couldn't make him (Dan) write his friends. Did not speak very encouraging[ly] of him (D). Had a nice letter from Charles Smith on Fri. when we got in from Picket. Tell him I got the "Liberator" (Garrison's Papers) while on the Morgan scout in Ky. I have every reason to believe I receive, "after a while", all my mail matter and what a comfort. But, now we are constantly on the move, and get very tired and cannot write all I desire to. You will readily see the state of the [??].

Jos. H. came to see me yesterday. He is well, but has been "driven to death" of late is driving for the 79th N.Y. Regt. 3rd Brigade (we're the 1st). Said he had had no time to write home for many days. I try, and do write his folks as often as I can. He is all right and well and more manly than ever. Wrote to Billerica on a day or two ago. I write them regularly. Shall write to Foster's family again soon, wrote them just before we crossed the "Big Black." Am delighted with the photographs of Kate and Ellen, excellent. Wish I had your own.

Of Alonzo, he is well, and bears his work finely and I see him almost every hour. So, his friends can consider him as well, up and doing and rides a fine "bay" horse, and yesterday had a pretty "bouquet" hanging to his sword hilt, where obtained I know not.

Well, Allie, I must close for now for I want to wash up and get some water for our canteen, so to be ready. Here is a sketch of my shelter this morning. Here you see me, rubber blanket pitched with guns and sticks and so with you a Kiss adieu

Jerome

P.S. There are some pretty flowers here.

Prairie flowers. The purple fade[s] out if I attempt to press them. I enclose some pink, very pretty, as they look in the field. Hope they reach you in good condition.

J[Jerome]

We think it a good joke feeding on Jeff's Corn.

P.S. 2nd Noon The men have come in and we go to Jackson this P.M. Have just got hold of a book by Mary Howitt for children which I shall try and send home to Lulu, a pretty book with pictures. 'Twas got at Jackson. Don't say much for I may have to leave it. Had boiled corn, peach sauce and meat for dinner. Rumor says, five of Johnson's Regts. came in and gave themselves up today. A mail is awaiting us at J. [Jackson]. Very hot today.

Transcriber's Note: This is the end of page 6. The text does not seem to follow. Perhaps some text is missing. The following is the start of page 7.

And Capt. S. is hardly expected to recover. Oh, it is a sad time, but as you said in yours, before this, I am in the hands of the good father and so far have been spared marvelously, for I am quite, yes, very well indeed, only a little weak, and languid from the heat, but appetite is good. I rode on teams [of horses], and had my things carried the last two days. Did not allow myself to get fatigued. Now, I hope we will soon be further North and I shall take a furlough the first favorable chance.

Dear little Lulu. I thought she was in perfect health! Do take care of her, perhaps the salt water air will be good for her. I send her some little pictures from the "S.[Sabbath] School Gazette". Allie, this is a poor scrawl but have got much to attend to today, for we are all in a poor condition. after the long, dusty marches. I have often told you not to be alarmed at my long silence, so I trust you have not been so. I have always tried to keep my letters to you often and regular but it was impossible to do differently this time. Thanks to sister Abbie for the contents of her letter.

Yours, once more, and ever

Jerome

P.S. Ben E. [Edmands] has come in, and brought some ripe figs! Delicious! I wish you could taste! Says he hopes he will not do anything to influence me to your grief. Sends regards.