

Camp, Saturday August 15th 1863

Dear Mother

Mr. & myself rec^d your and Fathers welcome epistles, of the 8th, last Thursday. The Box arrived this morning, all "O.K.". contents highly appreciated. Rec^d yours of the 2nd on the 6th. You must excuse me for not writing before, have started several times, and it was so very hot, would get sleepy & quit. Wrote you on the 11th and was in hopes it would reach you before the box left but it seems it did not. You see; a day or two after writing for the drawers; we drew (clothing) and I got two pair (Drie). But it does not make much difference can send them back if do not otherwise dispose of them. I have some extra clothing, which I shall express before leaving this place. Dont trouble yourself about any more socks as we both have enough for the present. Expect to send for my under clothes in the fall (also Boots); cant tell yet exactly what will suit. If there is to be an increase of business at Portland; think there ought to be an improvement in the railroad, or some way contrived to ship corn &c easier. how will it be about stealage? think there will be considerable risk in that. As to Mr or myself being detailed as clerk; impossible. There was an order rec^d here a day or two ago "taking

all able bodied checks from the Quartermaster dept, and putting
disabled soldiers in their places." but they are going to get
around it some way, most of them being relatives, or friends
of the Quartermaster. I forgot about Mr. & Mrs. Child, above
in the right place. He don't like the stripe of the
bed tick, wants something better, and wants it colored.
if you can get some small striped or checked homespun and
make two, would do better than any. When I spoke to him
about it, he hesitated a long time, but finally came to the
conclusion "better let Dinah make a couple as she has
nothing else to do". Gen. Boyle must have had a hot
very time waiting for the Militia. Our horses are now get-
ting better fast than they have heretofore, and are improving
fast. I sent a hachure paper (an old one) with a letter
enclosed in same wrapper about two weeks ago let me
know if you received them. I believe there is a little
skirmishing going on down about Bridgeport very few
heard cannon in that direction last night about 12 o'clock
the enemy is feeling his way down there. "Recognition" and
"Divine intervention" seem to have died out again, I have
not put much reliance on them at any time. I don't like
this service much, pretty much the same as it was in

Review plenty duty and fight. we are on duty every other day, now, when there is no prospect of an engaged-forsores time. It is one of the easiest positions in the army (Escorts). (Carrying papers around for the big boys makes a man hate to acknowledge his command).

16th - Appear to get set out and quit - = could try and finish this time. But returned from church: There has been a great improvement in the building since the army came here. There is a contribution taken every Sunday for that purpose. I have some fine music which I like very much. There are two ministers officiating, neither very talented. There are several eminent - divine men, sprung from Yankee-land. Dr. Mc Ferson (M. & Church) from Nashville among them. Also Dr. Palmer from New Orleans of the (Presbyterian Church). I saw, in the Montgomery Advertiser, an advertisement signed by W. T. Kinross offering for sale his place one mile below Elm Bluff ~~to~~ with Fadder C. thought it belonged to Fountain (don't understand it -) how does it work? There is considerable sickness in the way of dysentery, nearly every body has had a touch of it. Four of our co. were in hospital. That dept (Hospitaler

medical) is in the best condition, the hospitals
are all as neat, clean, and comfortable, as any private home
so that the sick, who usually have a horror of the
place, go without the least hesitation. We had
Dr. Rykin started when his mare was drowned,
a good horse is a very heavy loss now a days. Mr.
Rykin was a little funny, as you see in fine health &
spirits. I thought Sam Choo was too much inclined
to Prescott to turn him off; what is now any way,
tell Herbert that I am very glad he is so well,
& hope he will come, and help me soldier before
long. Pres's duty mail could not have lasted long,
what was the reason? I was in hopes it would
be a permanent thing. What do you do for a penny
or has the flat been raised? There is a set of 14
male harness over at the store which ought to
be sold some time, mention it to father. The boys
are having a pleasant time at Starks Camp. You
what do you drive six your travels back & forth?
It takes Billy long a long time to get up here. Has Colin
Rykin gone to Tuscaloosa yet. Sam Frank is about right
what is he going to do. Love my love to all, Donkin includ-
ed of course. Do affectionately Alex

Camp; Saturday August 15th 1863,

Dear Mother

J. W. & Myself recd yours and Fathers welcome epistles, of the 8th, last Thursday. The Box arrived this morning all "OK". contents highly appreciated. Recd yours of the 2nd on the 6th. You must excuse me for not writing before have, started several time, and it was so very hot would get sleepy & quit. Wrote you on the 4th and was in hopes it would reach you before the box left but it seems it did not. You see; a day or two after writing for the drawers; we drew (clothing) and Ive got two pair (Drill). But it does not make much difference can send them back if do not otherwise dispose of them. I have some extra clothing, which I shall express before laving this place. Dont trouble yourself about any more socks as we both have enough for the present. Expect to send for my under clothes in the fall (also Boots); cant tell yet exactly what will want. If there is to be an increase of business at Portland; think there ought to be an improvement in the railroad, or some way contrived to ship com &c easier. how will it be about stealage? think there will be considerable risk in that. As to JW or myself being detailed as clerk; imposible. There was an order recd here a day or wo ago "taking all able bodied clerks from the QMaster dept, and putting disabled soldiers in their places." but they are going to get around it some way; most of them being relatives, or favorites of the Quarter Masters. I forgot about JW's shirts above in the right place. He dont like the stripe of the bed tick. wants something lighter, and wants it colored. if you can get some small striped or checked homespun and make two, would do better than any. When I spoke to him about it; he hesitated a long

time, but finally came to the conclusion, "better let Dinah make a couple as she has nothing else to do." Gen. Bogle must have had a hot & dry time waiting for the Militia. Our horses are now getting better feeds than they have heretofore, and are improving fast. I sent a Nashvill paper (an old one) with a Rebel enclosed in same wrapper about two weeks ago. let me know if you received them. I believe there is a little skirmishing going on down about Bridge Port every day, heard cannon in that direction last night about 12 oclock. the enemy is feeling his way down there. "Recognition" and "Foreign intervention" seem to have died out again, I have not put much reliance on them, at any time. I dont like the service much, pretty much the same as it was in Florida plenty duty & no fight. we are on duty every other day, now, when there is no prospect of an engagement. It is one of the easist positions in the army (Escorts). (Carrying papers around for the big bugs. makes a man hate to acknowledge his comand).

16th As usual got hot & tired and quit-will try and finish this time. Just returned from church; There has been a great improvement in the building since the army came here. There is a contribution taken up every Sunday for that purpose. Have some fine music which I like very much. There are two ministers officiating, neither very talanted. There are several eminent divines here, refugees from yankee-land. Dr McFerrin (M E Church) from Nashville among them. also Dr Palmer from New Orleans of the (Presbitinar Church.) I saw, in the Montgomery Advertiser, an advertisment signed by N F Kenan offering for sale his place one mile below Elm Bluff with Fodder &c. thought it belonged to Fountain (dont understand it) how does it work? There is considerable sickness in the way of dysentary, nearly every body has had a tough

of it. four of our co. now in hospital. That dept (hospital or medical) is in the best condition. the hospitals are all as neat, clean, and comfortable as any private house so that the sick, who usually have a horror of the place, go without the least hesitation. Where had Dr Boykin started when his mare was drowned? a good horse is a very heavy loss now a days. J W who was a little puny, is now in fine health & spirits. I thought Sam Oliver was to much in debt to Prescott to turn him off; what is now anyway. Tell Herbert that I am very glad he is so tall; & hope he will come, and help me soldier before long. daily mail could not have lasted long. What was the reason? I was in hopes it would be permanent thing^a what do you do for a ferry or has the flat been raised? There is a sett of 4 mule harness over at the store which ought to be sold some time, mention it to Father. I hope you are having a pleasant time at Starke Olivers place. what do you drive in your travels back & forth? It takes Billy Lang a long time to get up here. Has Colin Boykin gone to Tuscaloosa yet. Sam Frank is about eighteen what is he going to do. Give my love to all, Darkies included of course.

Yours affectionately Alex