

5- 8th

much of an ability in letter writing
& especially in regard to the proper
connection of subjects, but take
them as the fellow did the cake at
the wedding, (as he can do it)
and also as I ^{was} most forcibly struck
with the fact that Religion & the
Grace of God in the heart of the
most illiterate serves to enlighten
him & thereby enables him to enter
into the world by his eloquence &
hold a large audience spellbound
for hours at a time. I will tell
you of the meeting. I was sitting in
my tent trying to pen a few interes-
ting lines to you for you. Now I
desire to interest you, & it was
vain, but the sun was trying
to disperse the clouds by his genial
rays, when the bugler sounded the
Call for church. I immediately
dropped my pen & went to church.

After agreeing at Church & the usual
 preliminaries before opening the
 meeting regularly, such as singing of
 hymns &c. A man by the name of
 Stewart, a private in Co. C. of our
 Regt arose & very timidly addressed
 a few remarks to the audience
 gave out his hymn sing & prayer
 After prayer he again arose &
 read a chapter from the New
 Testament & then from the Chapt
 two verses as a foundation for
 an exhortation. He at first seemed
 embarrassed very much but I thought
 I saw something interesting in his
 countenance & soon became interested
 in his discourse. He too soon became
 interested & as he went on arguing
 the subject, he became more eloquent
 And I don't believe I have
 heard an exhortation or sermon
 more interesting than his was
 today

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The strangest thing to me was that although the man was almost illiterate entirely, I noticed that he made no grammatical errors, if I am any judge of such things. So powerful is the operation of the Spirit of God upon the heart of man that it ever gives him a tongue to speak with elegance & a true knowledge of the subject of his discourse. I this morning had it proven to me by an ocular demonstration that God had chosen the weak things of this world to confound the strong. It was indeed a most interesting meeting & I believe all were benefited. A young man who was present just remarked that he never saw a more interesting meeting. May such demonstrations as this prove to be omniens of good to us in the future.

The deep toned & muttering thunder
of Heavens artillery admonishes me
to prepare for a coming storm
We have ^{had} nothing but rain for the
last 30 hours. The ground is compact
saturated with water. The few tired
soldiers who essay to sally forth from
their wet & muddy tents or log huts
put me in mind of a gamecock
walking from beneath the kitchen
to the barn yard & from there
back to his retreat under the
kitchen or perhaps with down cast
tail & outstretched neck he tries to
coax a few old hens to the ground
to scratch for a living. But there is
some difference in his feelings to
the soldiers, for while the cock is
praying for good meat the soldier
is rejoicing in bad, because he
knows that it is a prolongation
of military inactivity or that every rainy
day puts off the evil day, that much longer

5th

Much of an adept in letter writing & especially in regard to the proper connection of subjects, but take them as the fellow did the cake at the wedding (as he came to it) and also as I ^{was} most forcibly struck with the fact that Religion & the Grace of God in the heart of the most illiterate serves to enlighten him & thereby enables him to astonish the world by his Eloquence & hold a large audience spellbound for hours at a time. I will tell you of the meeting. I was sitting in my tent trying to pen a few inters
ting lines to you for you know I desire to interest you, & it was raining, but the sun was trying to disperse the clouds by his genial rays, when the bugler sounded the Call for church. I immediately dropped my pen & went to church

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6th

After arriving at church & the usual preliminaries before opening the meeting regularly, such as singing of hymns &c. A man by the name of Stewart, a private in Co E, of our Regt arose & very timidly addressed a few remarks to the audience gave out his hymn sung & prayer After prayer he again arose & read a chapter from the New Testament & chose from the chapter two verses as a foundation for an exertation. He at first seemed embarrassed very much but I though I saw something interesting in his countenance & soon became interested in his discourse. He too soon became interested & as he went on arguing the subject, he became more eloquent. And I dont believe I have heard an exertation or Sermon more interesting than his was today

The strangest thing to me was that although the man was almost illiterate entirely, I noticed that he made no gramatical errors, if I am any judge of such things . So powerful is the operations of the Spirit of God upon the heart of man that it even gives him a tung to speak with eloquence & a true knowledge of the subject of his discourse. I this morning had it proven to me by an occular demonstration that God had chosen the weak things of this world to con found the strong. It was indeed a most interesting meeting & I believe all were benefited. A young man who was present has just remarked that he never saw a more inters ting meeting. May such demonstration as this prove to be ominous of goo to us in the future

The deep toned & muttering thunder of Heavens artillery admonishes me to prepare for a coming Storm We have ^{had} nothing but rain for the last 38 hours. The ground is completely saturated with water. The few tired soldiers who essay to sally forth from their wet & muddy tents or log huts puts me in mind of a gamecock walking from beneath the kitchen to the barn yard & from thence back to his retreat under the kitchen or perhaps with down cast tail & outstretched neck he tries to coax a few old hens to the grove to scratch for a living. But there is some diference in his feelings & the soldiers, for while the cock is praying for good weather the soldier is rejoicing in bad, because he knows that it is a prolongation of military inactivity & that Every rainy day puts of the Evil day that much longer