

REV. AND MRS ABBOTT AND LYDIA HANK TO MACK

Tuesday Jan 10 1865

Dear friend Henry Your last was recvd last Saturday and we were glad to hear from you and that you were getting along so well and hope you may get your discharge and return home we shall be exceeding glad to see you here and hope we may yet have the privilege Mother Hank is here yet and would be very glad of your company to Jackson but dont run any risk by Starting too soon lest you get a backset we have enouraging news from the army of Sherman he is on a perfect rampage and will probably reach Charleston this week and Gen Thomas has cleaned out Tennessee and Gen Burbridge has thrashed Breckinridge in North western Virginia Gen price of Arkansas has died and nearly all the Souther[n] railroads are torn up and Lee's cattle market from Texes Florida and Alabama cut off and the rebellion was never pressed before as it is now and over thousands fallen and desolated housholds all over the land the star of hope and the bow of promise begin to rise and give connsiderable assurance that the day of promise is dawning upon the country and rebellion probably will never be tried again here write to us often and keep us posted how you get along and what your prospects are for a dis charge and what rout you will take in coming home

We rather think we shall go to Michigan next fall but in these days of sudden chang we can hardly predict what will come to pass in that length of time Good bye for this time A & M Abbott

Dear brother this morning finds us all well except colds but that has become a naturel circumstance amongst us and we are getting pretty well used to it I do hope you will get your discharge and get to go home O that poor Alvin could come to I would be so glad if I could onely know whare he is I think every monday will I get any word by saturday knight but as yet I know nothing about it but I do hope and pray I may yet hear from him little Gardner is a perfect chatter box he is so much company for me I dont know how I would pass the time without him. we have had a few days of nice winter wether but it commenced to rain last knight and is raining this morning and the streets is a perfect slop I received a letter from nan last friday they was all well when she rote little gardner is at my elbo teasing to write to his papa poor little fellow he knows nothing about it I was glad to hear you was getting along so well but I should think you would suffer a great deal. O how glad we will all be to see you I told mother I didnt expect you would stay long enough to see how you looked if you come hear before you went to Jackson but we will try and be satesfide with any kinde of a visit so we get to see you I will close good by from your sister Lydia Hank. pray for me.

Henry Ewing

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Note: I might say here that I used to hear it said that Rev. Ambrose Abbott was personally acquainted with Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton. I believe it is a fact that Secretary Stanton hailed from Steubenville.

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Note: The letter was sent from Steubenville, Ohio, to Mack at Jarvis Hospital. The Secretary was born in Steubenville in 1814; he died in 1869.

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