

ROBERT McDOUGALL TO MACK

Camp Benton

Feb the 5th/62

Worthy friend Hank

I was so fortunate as to receive your very sentimental Epistle, yesterday and was very happy to here that you are well. I am sorry to here you say your are lonesom. I wish I could be there a night or two I think I could enjoy the time well. I am sure I cannot see eny reason why you should be so. there you are you can see your lady love as often as you want to, and I am sure you are not lonesom when you have her in your arms, I tell you hank I pity my gall if ever I got hold of her, but no matter now. I think there is young men enough left at home to preserve the old costums yet. I am real vexed to here of E. Lewis's misfortune. I hope he will soon get better. I amglad to here that Cy Lewis is geting fat I should like to get a letter from him some time I hav to laugh when I read about JS Fiffield giveing it to Jess. I guess it will learn him to take a joke, but you dont say eny thing of his lordships amiable sons. I suppose they are doeing their biggest with the girls now while there is no one to bother them and there is the smiths let me know if they are alive and well I dont know what to say to you Hank that is of much importance but I will try and fill this sheet if it is with blackmarks. it is raining now we have plenty of mud now, prety easy times. am on guard a bout every other day. there is nuthing talked of about the Col but hatred and threats he is acting the tirant most two much for stubborn volenteers if the boys cus up eny rusticks he makes them ride what we call Colonel grangers hareless mare it is a scantling 2 inches by 21 about 12 feet long on legs about 8 feet high. it makes a severe punishment to have to set up there 2 or 3 hours at a time in a cold or wet night I have heard eny number of the boys say they would shoot him if he du not be carefull. Hank I cannot tell you eny thing about the future I cannot rely on eny thing more than I see. some of the companies has got there revolvers two has got there rifles our company has got nuthing but some old condemned sabres, and I have got mine so that is looks wors than a saw by fencing. I shall have to stop and goto bed so good night.

Feb the 6th Well duffey I guess I will try and finish my scrawl. although I am not in writeing moode, as I have been forking manure this afternoon, and as I am not used to work much it rather leaves my nerves unstrung. we had considerable rain last night this morning it did not look like haveing a fine day. we had orders yesterday to march to town for some reason or ruther, but we did not go we had a battallion drill this four noon. we had to dash through thick and thin. when we came in we was covered from head to heels with durt had a good time cleaning ourselves well hank I cannot think of eny more to say that would interest you I hope I shall be able to tell you more the next time and something that is worth knowing Guss Brown is not very well now he has bean bothered with the sick heart ache for two or three days. John Farquer is all on the nipup [?] This leaves me well and I hope it will find you the same. good by yours truly Robt McDougall Dont forget to write

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Note: There is no envelope with this letter. The paper is imprinted with a rooster crowing, "Up Boys and at 'em!"

WKE 110196