

White River Station

Oct. 2nd, 64

Dear Elizabeth

It is the sabbath to day and I will improve a short time by writing to you. It is needless for me to repeat that we have no church no ministers and indeed there is very little to be seen to indicate a presence of christianity or even of morality in this camp. I dont know that it is to be wondered at however. The great theme of our time is war and it is fast absorbing every thing of a moral nature through the whole country, so much so that at the present progress it will be but a short time before a moral person will be a bye-word in community. Morality in the army is at a discount and immorality at a _____ which I believe has been the fact in all history. During my limited experience I have yet to see a strictly moral man promoted to very high position in the army. Our Regt. was called a model Regt for morality when it came out. We had who was then called the "praying Col" and most of the "line officers" were very strict in this respect to all external appearances, but since that time how things have changed. There has been many promotions made and out of the whole we have one 1st Lieut. in the Regt. who is a model but his influence is very limited. Dont think that I am criticizing my own Regt. or detracting from its what I think fair reputation. I only mention it as one of many if not one of all of the Regts. belonging to the army. War has a demoralizing influence on the majority of men which cannot be denied. But I have written enough on this subject. I would however like to be where I could attend church to day and see something besides the implements of war. We have been and still are having a very quiet easy time here. The weather has been pleasant until the past three days it has been raining. We were woke up about 3 o'clock a few mornings since by a tornado sweeping over us and many of the boys awoke to find their tents missing and themselves exposed to a

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cold rain storm but are expected to meet these slight inconveniences therefore we dont mind much about it.

Weare receiving glorious news from the armies, now and the prospect looks brighter than ever, There is not much doing in our d'p't at present. We hear through the papers that the rebels are making demonstrations in Mo. This will make work for this army.

Julia informs me that she is attending school at Grand Rapids, she wrote nothing about seeing you so I presume you had not been at Byron previous to her writing.

She wrote that a cold winter is expected and that I had better prepare myself accordingly or suffer the slight inconvenience of becoming an iceberg before spring. This is not a very cheering prospect and I am not sure but it would be safer for me to remain in more southern latitudes during the winter months.

I think however I shall try a few days up in that Zone then if I find the climate unbearable to a southerner I can retreat, as I have learned the road to a warmer if not a better country.

My sheet is full and I will close

I am as ever yours truly,

Leonard