

Cairo. Nov. 1st 1863

Dear Elizabeth

Seated in the Cairo Barracks I will give you a short detail of our trip on the cars from Columbus to Cairo. We left Columbus the same day that I mailed your letter and made a slow nights trip arrived in Cin. at about 12'o'clock walked about 3 miles to the Depot of the Ohio & Miss R.R. where we stayed until morning. Friday I spent looking over the Queen City. There is nothing handsome about the city. The most that calls a persons attention in walking through the place is the immense _____ of business ___ on a small area of ground. The streets are very narrow and crowded and the buildings are so high that it seems more like passing between two brick walls than walking on the street of a large city. We left this crowded and noisy place at 8 oclock A.M. on the Ohio & M. R.R. and had not got out of the city before our engine broke down and we waited about two hours for another engine. Shen we started again and went about 30 miles when that engine gave out and we were taken as far as Seymour Ohio by the freight train. We there procured another engine and went along very well with the exception of being detained by other trains until within 5 miles of the white river and 195 miles from Cin.

We were just entering a bridge over a deep ravine when we felt a sudden jar through our car and instantly the cry ran through the train, the cars are off the track.

On springing to the door I found that the two cars immediately in our rear had plunged into the ravine on either side of the track. With sad

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feelings. I went back to the wreck expecting to see a score of my comrades mangled by the cars. Very fortunately however there was only one man seriously injured he died in a few hours. The boys were piled together with guns, knapsacks, seats and stoves but none that were inside the cars were but slightly scratched. The track was cleared and we again on the move at 9 oclock P.M. I slept considerable that night and in the morning found that we had ran only 50 miles when the engine again delayed until 10 o'clock for another engine. When again we began our progress toward our Regts. We passed through some of the most splendid country yesterday I ever saw. Those rolling praires are indeed handsome but I think I should choose timber land for a residence.

We arrived at this place at 12 o'clock and managed to get about 5 hours sleep last night and feel quite revived this morning. I expect we shall start down the river this evening. I will inform you of my whereabouts as after as possible. I scarcely ever ask to be excused for making mistakes and from pencil marks but must do so this time.

With my best wishes for you dear Elizabeth I remain your sincere and affectionate friend.

Leonard