

Camp Chase Ohio

Oct 4th, 63

Dear Friend.

Another week has passed and no move yet.

I have been waiting so long that I have become quite reconciled and feel better contented to stay at this place now than at any time previous; I think however that our stay here will be short.

We drew our arms yesterday they are new Enfield Rifles and it is thought we may need them on our way down the river. I dont apprehend \_\_\_\_\_ much danger on that trip. It was four weeks yesterday since I bade you good bye and started to serve one year more in the army and that year will be one of anxiety to more than one soldier. We look forward with pleasure to the time when we can enjoy the privileges and comforts of civilians once more.

If however the war does not close within that time it may be just as well for us to remain in the service as to go out.

Government is offering old soldiers that have served two years quite an inducement to reenlist for three years. A bounty of \$402 is offered which amounts to \$502 bounty money for the five years service. Many of the boys are accepting the offer and are going to serve their country another term.

I like to see a willingness manifested to go into the army and there will be more recruits found among the old soldiers that have seen two years hard campaigning than can possibly be found among its stay at home not a man for a dollar gentlemen of our free states. I tell the boys that I shall serve my just term before I reenlist and then I shall want a few months to reflect on the subject. My idea on the subject is

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that after three years service we ought to be relieved by new men.

I have rec'd no letters yet since I left Mich. and I fear shall not enjoy that pleasure very soon as the prospect is quite favorable for our leaving this place on the \_\_\_\_\_ and we are all expecting a trip of from one to two months. We will not be likely to receive any mail on our journey. I expect my mail has been detained on the road. I am quite positive that several letters have been sent to me, as I had the assurance of being remembered. We are having very good times at \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ four good fellows with me. We have some very interesting discussions the questions ranging from the most ridiculous to the most serious that ever puzzled the brain of the statesmen or the theologian. I never shall forget the feelings I experienced one evening when one of my comrades a boy of 20, made the assertion that he did not believe in a future world he believed that when a man died that was the end of him. We had been discussing present enjoyment he argued that a man should enjoy himself in the present life as well as he could and that he made no calculations for the future. He however is not well informed and I think upon reflections and study he will change his mind.

This would \_\_\_\_\_ be a dangerous doctrine for me to \_\_\_\_\_. If there was no future world for a man to live in what need would there be \_\_\_\_\_ any \_\_\_\_\_ ones persons feelings. We might \_\_\_\_\_ and a person would be better off than otherwise. I am possessed of a large amount of hope. Take away the future and hope would lose its office and what use would there be in trying to live any longer without hope. I believe there is such a thing as having too much hope thereby losing the present and living nearly altogether in the future and this I admit is the case with myself at times. I believe a person should improve the present

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thereby preparing for the future.

But most of us fail to improve the present to our own benefit. I must close I will offer no excuse for writing so often without any reply believing that you duly appreciate the reason. Hoping to hear from you before leaving Camp I am truly your friend.

Leonard