

**2013.70.52a**

Head qrs 45th Ills Vol Infy

Etowah Bridge June 28th 1864

Dear Mother & Father

You think it is time for me to be writing to you, dont you. I think so to [sic]. My excuse must be that I have had a good deal to do in the last two months, & then I knew that you were hearing from me every day or two through Nellys letters. It is not because I have forgotten that I have a Father & Mother by any means we are all well now & Fixed up comfortable now to stay all Summer if they will let us do so I have a Board Shanty to occupy during the day and rug Tent-put-up in the Rear to sleep in for Furniture. We have a Mahagany [sic] Table, & Walnut Soffa [sic] with the Hair Cover torn off. one cane seated Chair two old Splint-bottomed chairs, straight

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Backed. & for Beds wooden cots. with cotton for Mattrasses [sic]. So you see we are fixed rather comfortable. We get no reliable News from the front every thing is kept in the dark. this we do know, from men who are visiting the front every day that our lines are advancing slowly & it will not be many days before you will get the news that Atlanta is ours. May be another 4th of July affair for our Arms, I hope so. George is doing well looking a little thinner then when we left Home. We are all looking anxiously for a Pay Master to visit us. No money either [armery] Officers or Men I have my mess a/c settled up to the 22nd of this month and have \$2.00 left. 70c of which I will have to pay for 7 pieces of washing sent out this morning but I shall not suffer as long as Davis is here I have reduced my debts \$175.00 since I left Home so my dear

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parents, you see that I am getting rather more economical then usual. Just two months ago to day we left Freeport. Since that time we have seen some of the hardships of a Soldiers Life and but few of its pleasures living on half rations and sleeping on the ground without shelter, but we may be thankfull [sic] for our position here. while our comrads [sic] in front are on short rations. And obliged to remain in Line of battle all the time in the months more I am in hopes to return Home to stay certainly in five. I begin to tire of a Soldiers life. I long to once more return to civil life and the cociety [sic] of my Wife and my family I see no prospect of my ever seeing the Eagle as consolidation is certain and there are many full Colonels

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who wish to remain in the service who will stand the first chance then I think my interests all lie at Home now. three years absence has already given me a distaste for business of all kinds and I fear that a more extended period will entirely unfit me for civil life. Now my dear Parents

remember me to all at Home Love to Nell and believe me now as Ever your affectionate & loving Son

Bert

Write me all the news