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Memphis Tenn Feb 10 / 186[3]

Dear Father and Mother

We were very much surprised yesterday morning by a Gentleman coming to our Camp and inquiring for Capt Sealy and Serent [sic] Blake saying that there were two Sealys down to the River that wanted to see them of corse [sic] we mistrusted who they were but hardely [sic] known how they could get hear [sic] so soon we wer [sic] all in bed when we hard [sic] of them being hear [sic] the Capts boy was blacking his boots and he stoped [sic] him before he had got half through [sic] and was not going to stop to eat any Breakfast but he soon got over his hurry [sic] and stoped [sic] to let the boy finish his boots and for himselfe [sic] eat some breakfast and then went down to meat [sic] them as soon as I got through my Breakfast I got A pass to go down and see them you may be

Page 2

shure [sic] that I was Glad to see Nellie and then wished that I could see you all she unpacked her trunk as soon as I got thare [sic] and gave me the things that you sent me and I was so Glad to get so many good things from home for I had not expected anything as I thought that they would come off in such A hurey [sic] that you would not have time to get any thing redy [sic] for me the Cake and Preserves were very nice the Boys of my squad who shared them with me thought that thare [sic] could not be any thing nicer but I suppose you wonder why I have not spoke about the wine I will tell you Nellie took it out of her trunk and found that it had leaked a little she handed it to me and I sat it down on the floor and as I did so Crack went the bottle and out came the wine all over the floor we felt vary [sic] bad about it but Nellie felt the worse oar [sic] it but I told her not to feal [sic] so bad as I was the onely [sic] luser [sic] but I felt

Page 3

bad enough for I knew that it must of been so good for it smelt [sic] so nice the Hankerchief and socks that you sent I neaded [sic] very much but I have not worn out the first pair of Gloves that Mother sent me yet so you see that we have not had much cold wether [sic] but I feal [sic] just as thankfull [sic] for them as though they done me as much good and I can sell them to some of the boys or send them back until [sic] next winter but I guess that I had better let some of them have them as they nead [sic] them. I took [sic] Brads things to him he is in the Hospittal [sic] Nellie gave me Woodards Watch seh [sic] said that he sent it down hear [sic] for one of us to sell and as I nead [sic] one very much now if he will set A price on it I think that I will keep it myself. you see that we have charge of the guard and the releaf [sic] each stand two hours and when we do not have the time with us it is very unpleasant as

Page 4

some think that they stand longer than the others and then they blame the Sargt for it but they cannot do so when he has A watch so I think that I shall keep it and send him the money the next time that we are paid off whictch [sic] will be some time this month I expect before this reaches you that we shall be

on the boats to go doan [sic] the River at least that is the rumor hear [sic] now but we may not go quite so soon.

Hear [sic] Nellie and Mrs Blake does [prase] up that Baby O they say it is such A nice one and has four bath all redy [sic] I should think it was borne [sic] with teath [sic] now tell Mate that the first chance that she has I want to have her picture with the Baby in her armes [sic] I do want to see it so bad now I must close with much love and many thanks for the Goodeys [sic] that you sent me I remane [sic] as ever your affectionate Son

P.S. I was Glad that you sent me Charlie's letter and although he owes me A letter I will write to him again

George