

Battle Creek July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1862

My Dear Lizzie,

After writing to you last night you will think strange of my writing to you again tonight but so it is strange things happen. Well after a hard days riding of 35 miles I got to camp at 9 O'Clock to night but was well repaid by finding on my desk a letter from your well beloved self. It more than repaid me for all my thoughts through the day. Well, Lizzie, you tell me in your letter that you want me to speak unreservedly. I am going to do so and in the first place I am going to tell candidly and plainly that I love you, love you with my whole heart. I feel towards you as if I was better acquainted with you than if I had been in your company and enjoyed your conversation every day for the last six months. Now Lizzie you may blame me for speaking as plainly as I have done but you must recollect that it is my nature to speak plainly to every person and on any subject and I do not want you to blame me for speaking. Will you friend, Lizzie? The letter that I got from you was written on the 28<sup>th</sup> and you say in it that you do not know whether I had received your miniature or not. I wrote two letters to you since I got it telling you how happy I was to receive it. More happy I spoke of sending you another one to let you keep which one you please and to send the other one to not my cousin but to my sister Jennie as good a girl as you can find any place at least to my notion. Don't you want to correspond with her? I wish, as you can write to a lady without any impropriety that you will when you have time write her a letter as a stranger only. Do not let on to her that you know me but write to her as a stranger that you want to get acquainted with. I will give you her address so that if you want to write to her you can do so if you write Direct to Jennie Wells Frankfort Ross Co Ohio and I think that you will be very well pleased with her letters. But you can do as you please. I only suggest it to you. You speak in your letter of Mr. Rittenhouse wanting to introduce to you a young man by name of Kellogg. I am not personally acquainted with him. I cannot or will not advise you but as to Mr. R if you will take my advise you will not so much as notice him. It is more than any man in our company would do for we all consider him an errant coward and not only that but a deserter from our army. More than that we know him not to be a gentleman for no man with as nice a wife as he has will treat her as he does. More like a slave than a companion. Well you can tell me why he would correspond by letter with any lady. Well enough about him as to Mr. Kellogg I am not well enough acquainted with him to advise you what to do. But for my part correspond with who you will. I do not want you to forget to write to Tom once in a while will you. I am going to continue to write to you till you say stop no more letters from you and I am afraid that you will say so when you read this letter written too plainly. I am afraid to suit you but when I say that I love you my words do not fully nor can they express all that I feel for you. Well Lizzie you ask me if I was at Chattanooga. I can answer in the affirmative. I most certainly was more than one night in that march. Was out with the teams till one or two oclock in the morning and one night all the night. But never had better health or felt better in my life than all through that trip. But have not had much rest since that time. Almost disheartened at times then a letter comes from you which revives me up for several days till I think it time for another. Then if it is delayed for one day I am all anxiety. Yet maybe that you would like to know

how we are situated to night. I will try and tell you as near as we can. We are laying on the North West side of the Tennessee River and the rebels right on the opposite side not more than one mile from us. The river runs through a defile in the mountains not more than one and a half miles wide and we have our cannon planted on the side of the mountain and the rebels immediately opposite to us on the other side. On last night our company were out on picket at the river bank. At one oclock the rebels went to work cutting timber right opposite to them. The boys opened fire on them with their rifles and kept it up for an hour when the rebs ceased their work and left for the mountain and did not return to do any work today. Our boys are at work fortifying as fast as they can. 2000 men at work for an hour then relieve by us as many more for the same length of time. But to tell the truth the rebels have 3 men to our one and if they have as many guns as we think they have could shell us out of our camps in a short time and I am of the opinion that it will not be many hours till they will make the attempt. But there is no telling when it will commence or how it will terminate but the cause we are fighting for is just and I have faith to think that an all wise providence is on our side and that he will not desert his in this our day of trouble but that he will be our protector and guide. Well Lizzie, you will say Tom I am tired of reading so much. You have written enough quit if you please, so if you take my advise you will stop for this time and write again when I ask you. Well I must take your advise and bid you good night (It is difficult to make out the rest as it is cut off and parts are missing. You'll have to check your copy to get the rest.)