

Camp ^{at} Misamis

Sunday June 8th 1863

My Dear

It is yet early morning. Revell's sounds at 4 o'clock and about an hour has elapsed since the usual summons reached the camp. I did not get up then for just now I am taking pretty large quantities of "Army Mess" and am the privileged one of the sick list. I enjoy my medical subscribers and meditations without interruption. I expect this would be the consequence of my return after four months of starvation and two weeks of fluttings with a change of climate are I should suppose sufficient to prepare any one for disease especially for Camp Diarrhea. You see however, that I am not very sick, and the truth is I expect to go on duty again in a day or two.

I don't know however but this is as good a time as I shall have to pre-serve your mind for one thing - viz: that I shall leave the service or at least that part of it with which I am now connected, - just as soon as I have a reasonable excuse for so doing.

The truth is while I am perfectly willing to serve my country in any, even the lowest position, if necessary, I yet desire the rights and prerogatives of that position and if I cannot have them, why Government must just employ another servant, that is all. Owing however to the restrictions which have been put on officers wishing to resign, I cannot

leave my position at any time I may choose. I must wait until a favorable opportunity occurs. I am determined to take advantage of the first. I received your letter of the 2nd inst yesterday. You may well guess that it was very welcome. I had to wait ^{quite} anxiously for a line from you. I looked for one almost as soon as I should arrive here, but when day after day slipped by and none came, I was afraid I began to be as near home as I ever permit myself to become. If I were a lover now I would go into rhapsodies over the matter but as I am a statesman I will just restrain myself.

You will be a true & trembling hope that our first desire would be that of Mr. Lusk & that it may be so. I can but only express my wish that it may be so. For years at least ever since Emma was my betrothed I desired it more earnestly than anything else of earth. I do not know that I had ever thought so much of it before, but when Emma had promised to remain it one of the same the fierce desire to be united to her was so great that I thought the distance of the mother would be great measure surpassing the limits of the air. Besides adding the weight of her own gentle spirit. It has been a thought too deep and pure for utterance and in months has opened into a wish it had grown stronger until it is almost a passion. I doubt not you can now recall many an indication of this - perhaps some unaccountable show of emotion - which you then thought attributable only to the great privileges which I enjoyed. I am sorry - my Love, that we left it unheeded at all. If our hopes should be blasted I shall never forgive myself for so doing. Had we staid there, I am almost sure, all would have been well.

I have some brains I think in writing letters since I have been here. I have written to you three or four times - to Hutter twice and some five or six letters beside. I wrote you the other night when we marched out for a fight, a rather delicious letter I suppose you will think. Well, it was a delicious time. We all know that when there is a general engagement here it will be terrible and if ever appearances indicated a general engagement it was when that letter was penned. All our commanding officers expected it and it is even now a mystery why it was delayed. It is positively known that Bragg has advanced the greater portion of his army from Fullaloma to Troutman and Shelbyville - his sick are sent to the rear and everything indicates an advance. The fighting that day was much heavier than the papers claim it to have been some of the divisions on the right were very heavily engaged and suffered considerably. I suppose there was some object in reporting it as "slight skirmishing with no loss of life on our side."

I fully expected to get up before morning and chase in the big game fight we have had yet. I have had get only two letters - yours and one from Cora. By the way you must not forget to give one of my likenesses to Anna - I found a letter here from her - written last I am specially requesting one for her Album. She must certainly love it. I am going to venture on a letter to Angie today. I do it with fear and trembling knowing that I must pass between Keyll and Charydis. I am sorry you feel so terribly about drawing on our bunker. I like you I am sure he does appreciate fully your feelings upon the matter but thinks, like myself that the arrangement will save you very much trouble and avoid some

erable expense. I know of no other feasible plan unless it
be, to send you my wages entire which would entail upon you
the trouble of investing them, and performing any business which
I might desire transacted. Father, like myself, thinks this would
be laying an extra burden upon you, when you have enough to bear
in being separated from one who has so lately assumed so dear a
relation towards you. You need not fear. He will watch over your
comfort and welfare with all a father's tenderness. He is not given to
demonstration in his feelings - as a general thing - but they are not
less deep. I need hardly assure you that he loves you as well as
if you were his own daughter. I he may require some further assura-
tion to induce him to display this as he does his affection for me
but you will be assured of it some day. He does not regard it in
the light which seems to grieve you so much - and which I fear
has been set too plainly before your eyes, and too strongly insisted
on by some who do not fully understand the nature of the case -
but considers himself as trustee for you and is only too happy
to relieve you of your care. I don't know - that is - I have almost
feared that you regarded my insistence upon this point as an im-
plication of distrust, or doubt, in regard to your making a proper
disposition of the money. Do if they were sent to you. A moment's thought
will convince you of the futility of this suspicion. Circumstances are
such that if I had sent you all the money I got at L - it would
have given you considerable trouble and some very unpleasant busi-
ness to transact. For instance, how would you like to settle a bill at
McKenzie's? At my dear, Comprehending word! And so I am, sent you
her only "Greeting" and "consolation", did she! Did I tell you that I

staid five or six hours in Cleveland and should
have called on Maria had I known where to find
her? - I suppose that if I had done so she would not
have said sent only congratulations, or she would
put this alone. - I saw Mrs. Hicks and her
pleasant well indeed at her home. She is a good
husband was sick - not very badly - at the time.
I suppose from her appearance that she was hap-
pier in taking care of him than she would be in
seeing him well and strong.

You may send down one
my photographs - if they are real good and you have any
space - for Capt. Spaulding. I haven't got out of
the blues yet and don't know as I ever shall
unless I get one of my stubborn ones for
get out of this infernal regiment -

I have just had another slight quarrel
with the powers that be, and though I was en-
tirely cleared from blame it has irritated me a
little. I wish the whole concern was settled.
I swear I'll resign just as soon as I
get a fair opportunity. Don't mind
around him not very despondent just now.

Adieu

Your husband

A. W. Briggs

Mrs. A. W. Young

Orleans

Mass

Munsterberg
June 8th 1913