

Camp Mitchell September 14 1862
Kentucky

Dear Brother and Sister,

I embrace the first opportunity to write you a few lines in answer to one I received from you just before I left home. I am in Old Kentucky near the enemy line. It has been very exciting ever since we came here. A battle was expected here every day troops were pouring in by the thousands a day. Our forces lay on their arms two days and as many nights the rebels were within two miles of us. We have a force it is said of over 15,000 men and very strongly fortified and they concluded it was not best to make an attack and have retreated back some ten miles probably with the intention of drawing our forces from their strong hold.

But the report comes this afternoon that they are to attack us on our right wing near the Ohio river as Buel is driving them back this way if this is so it is thought they will be obliged to surrender. Our boys are all anxious for a fight. I can see no reason why the rebels cannot be cleaned out of Old Kentucky very soon.

I have been out on picket duty since I came here it is rather dangerous business I think. We had nothing to cover us or lie on. The company that was with us shot one or two rebels. We all returned safe into Camp. We expect to go again tomorrow. My health has been good since I went into Camp till within a day or two I was taken sick at my stomach with a diarrhea but am better today think I shall be able to do duty tomorrow. Perhaps you would like to know how I like a soldiers life. I cannot say I fancy it much. We have fared hard since we came here having no tents exposed to all kinds of weather it was pretty rough it has made good many sick. When we get our tents it will be better for us. I have seen something of the destruction and desolation war has produced in these parts. Our Camp is on land owned by a noted secesh who is a Major in the rebel army and what seems a little remarkable his house is occupied and is head quarters of our forces. I do not know how long we shall remain here probably some time. I hope I may live to see this unholy rebellion brought to a close. When peace prosperity shall reign in our borders. Remember me in your prayers that I may be spared to see this.

It is getting dark and shall be obliged to close as we have no candle. You will excuse my letter I have no ink or conveniences to do anything with. Hope to have soon.

Write me as often as possible it does us good to receive letters from our friends.
Direct to Lieut. H Burt of Capt Hutchinson, Co B, 103 Regt O Vs Camp Mitchell

Yours Hermes