

“Why should we count our life by years
Since years are short and pass away
Or why by fortunes smiles or tears
Since tears are vain and smiles decay

“Count by virtues they shall last
When life's short fitful race is o'er
And they when earthly joys are past
Will cheer us on a brighter shore”

As all our virtues
will be counted to us when we leave this world and
try the realities of the future let us so live that
we may be counted worthy to enter into the mansion
prepared for us by our father in Heaven

I finished reading by course the old testament
this afternoon & shall commence to read the New
testament again by course I have had considerable
time to read since I have been here much more
than I will have when I enter upon the duties of
my position

My health is extremely good at present. There
has been a good deal of sickness in camp mostly
measles & two deaths have occurred in our Regt
one in Capt. Buelens Co & one in Capt. Rodgers Co.

There are since 10 or 12 now in the Hospital here from
our Regt. two of which are dangerously sick

You did not tell me what it cost you
to go to Cleveland Nor what the expenses were
on my police Nor whether you got those principles
times ^{comproffed} that I sent you

We have had a long & heavy rain
it commenced raining last Friday & continued until
last evening when it commenced snowing this
storm is what is keeping us we are obliged to
wait for the tents to dry before we can take
them down as they use to be pulled away for
the winter & they would spoil if wet.

I hope that we may get some pay before long
for I want to come to Cleveland very much
to see you

I have been upon extra duty all the time that
I have been in camp & should draw extra pay
but Quar. Holmes neglects to return me as such
on the pay roll & I may not get it altho
he will try & bring it in some other way

I think that we will all get our discharge within
the next three months or at least I think that
the war will be ended It has this appearance now

If there should be an attempt by the Rebels to
invade Ohio our Regiment would in all
probability be ordered there and in that event
we would probably pass through Cleveland