

Monday evening May the 30th/64

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Dear Wife & children

I have just received your this evening & was over joyed to hear from you & to hear that you was well. The best news that I can write of myself is that I am well & have been for the last ten days enjoying good health. I had a spell of the diariare when I first came here but I have got entirely well. I think I am gaining strength to. I am in hops that the change in my way of living will be for the better as I do no eat hardly any thing but bread and coffee. I like the hard tack creamed in coffee Well I can tell you how I spent the sabath yesterday. I started from camp at seven oclock. There was one hundred & 17 men beside the officers. We marched to town & reported at head quarters. We was then divided of & each detail assigned there work. Our lot was to guard to Jail, There was 27 men one sergeant three corporals seven men & one on each relief. That is it took seven men and one corporal to guard at one time, They would guard for two hours & then the other seven would take their place. That is the way all duty is done. The men are divided into three reliefs so they relive other every two hours. It is the seargent buisness to see that every thing is done wright. Each corporal has one relief to attend to. He has to go with his men & place them at there post & see that they do there duty. There was awhile here that there was only two corporals to three reliefs & then the corporal had to be on duty every two hours. I have been on duty as often as three nights in succesion. I must finish the jail story. There is 20 prisnors in it & there was 21 more brought in last night. There is some rebs horse thievs deserts & bushwackers & soldiers that are found about houses of ill fame, What sleeping I done last was one the pavement with one half my blanket under me & half over me. There is a metodist church close to the Jail & I had time to go in to Sunday School a little while. It was quite a large school. There was lots of little girls & boys there. The little girls all had hats on & the big ones all had bonnets on. I did not see one grown girl with a hat. I could not stay for meeting. We have a chaplain. I think he a verry fine man a methodist. He belongs to a company from Pataskly and was apointed a Chaplain after we came here. The 155 Reg is in camp one half mile from us. Brother Bright is Chaplain. We have been reinforced today. The one hundred & 60 Reg has camped right by the side of us. They have been guarding a waggon through to Wincester. The 161st is in on the other side of the town from us. You want to know how many waggons are in a train. Well I think there was two weeks after we came that the train left twice a week. There was just about two hundred wagons in a train. Four horses & six mules to a waggon. That is horses to one wagon & mules to another. The waggons are loaded with provisions for man and beast. I have seen as many as five hundred wagons here at one time all four horses of six mules to a waggon waggons all covered. It does not take so many men to a train now. There is not so mutch danger now. You may think of the value of sutch a train loaded with shelled corn oats & provisions. We have a tin cup pan spoon knife & fork to eat with. We have no table yet cant get any boards. I received the Newark paper. Mr Thomas was here today. Dave (?) is getting well. He had some thing like congestion of the lungs. His Blaek Boy died verry suddently. I dont what was the matter with him. Some said he was poisoned but

there is no certainty about that John Miller is here He need not have come He has not been mustered in & cant draw his pay & clothe untill he is mustered in A Belford wanted to hire him but he couldnt do it The discriptive Roll has been taken & that cant be changed He says he is going to hire to take care of horses I have enquired about making the change with Phil but it cant be done now He can get a discharge if he wants it

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