

LOOK OUT VALLEY, FEBRUARY 22nd/64

Dear Frant,

Your welcome letter of Feb. 9th lies on the desk before me a little paper with a few marks upon it yet what a power it _____, it takes me back again to those happy times which we _____ together. again _____ with you in your room listening to the music of the melodean or your voice; or making some excuse for not doing as I promised; or why I went up to Branel's (business of course) perhaps I am trying to make you think we better not go to meeting. I don't think there will be many there. & then you know if we shouldn't go, Helen might have something to talk about & so save her from being sick, you finally conclude to stay. when it comes time to go home where is my hat Frant don't know. & so I have to stay, don't bother me much then I call you mean but it does no good. I have to hunt my hat - make up with you, _____ you and morning & travel. But there goes a bugle guess I have to home. no: here I am by a fire place, there is no fireplace in Hunt's house. So I am in the army yet - but how the time flies seems so Sunday came every other day lately, my duty is very easy. All I have to do is make a few details each day. the rest of the time _____ cooking mending, writing letters & reading stories, & ~~XXXXXXX~~ _____.

The weather is beautiful just like Indian summer. I should like to live here in time of peace. We were paid last thursday two months pay I should have got \$34 dollar, but had to pay transportation I had paid once before, shall get it next pay day. Town had some things for me. but lost them all. Marshall cut three of his toes off the other day; he will not be able to travel in a long time. he is in the hospital & well cared for, I believe the other boys are all well. Col. Jones starts for home today; There is a prospect of our staying here sometime. I think things look very favorable at present. Sherman's move is going to make the rebs tremble. I think its object is to take Mobile & make it a base of supplies. it will be a shorter route than this long line of railroad besides depriving them of a large amount of supplies. I think next fall will find this war nearly if not quite finished. I hope so, for this life even if nothing to do, is no life for a man to live. I would rather be busy have something to do & live

to some purpose besides hooting some miserable reb, & writing letters to ~~xxx~~ ____.

I think she is slightly mistaken you have had three letter from me where she has had one. I presume they would be glad if you had had given your heart to some young man down east. I don't think you have. You thought I might think you had written __ you wrote just as I like to have you write, it was the best letter I have had in a month now I __ you when you have anything to say, to say it. & trust me I will never betray your confidence. This is Washington's birthday; a number of the boys have gone over to get their pictures taken. Tomorrow is my birthday. I shall be 22 & no whiskers yet, about four years ago now I took Helen down to your house to a party - I went home do you remember. Yours as ever Edgar S
write soon