

Pittsburg Tenn. April 18. 1862

My Dear Wife.

I wrote you last Sunday, and suppose you have rec^d my letter ere this. I also wrote you a line today, and sent you \$10. and \$25. for dit, from Jim. Mr Petrie took it, and promised me he would call and see you, and deliver it to you. I supposed it would be a great satisfaction to see any one who had seen me on the Battle field. Therefore I requested him to call, and doubt not you will have seen him before you receive this. I have spent the week drilling, and have been in the saddle almost continually. We were out this afternoon, and there came up a shower of rain, and drove us into camp, and after washing myself thoroughly, sit down to write to my "Betty Wolf". This morning Lieuts Burton & Smyth and myself started early for the front, and rode to within the encampment, and within a short distance of the enemies Pickets. We found the 34th Reg. met Capt Dyeart and Adjt Leavitt (Paw will know him). I also met Mr Forsyth of Dixon, Doct Herrick of Franklin Grove - they were all well and it seemed pleasant to meet them. We then went to the 46th and saw Col Jones, Bullock (who is now a Lieutenant) Mr Liddley, Mr St John, Capt Price, and others of the Regiment. They were all well. It is reported that Capt Stevens is dead, and I am of the opinion that it is true. It is also reported that Col Kirk is dangerously wounded. I hope the Col may recover as he has the reputation

D.T.C.

Tell Gus that I must close my letter to you. To him also as I cannot find time to write to him yet.

of being one of the most efficient officers in the service. Col Davis is des a gallant officer, as also is Col Jones. Billy Howell is killed. Our section of Illinois has reason to be proud of her officers and men, and I take delight in saying that I came from Illinois. Tell Gus that it is not probable that any more fault will be found with Gen Fremont about "Gun Boats" for they done terrible execution in the engagement. I saw this morning for the first time a "Cotton Press" and the thought came to my mind instantly, "That's what's the matter". We went through 3 farms, on which wheat had been growing, but was tumbled into the ground, some of the buildings had been burned, and others used as prisons and Hospitals. This may seem hard, but if you were here you would rejoice to know that the Rebels had been driven from their homes, that they may learn that we are long suffering, but terrible, when "endurance has ceased to be a virtue". My own feelings are, send away the Women & Children, and wherever we march, do the greatest amount of injury possible, believing this to be the most speedy way of terminating the war. We are daily receiving heavy Siege Guns, and it is expected the next fight will be mainly Artillery, as we have some 600 Pieces. I think (relying on what I can learn from those who ought to know) that the next battle will be at Corinth, and we will beat them badly. It is reported that there

has been considerable fighting between the
Pickets this afternoon, but it is almost impos-
sible to know whether or not it is true. I
have not heard a word from you since the
3rd of April, and I think there must be
some delay in the mails, as I know you
have written me at least 5 times since
then. I wish you to direct to me in future
Cheney's Battery 1st Regt Ill. Artillery. The
boys are most all well, some of them have
what is termed here in camp, the "Tenn Dicks
Step" or in other words the Diarrhea. I never
could spell it without a Dictionary before me.
I have had it, and have never lost an hour
from service, have got rid of it by taking
some scorch'd rhubarb, and was never better
in my life. Tell the Doctor that we have less
sickness in our company, than any other company
that I know of, and I attribute it to my acquaintance
with him. I have just been to supper, and will
tell you what I had. A nice piece of fried lean
Ham, some stewed Beans, Crackers, Butter, Cheese
and Hot Coffee, so you see that I have made a
good supper. The fruit trees are in full blossom
and look fine, the greatest disadvantage that we
labor under is that a bad stench is created by
the decaying of dead horses that have not
been properly buried, however they are rem-
edying it as fast as possible. I am not dis-
couraged in the least, but on the contrary
am passing my time rather pleasantly,
and don't want to come home till this
job is completely and everlastingly finished,
so that our children may never be

called upon to be separated from family
and friends as I have been. I have never
regretted for a moment that I have done
as I have, hard as it was, and when I get
back Mary, home will be sweet. Never fear
for me, for I am training myself for coolness,
and you never saw a letter from me that
is written with more steady nerve than
this, although I am momentarily expecting
orders to march to the front. I have
changed very much in that respect since
I left, so much so that I believe I can
command my Company in an engagement,
with, as much coolness as I now write
you. This may not sound well in other
ears, than yours, and I only say it,
that you may not fear that I will
become enraged, and blindly rush into
danger, thereby sacrificing myself and
perhaps my Company & Battery. Remember
me to all - Mother, Brothers & Sisters, and our
little folks - I expect Roger is making
good progress with his studies, and
getting to be a tall Boy. Grace is getting
so that she can almost creep, and
makes company for you all. All of
you must keep in good spirits as
we do, and all will end well -
It now looks as though we were going to rain some
time and I fear we will have another muddy
time again. May you never see any mud yet,
it is reported that several Mules have been lost
in the mud, nothing to be seen but their ears.
My sheet is full and I will bid you a good
night & may you always be cheerful Affly Yours
John P. Cheney