Nell Jalc Miss.

June 27th, 1863

I wrote a short several days ago but learning that our letters only went as far as Headquarters I thought it no use to write if they could not go East. But to-day we are lying rifle shots again & I want something to busy myself about when writing. I guess I cannot write a check. Thompson now shall have left here since we landed so you are bolted up as anxious waiting to hear from me as I am from you. We are expecting to go back into Ky. in a short time. Your Mother must follow me. We hear at all times day & night the bonging of the old mortars, the long heavy rumbling of the big guns & light artillery mingled with the clashing of musketry. How long the rebels can stand such a
June 27th 1863

I wrote a sheet several days ago but learning that our letters only went as far as Headquarters I though it no use to write if they could not go East. But to-day we are digging rifle pits again & I want something to busy myself about when resting I guess I must write a sheets I suppose no mail has left here since we landed so you are probably as anxiously waiting to hear from me as I am from you We are expecting to go back into Ky. in a short time. For Vicksburg must fall soon. We hear at all times day & night the banging of the old morters the long heavy rumbling of the big guns & light artillery mingled with the clashing of musketry. How long the rebels can stand such a
founding remains to be seen, but it seems to me it can’t be long.

We hear that Grant blew up a fort last night before last and that he is slowly but surely undermining them. We see the flight of the shells as they appear to move very slowly through the air. Usually just at dark there is heavy bombarding, we see quite a display of fireworks. Biggs went over to [sic] about a week ago he said our men are as near to the works that are thrown shells into their works by hand after lighting the fuse. The rebels throwing them into our trenches by the same means. Dear Gen. Pemberton wanted to have the privilege of burying the dead horses & mules in the city. But Gen. Brannst has given them all the privilege he ever will. It is horrible to think of the suffering some which those
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We hear that Grant blew up a fort night before last and that he is slowly but surely undermining them. We see the flight of the shells as they appear to move very slowly through the air. Usually just a dart there is heavy pounding & we see quite a display of fireworks. Briggs went over to V. about a week ago he said our men were so near to the rebels that we threw shells into their works by hand after lighting the fuse, the rebels throwing them into our trenches by the same means. I hear Gen Pemberton wanted to have the privilege of burying the dead horses & mules in the city. But Gen Grant has given them all the privileges he ever will. It is horrible to think of the suffering which those
who are frozen up in that fated city. But the more they suffer the sooner they must surrender. The women & children had a chance to leave, but Pemberton was going to protect the women & children. How I don't know. It strikes me that the shells from Grant's mortars are but poor protection. Oh, how we are longings for the fall of Chickamauga. That will be the first great complete victory and army reunion then we hope to go back into Ky. We don't like this country very well. The weather is terrible hot. It is just as hot one day as another. To compare it with N. E. weather it is just about the same as the hottest days in July but no uniform as the heat. What we don't mind it half so much as you do the hottest days. Besides the nights are much cooler we should.
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be very chilly without a blanket over me. The worst feature in this country is the innumerable insects, reptiles, and can not eat himself on the ground a moment without being covered with ants, bugs, worms or some horrible looking insect. Cockroaches are very frequently seen of huge dimensions.

We are patiently waiting waiting for a mail but to the fall of Nicholsburg nothing would cause such joy in this army as a large mail. I don’t know as this letter will go for months yet I will send it. The Wildwood boys are all well though hearty. This climate before this letter reaches you people shall be raging. but probably we will be green corn. I wish I could hear from James I wish to hear from him. I hope you will get the three letters I asked him to send you.
be very chilly without a blanket over us. The worst feature in this country is the innumerable insects & reptiles one can not seat himself on the ground a moment without being covered with ants bugs worms or some horrible looking insect. Black & rattle snakes are very frequently seen of huge dimensions. We are patiently waiting waiting [sic] for a mail next to the fall of Vicksburg nothing would cause such a joy in this army as a large mail. I don’t know as this letter will go for weeks yet I will send it.

The Hillsboro boys are all well tough & hearty. This climate seems to agree with us quite well before this letter reaches you people will be haying. but probably we shall be eating green corn. I wish I would hear from James I shan’t write to him for fear he may be in H. I hope you will get the three letters I asked him to send you

I send a few beans the small ones are called Miss beans grow in Miss. Please plant