Camp Near Winchester. Ky. Apr. 26th

1863

Dear Friend:

I treat myself this pleasant Sunday afternoon at the foot of a big walnut tree and will try and write you a short letter as I promised on leaving Hillsboro.

Four weeks ago to-day as our long train, loaded with the merry bags of the 117th was plodding the Penn. Central R. R. I thought, after eating a hearty meal of the luxuries you sent me, I must as soon as we got in camp fulfill my promise.

I have been used to dictating my letters so it comes unhandly to write with a pen; but I will try and make what little I do write intelligible trusting you will excuse all
Dear Friend:

I seat myself this pleasant Sunday afternoon at the foot of a big walnut tree and will try and write you a short letter as I promised on leaving Hillsboro. Four weeks ago to-day as our long train, loaded with the merry boys of the 11th was plodding along the Penn. Central RR. I thought, after eating a hearty meal of the luxuries you sent me, I must as soon as we got in Camp fulfill my promise.

I have been used to penciling my letters so it comes unhandy to write with a pen; but I will try and make what little I do write intelligible trusting you will excuse all
I have been so much improved in my constitution. I feel better than I have felt for a long time. I sometimes think I was wrong in writing the letter that assailed the base, unkind, and unjust creature. I am enjoying excellent health now. Have never been to the Surgeon's call, except a few days at Mt. Sterling since I enlisted.

Then I had the measles quite lightly. Was out around camp every day as usual and none got over them. I am enjoying myself first-rate here in old Kentucky. It is such a splendid country the weather is so pleasant that this season of the year that camp life is quite different from what it was during the dreary months we were on the Mississippi.

There I drop my gun & book down & hear cheers of laughter from the ranks of the 5th Inf'y. They have got one of these bags on a big blanket and as many as can get hold toss bean within the air. Rather boyish short
mistakes. I am enjoying excellent health now. Have never been to the Surgeons call, except a few days at Mt. Sterling since I enlisted. Then I had the mumps quite lightly Was out around Camp evry day as usual and soon got over them.

I am enjoying myself first-rate here in old Kentucky it is such a splendid country the weather is so pleasant at this season of the year that camp life is quite different from what it was during the dreary months we were on the Rappahannock

-Here I drop my pen & book jump up for I hear roars of laughter from the Camp of the 51st NY. They have got one of there boys on a big blanket and as many as can get hold toss him when the air Rather boyish sport
perhaps you think, but anything for fun. Now they have got a young negro and are tossing him up and down a little, scolded and the poor fellow involuntary turns are doubtless more laughable to me than agreeable to him. We enjoy ourselves now as well as if at home. While in camp we have no hard labor to perform: We drill only about their horses each day (except Saturday) and the rest of the day we have to read, write and do letters as we choose. We get the Cincinnati Morning papers about four o'clock so we are well on for news.

One by the last papers Banks has been pounding the Rebels handily. Probably the Confederates have heard the whizzing
perhaps you think, but anything for fun. Now they have got a young negrw & are tossing him up he is a little scared and the somersets he involuntary turns are doubtless more laughable to us than agreeable to him. We enjoy ourselves now as well as if at home. While in camp we have no hard labor to perform; We drill only about three hours each day (except Saturday Sunday we have no drills) the rest of the day we have to read write and do what else we choose. We get the Cincinnati Morning papers about four o’clock so we are well on for news.

Is see by the last papers Banks has been pounding the Rebs. beautifully. Probably the boys in the 16th Regt. have heard the whizzing
little balls buzzing about their ears and the howling shells flying carelessly about. But they will have the satisfaction of writing home that they whipped the enemy in their first battle while we had to acknowledge we got terrible scared.

But we done all that men could do if the Generals had all done their part as well as we done ours we should have been victorious. I often thought as I stood on picket with no fire some snowy morns to look across the river & see the missing fires the rebel pickets had then I would scoldingly think perhaps my warm clothes good rubber blanket & kevelock are better than their old smocking rebel fires. I have written to Frank all thanks & kinsey of the 14th Reg & received a letter from Charleston.

Henry Mc Park anxious to hear from Frank.
little balls buzzing about their ears and the howling shells flying carelessly about. But they will have the satisfaction of writing home that they whipped the enemy in their first battle; while we had to acknowledge we got terrible repulsed. But we done all that men could do if the General’s had all done their part as well as we done ours we should have been victorious. I often thought it hard as I stood on picket with no fire some snowy nights to look across the river & see the rousing fires the rebel pickets had. then I would exultingly think perhaps my warm clothes good rubber blanket & havelock are better than those old smocking rebel fires. I have written to Frank, Charles & Henry of the 16th Reg & received a letter from Charles C. Henry M. I am anxious to hear from Frank and the other boys in the 16th. Probably you hear of quite often. Please write me how they are getting along. Please except my sincere thanks for the cakes & meat you sent me The cakes were very nice and the meat so much better than anything we have for rations that as one of my tent mates said it really melted in our mouths Hoping to hear from you soon I remain your friend and old pupil W. J. Templeton

Please say to your mother am greatly obliged for those pickles they were very nice & quite a rarity.