No. 16

Paris, Ill., April 21, 1863

Dear Friends at Home,

We arrived here last night about 10 o'clock. Our train was the 30th. Those came on the same train last of the soldiers, 1st in the car, but a boy among them. We alighted in the
gallery of a church, had a good mighty drink, but when we be

al it thought the building national

just as the car is today. There

so quite a village large as I thought.

We came in on the side of
the Ill Central  about 8 o'clock from

Senator Benton, Darnell. The people
here are about half blacks and

We have hard times and many people are suffering and so

Dear Friends at Home:

We arrived here last night about 7 o'clock. Our Reg & the 36th Mass. came on the same train part of the soldiers slept in the cars but a good many put of into the village I among them myself we slept in the gallery of a church & had a good nights sleep; but when I woke up I thought the building a rocking just as the cars & boat [?]. This is quite a village large as Newport NH. Our camp is on the side of the Ky Central RR. a few rods from Senator Garret Davis' house. The people here are about half "secesh". Guerrilla bands are prowling round in
this vicinity. The citizens here are very bitter against the rebels and their sympathizers, they want us to take the property of the rebel sympathizers. The unionists give us a grand welcome when they join to cheer any flag, any demonstration of loyalty we all feel if the stars and stripes are waved by a pretty girl they are likely to receive some hearty cheers which are given undoubtedly for the glorious flag. We had a dress parade this morning and orders were read for us to march at 6 a.m. tomorrow. While the parade was going on a little girl about as large as Edith Burt came out & waved a large flag near where the colonel stood, at his request she came & stood by his side & after parade we gave her three rousing cheers. Perfect there is something
this vicinity the citizens (The union) here are very bitter against the secesh & their sympathizers
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Burtt came out and waved a large flag near where the Col. stood, at his request she came & stood
by his side & after parade we gave her three rousing cheers. I expect there is something
At Mt. Sterling as we are dressing teams into the service to carry our baggage. Our Capt. with a squadron of 20 men have been scouring the country today taking horses & teams. Briggs went with them & gave the owners receipts. Col. Blood of 11th Va. commanding 5th Brigade says if they are Unionists & can prove their loyalty, the government will pay for what they lose, but if not, they don't need any way can charge it to Jeff Davis. Capt. found some hard cases at first they would talk pretty independent claiming to beUnion but all their neighbors "decide" Capt. would give them some money amount to get their teams ready, when finding threats would do no good, they would begin to beg, beg, beg & Capt. said 6th was inexcusable. One young woman was awful quick she sent all negroes to run
up at Mt Sterling as we are pressing teams into the service to carry our baggage. Our Cap. with a squade of 20 men have been scouring the country, today taking horses and teams Briggs went with them & gave us the owners receipts (Col. Clark of 21st Mass commanding 2d Brigade says if they are unionists & can prove their loyalty government will pay for what they loose, but if secesh they don’t need any pay can charge it to Jeff Davis) Cap. Found some hard cases at first they would talk pretty independent claiming to be union. but say all their neighbors “secesh”. Cap. would give them so many minutes to get their teams ready, when finding threats would do no good they would begin to beg & beg piteously but Cap. was inexorable. One young woman was awful secesh she send her negrows to run
on the 5th, heard that the whole squad had been ordered in at our camp. The horses were all in high condition and ready for duty. They were driven by a negro driver with the team. The wagons were excellent, and the negroes did their work creditably.

Mrs. Jones did not do anything to make the negroes feel important or to show them how well they were doing.

Sunday, Mar. 6th (A.M., Ewing, Ill.)

We left Paris Friday morning and marched through the town. We had to march 22 miles and camped that night. It was a hard march, and there was a good deal of complaining. We had not slept well the night before. We had to march all day and eat our lunch on the march, which was not very satisfying.

We are encamped about one mile from the town in a beautiful maple orchard. The boys are finding time to rest and socialize among the trees.
run the horses off out of our sight but one of our boys saw what was up & the negrows had to run them back quick or there would have been some rifle shooting, Mrs. “Secesh” did not make anything by being ugly for she had to furnish a negrows driver with the team & the whole squad a good dinner. The horses are excellent but the waggons, all miserable rickety things, of all shapes & forms. We have one team of two stout yoke of oxen & a negrow boy for driver who rides on the near ox back. Sunday Mar. 5 (Mt. Sterling Ky.) We left Paris Friday morning & marched through to this place 22 miles & camped that night it was a hard march & there was a good deal of limping with soar feet yesterday. We could not have got through that day if we had not forced every horse mule or ox team on the road to load up with our knapsacks & take them to Mt. S. we are encamped about one mile south east of the town in a beautiful maple orchard. the boys are tapping trees & making sap coffee syrup & it is too late for the sap to run well. The farmers are plowing and sowing now this is a splendid country the soil very rich & the state full of cattle hogs & sheep

We have had no news since we left Newport News

Direct Co D. 11th NHV. 2nd Brigade 2nd Div. 9th Army Corps Burnside’s Command via Cincinnati