Mr. Sterling Cy Apr. 1 1863 Dear Brother: Tou have probably ear this learned all about our leaving Newport News of our deporture West. We seem to be a moving barfs, journy -mg at Unele Jamis repense. We had a very interesting though somewhat legious journy of about love miles by roil & steamboat. We arrived here last Friday night, having morehed from Paris Barbon County a distance of 22 miles on that day. We were all jaded out with riding day & night getting no slup except what we could catch in the crowded rocking boat & golding car than come to finish who with a moreh of 22 miles our knop sachs heavy your feet tender, was a sweet

Mt. Sterling Ky Apr. 7th 1863

Dear Brother:

You have probably ere this learned all about our leaving Newport News & of our departure West. We seem to be a moving Corps, journeying at Uncle Sam's expense. We had a very interesting though somewhat tedious journey of about 1000 miles by rail & steamboat. We arrived here last Friday night, having marched from Paris Borbon County a distance of 22 miles on that day. We were all jaded out with riding day & night getting no sleep except what we could catch in the crowded rocking boat & jolting car then come to finish up with a march of 22 miles our knapsacks heavy & our feet tender, was a severe

test of the patience of the boys of the Id Brigade. But I mendersland we were ardered to camp here that night, by Den. Burnside. Perhaps it was necessary we should come here rapidly to prevent another such game as the. reds played on our forces two weeks ago. But here we are & bluke & his board of Maranders had better look out fore their careaces and so may the rebel sympathigers in this vicenty look ant for their pigs & turkeys. Alongs majority of the inhabitance in this part apthe state are truly layal but there is a thorough sprinkling of "seash" who are union while we are here, to rebel when the rebs are here. This wor is making bitter feeds among neighborhoods x even families. The people tell me the union & seash will not visit or even speak to each other.

test of the patience of the boys of the 2d Brigade. But I understand we were ordered to camp here that night, by Gen. Burnside. Perhaps it was necessary we should come here rapidly to prevent another such game as the rebs played on our forces two weeks ago. But here we are & Cluke & his band of Marauders had better look out fore their carcases and so may the rebel sympathizers in this vicinity look out for their pigs & turkeys. A large majority of the inhabitance in this part of the state are truly loyal but there is a thorough sprinkling of "secesh" who are union while we are here, rebel when the rebs are here. This war is making bitter feuds among neighborhoods & even families. The people tell me the union & secesh will not visit or even speak to each other.

I find the union men here are union to the book bone, they are very bitter against the secesh x earit say or wishanything loo bad for them. Lorne families here have are son in the while another in the minion aring, two fellows from our Go. took breakfast in Paris at the house of a lady who had a son in a bak in the muon army while her husband was a private in the Rebel army. filly her husbond for it is no very inviable forsission a private in the muion army. What can a privates possish be in the seash army. The white people here say this war is making the niggers dreadful sansy & heaps on uni run away", While the blocks will foint us out the secesh & tell us to half ourselves Cooly this morning I started of with

I find the union men here are <u>union</u> to the back bone, they are very bitter against the secesh & can't say or wish anything too bad for them. Some families here have one son in the rebel while another in the union army, two fellows from our Co. took breakfast in Paris at the house of a lady who had a son a <u>Cap</u>. in the union army while her husband was a <u>private</u> in the Rebel army. pity her husband for it is no very enviable possession a private in the union army. What can a privates possish be in the secesh army. The white people here say "this war is making the niggers dreadful sausy & heaps on um run away". While the blacks will point us out the secesh & tell us to help ourselves Early this morning I started of with

a cantien to get some milk after going half a mile came to a house and in the yard found a "jellowgal" milking Askedher if I could by a little milh here. No sir Morser don't sell anything to the soldiers nor love us to give any away, but I reckon Ill'spore ye a contien full jist walk into the kitchen weit awhile & I fill it " To me I ported the kitchen was a large rown in the ell port of the house a linge fireplace and two heds in it shere was two negr. ow woman cooking a girl about & 12 years old warting on the Masters family table a black man pulling on his boots sa little buy five or see years of age. The 'yellow gal" whashred to the work that who said "if ollises town we shouldgive you med a contempull of milh she would kill us. Arked her if her Master was reach "yes indeed they hate you fellows worse than the devil. Misses came in gave derections about the breakfast Iwent through into the gardin & talked with the Inaster sometime who was very pleasant filled Mooch said had had hard work to file it Misses watched me" The little boy tried to make out the letters on my capital himse if he could read . No said work don't low us to larn to read we are too smart now

a canteen to get some milk after going half a mile came to a house and in the yard found a "yellow gal" milking Asked her if I could buy a little milk here. "No sir Masser don't sell anything to the soldiers nor low us to give any away, but I reckon III spare ye a canteen full jist walk into the kitchen wait a while & I fill it" So [?] [?] the kitchen was a large room in the ell part of the house a huge fireplace and two beds in it here was two negrow woman cooking a girl about 12 years old waiting on the family's table a black man pulling on his boots & a little boy five or six years of age.

The "yellow gal" whispered to the cook who said "if Misses knew we should give you a canteen full of milk she would kill us. Asked her if her Master was secesh "yes indeed they hate you fellows worse than the devil. Misses came in gave directions about the breakfast. I went through into the garden & talked with the master sometime who was very pleasant & sociable went back found my canteen filled "cook" said had hard work to fill it Misses watched me" The little boy tried to make out the letters on my cap I asked him if he could read. "No said cook they don't low us to larn to read we are too smart now"

whichoy it was very mice debut any therest the last of my dried offle I find I must put on how stange so I govers I will write another sheep We are encamped about & miles from the village of Winchester mi a beautiful field well shaded by large ook ash & walnut trus. Although the trus are a three as they commonly are in an apple archard get the grun is as thick x green as in the best cultivated field in Nob. The soil must be very rich it is evrywhere of the some block rich mould. The farmers sog it will bear corn for holf a dozen years than if they put it into grass a few years it will hear equally as good own without any manure. Near our 6 ampat Mt. Iterling was a full of 15 acres all Colorsted with corn. The other day a

2 PM.

I find I must put on two stamps so I guess I will write another sheet We are encamped about 2 miles from the village of Winchester in a beautiful field well shaded by large oak ask & walnut trees.

Although the trees are as thick as they commonly are in an apple orchard yet the grass is as thick & green as in the best cultivated field in NH. The soil must be very rich it is evrywhere of the same black rich mould. The farmers say it will bear corn for half a dozen years than if they put it into grass a few years it will bear equally as good corn without any manure. Near our Camp at Mt. Sterling was a field of 75 acres all planted with corn. The other day a

repried to mine my mise Bitter on therest the last of my dried offle I find I must put on his stands so I govers I will write another sheet The are encamped about & miles from the village of Winchester mi a beautiful field well shaded by large ook ash & walnut brus. Although the trus are a three as they commonly are in an apple archard get the gran is as thick x green as in the best cultivated field in Nob. The soil must be very rich it is evrywhere of the some block rich mould. The farmers sog it will bear corn for holf a dozen years than if they put it anto grass a few years it will hear equally as good own without any manure. Near our 6 ampat Mt. Iterling was a full of 15 acres all Charited with corn. The atherday a

a man living close by this camp said he with his two men slaves carried on 75 acres of corn 20 acres of wheat 20 acres of rye. He was greatly surprised when I told him how many acres two hands would cullivate in NH. This is the most beautiful country I have ever been in. The land is gently rolling & fenced off into pieces of from 10 to 100 acres by high zigag fences, made entirely of rails about 8 feet high, not a stake being used Except the plowed ground every spot is of the same beautiful green which is given it by the thickly groth of grass

The people here seem to be very good sort of folks, they are mostly strong Union but they can't like the proclamation they all say it has helped the southern cause in this state a good deal

Agness your well bound it deplucant to read Implose the cause of this dislike of The Orvelomation is because it is making slavery improfitable A man who owned three choices told me justerday that a good field hand who was worth 81200 or \$.1500 before the war would now bordly bring soo in fact there I was no sale for them noboddy wished to leny. Ihave after thought, as I have spoken a kind ward to a young Niggir (as the whites all call thirmy when in hearing of their musters I would see a disdainful book which said londer than words, what fields there ganhers are to notice a nigger Homdreds of the blocks come in butter eggs, chickens mable syrup de, x co They say they peddle for their masters one suys the other day if clining cont de mong & find it right dann

I supposed the cause of this dislike of The Proclamation is because it is making slavery unprofitable A man who ownes three slaves told me yesterday that a good field hand who was worth \$1200 or \$1500 before the war would now hardly bring \$600 in fact there was no sale for them noboddy wished to buy. I have often thought as I have spoken a kind word to a yong "Nigger" (as the whites all call them) when in hearing of their masters I could see a disdainful look which said louder than words what fools these yankees are to notice a <u>nigger</u>.

Hundreds of the blacks come in evryday with pies cakes, buscuits, milk butter, eggs, chickens maple syrup & c. & c. They say they peddle for their masters one says the other day "if Missis cont de money & find it right I am

There die is getting hether contented", I mit an old negrows on the Pike yesterday he had a fine piùs to sell & bot. one & on tathing with him he said he was a slove & must hury on for he had got to go to planting said he The fellows work for hay but I have to work for nothing" The wads pure are called pitus X at every certain distance there is a toll gate a toll is faid by all who has eccept government teams soldiers & e The pikes are made by making a led of for broken rock & covering it with soil In nome places the ground is ledgy & the states of week own he pounded, needily. I bot a cantur full of Mable youth for ho do Marday. I got a letter from 6 06. Atwood is well he is in the 45 Mars

contented", I met an old negrow on the Pike yesterday he had a few pies to sell I bot. one & on talking with him he said he was a slave & must hurry on for he had got to go to planting said he "You fellows work for pay but I have to work for nothing"

The roads here are called pikes & at evry certain distance there is a toll gate & toll is paid by all who pass except government teams soldiers & c The pikes are made by making a bed of broken rock & covering it with soil

In some places the ground is ledgy & the slabs of rock can be pounded & broken readily. I bot a canteen full of Maple syrup for 40 cts Monday. I got a letter from C [?] Atwood & one from J L Syminds Atwood is well he is in the 43rd Mass John has been sick with the camp

I guess you will find it difficult to read this I did not know when I began it was so badly oiled

fever but is getting better

I stewed the last of my dried apple yesterday it was very nice
Is there any signs of drafting? Stay at Homes may look out. The regiments have been mustered so as to be consolidated or filled up with conscripts