

Mr. Sterling Ky Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> / 1863

Dear Brother:

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Newport News & of our departure West.

We seem to be a moving Corps, journey-  
ing at Uncle Sam's expense. We had  
a very interesting though somewhat tedious  
journey of about 1000 miles by rail &  
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Friday night, having marched from  
Paris Barren County a distance of  
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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  
reds played on our forces two weeks  
ago. But here we are & Clarke & his band  
of Marauders had better look out for  
their carcasses and so may the rebel  
sympathizers in this vicinity look  
out for their pigs & turkeys. A large  
majority of the inhabitanance in this  
part of the state are truly loyal but there  
is a thorough sprinkling of "seash" who  
are union while we are here, & rebel  
when the rebs are here. This war is  
making bitter feuds among neigh-  
borhoods & even families. The people  
tell me the union & seash will not  
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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 carcasses and so may the rebel sympathizers in this vicinity look out for their pigs & turkeys. A large majority of the inhabittance 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 back bone, they are very  
bitter against the secesh & can't say or  
~~say~~ 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 in  
a Cafe in the union army while  
her husband was a private in the  
Rebel army. pity her husband for  
it is no very enviable possession  
a private in the union army. What  
can a private possish be in the secesh  
army. The white people here say "this  
war is making the niggers dreadful  
sassy & heaps on 'em run away".  
While the blacks will point us out  
the secesh & tell us to help ourselves  
Early this morning I started off with

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I find the union men here are union 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 Cap. in the union army while her husband was a private 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 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 Mosser don't sell anything to the soldiers nor loan us to give away, but I reckon I'll spare ye a canteen full jist walk into the kitchen wait awhile & I fill it" Go in I found the kitchen was a large room in the ell part of the house a huge fireplace and two beds in it there was two negro woman cooking a girl about 14 years old waiting on the ~~Masters~~ families table a black man pulling on his boots & a little boy five or six years of age. The "yellow gal" whispered to the cook that who said "if Misses knew we should give you ~~with~~ a canteen full of milk she would kill us. Asked her if her Master was mean "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, asked him if he could read. "No said cook, "don't loan us to learn 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 Ill 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"



I returned the rest of my day to the  
yesterday it was very nice. I have only  
right of drifting? they at home many with  
out the government have been murdered as

2 P.M.

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 ash & 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 N.H. The soil must be  
very rich it is everywhere 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

the conversation on the subject of the war with congress

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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



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yesterday it was very nice. I have only  
right of drifting? they at home many with  
out the government have been murdered as

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I find I must put on two stamps  
so I guess I will write another sheet  
We are encamped about 8 miles  
from the village of Winchester in  
a beautiful field well shaded by  
large oak ash & 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 N.H. The soil must be  
very rich it is everywhere of the same  
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Sterling was a field of 75 acres all  
planted with corn. The other day a

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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 cultivate 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 zigzag 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 growth 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

Suppose the cause of this dislike  
of the Proclamation is because it  
is making slavery unprofitable  
A man who owns three slaves  
told me yesterday that a good  
field hand who was worth \$1200  
or \$1500 before the war would now  
hardly bring \$200 in fact there  
was no sale for them nobody  
wished to buy. I have often thought  
as I have spoken a kind word to  
a young "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 nigger.  
Hundreds of the blacks come in  
every day with pies, cakes, biscuits, milk,  
butter, eggs, chickens, maple syrup  
&c. &c. They say they peddle for their  
masters one says the other day "if I live  
I can't do wrong & find it right. I am

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I supposed the cause of this dislike of The Proclamation is because it is making slavery unprofitable. A man who owns 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 nobody wished to buy. I have often thought as I have spoken a kind word to a young "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 nigger.

Hundreds of the blacks come in every day with pies cakes, biscuits, milk butter, eggs, chickens maple syrup & c. & c. They say they peddle for their masters one says the other day "if Missis can't de money & find it right I am



very busy & very  
contented", I met an old negro  
on the Pike yesterday he had a  
few pigs 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  
~~was~~ "these fellows work for pay but  
I have to work for nothing"

The roads here are called pikes  
& at every 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~~<sup>& broken</sup> of rock can be  
pounded & readily. I bot a canton  
full of Maple syrup for 40 cts

Monday. I got a letter from G. E.  
Steward & one from J. L. Symonds  
Steward is well he is in the 45th Mass  
John has been sick with the cough

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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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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