

Dear Sister

1864
Camp Stone well Spring
Feb 22nd

I received your letter a day or so ago, but as you were not prompt in answering, I thought I would just pay you back in your own coin so put it off until today. And as we will have to take another tour of picket duty day after tomorrow you will have to make this answer for eight or ten days perhaps. We are indeed on picket a great part of our time, in camp 16 days & on picket 8. I have written to a certain old maid in Lexington by her own request I have waited patiently a month for an answer & have as yet received none, so if you see her, just tell her for me that the next one I write she will perhaps answer.

You need not alarm yourself in regard to the tobacco interest as the part with the spectated was none other than her brother, so you see that I am posted in that quarter & fear no interference in regard to any investment I may desire to make.

I am greatly surprised at Miss Mary marrying Lou Davidson. I hear that he does nothing else but drink all the time. So her mother & father must have seen him & consequently she must have known how worthless he was.

I suppose the gay cavaliers are sweeping every thing before them & winning many a susceptible ladies heart by their dashing charges.

You must have had quite a gay time carrying
me up in the staff on your lap. I suppose he is
quite a respectable boy as far as regards size
& budness. What does Mr Patton do in regard
to the substitute act & how does he manage
to keep out. We received our first installment
of conscripts yesterday & I thought at the time
the Regiment were all whooping & making all
sorts of fun over them that some of them would
feel cheap if they should find some kins folk
among the number, so I left mute as a mice
I pictured to myself the Tanner walking along
in the crowd, Poor men! I pity them, they
seem to think that the army is the best place
in the world to have to come to, I can not
reconcile the idea that this is to be their home
untill we shall have achieved our independence
but I suppose we realize the fruits idea when
we said, His home where the heart is

Where its living pleasures dwell
I love by cabin or princely hall
I'm freest still on her mit cell

Patriotism is at considerable discount with
them & only equals Confederate & Buck.
By the way I expect our Shuck will improve
considerably owing to the recent legislation
of our Congress. All honors to our noble
Congress, who they everything & put every body into
the army but these felons.

But I suppose they think that the Confederacy
is about played out in that thing which they
call talent I do not think that it would
be advisable to expose themselves to the
bullets of the Yanks which they will not
fear, favour, or affection. But I think he
would be a fool indeed who would not be
able (if he had the power) to devise means for his
own safety. But the recent act of Congress seems
to meet with general favour & even the seven
month printing Examiner seems to be for once
half pleased. I am glad to see the tone of
the people is becoming more courageous & more
overjoyed of Southern battling for freedom & all
that men hold dear. But look at our
noble army voluntarily recruiting for the war
none are found who shrink from their duty.
On the other hand look at the Yanks offering
enormous bounties & getting so few soldiers
at that. Is not our cause brighter than it
ever has been? Evil seems to be smiling upon
us. We can never be conquered, I trust
in God & our own brave legions. I think
the beginning of the End can now be seen &
before the snows of next winter Peace honorable
& lasting shall smile sweetly upon us
God grant that my hopes may not be wrong
But it is the general opinion in the army
Col Terry said to day he firmly believed we would
have peace before July.

We have been having quite an interesting series
of meetings lately & they still progress they are
conducted by Rev Mr Baker of Sturminster, who
is a very plain but I think good man.
I hope they may be attended with good
results. We have also had some interesting
meetings of our Association since my return
expect to have the Rev Dr Hogg to address us
in a week or so. All are gone to bed so
I will close & turn in too. May God bless
you all. Yours W^d—

A. Horsley