

Bixburg Miss  
February 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Mary I received your  
your very welcome letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> of last  
month which gave me much pleasure  
I also received one from brother John  
if I can only hear from home often  
I think I can keep my spirits up it  
is ~~a~~ very hard to be separated from  
you and the children but such letters  
as I got from you day before yesterday  
will do much to keep me in good heart  
therefore I want you to write once a week  
at least.

We have had no word from the Regt.  
yet; therefore I cannot tell when it will  
get back it may go to Mobile if so it  
is doubtful whether they will come back  
here at all. There was a detail made  
from this camp on a foraging expedition  
which started yesterday morning their

destination supposed to be Grand  
hulf Will and Eli being on that deta<sup>l</sup>  
I suppose they will be gone about  
ten days, having started with rations  
for that length of time.

We have had very nice weather ever  
since we came here untill within the  
last few days which has been very  
cold ~~and today~~ yesterday we had quite  
a snow storm but to day it is more  
pleasant.

Dear Mary I again resume my letter  
although I am quite <sup>tired</sup> having been out  
on a detail for wood this afternoon but  
we have had supper so I thought I would  
<sup>finish</sup> my letter by candle light. We still get  
plenty to eat though not of the best if  
a person wants any thing extra he has  
to pay very dear for it Butter is worth  
fifty cts per pound Chickens one dollar  
each green Apples from three to five cts  
a piece Potatoes five dollars per bushel  
so I guess I will have to put up with

what Uncle Sam gives me: and I think I can live very well upon it for I have been gaining in weight ever since we came here.

You wished me to send my likeness to you one reason that I have not done so before this, <sup>is</sup> that some think we will go home with the Regiment and then I could get it done much cheaper there than we can here; but ~~that~~ it is uncertain wheather we will get that opportunity or not so I think I shall get it taken before long and send it to you: but I want you to get yours and the childrens and send them to me as soon as you can.

John wrote to me concerning the money that I sent home and find there was not much left for you after paying my debts so I thought I would send you five dollars in this letter I have but very little use for money here and can spare you that amount and then have twelve dollars left which is more

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than I will spend for one week at  
least

I guess I will have to quit my  
scribbling for to night. Mary this is  
twelve or thirteen letters I have written  
since I left home and all except two  
to you and that doing well for me.

Go my Mary  
G. H. Coulson

Pell Adda pap has not forgot  
her and that she will get a letter  
some of these days.