

Big Black Miss
March 29th 1864

Dear Mary

I again take my pen to address you a few lines. I received your letter of the 6th inst. and was glad to hear from you and the children; it had been ~~so~~^{so} long a time since I had received any word from you that I began to feel as though I was forgotten but your letter set me all right again so I feel satisfied but you must be very punctual in answering my letters for you know how dearly I love my little family; that to be separated from it is as much as I can bear; but if I can hear from you often I will try and be satisfied with my lot.

It is reported that our Army corps have been ordered to the Army of the Potomac and that we will start up the Mississippi tomorrow or next day if so we will go into

Ohio but whether we will get there before
the Regiments furlough is up or not is un-
certain if we should I will try to get a
furlough to go home, but you need make
no calculations about it ~~for~~ for it is
^{all} chance work in the army a person never
^{knows} what he is going to do until it is done, but
I think it a settled point that we will leave
here soon and I hope it is so for I do not
like it here there is a part of three Regiments
camped here together and some fool officers
over us that have not three grains of common
sense above an oyster.

There is no news of any importance here
there is a small force of rebs on the other
side of Black River our pickets and there
are only about one mile apart some think
they will make an attack on this place
but I think they have more sense for they
could gain nothing by it.

Will and myself are as well as usual Ben
Wiley is not very hearty he has had the Dyse-
ntery for several weeks I think he will never
stand soldering very well

I got my likeness taken but have not sent it yet I thought that I would wait till I got up the river further that is if we go soon which I think there is no doubt of, if you have yours and the childrens and have not sent them to me you need not send them until you hear from me again. I want you to go and see Mother as often as you can. Tell Father and Mother to write also. Henry.

I will close by wishing this may find you all well

From your Obedt

Tell Father that we have not been paid off yet I hardly expect to be before we get to the Regiment but as soon as I get my money I will send it to him

Obedt