

Cairo Ill

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Dear Mary I again take my pen to  
address a few lines to you. I received  
your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. and was glad to  
hear that the children had got well  
again; for as long as there is any thing the  
matter at home I cannot feel contented but  
as long as all is well at home I can feel  
satisfied with my lot.

We are still in camp at the place  
and expect will remain here until the  
regiment returns: it has been raining for  
the last two days, and has made it very  
disagreeable the mud being about shoe  
mouth deep all over the camp. There is  
a very different soil here from that at  
Pittsburgh or Black River. There it might  
rain for a week and in an hour time  
<sup>after</sup> it would be dry.

You wrote that you feared you would not

get to see the boys unaccount of the roads  
being so bad that you could not get  
to know but I made ~~the boys~~<sup>them</sup> promise  
to go and see you before they came back.  
You wrote that you were disappointed  
when you found I was not coming  
home with the Regiment I have no doubt  
but you were I myself was somewhat  
disappointed: but Dear Mary it will save  
us another sad parting I hope that  
if I should live to get home it will  
be to stay.

My health is excellent I think I  
never enjoyed better Bill is also hearty  
and looks a great deal better than he  
did when he left home but I am  
sorry to say that some of the boys that  
came with us have not had their health  
so well B. A. Wiley M. Ridgely and John  
Carr are very unwell and have  
been for some time.

I have no news to write if there

is any movements of the Army you get  
it as soon<sup>as</sup> I do. No doubt you have  
an account of the massacre of the  
garrison at Fort Pillow which happened  
on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. it being the morning  
after we passed it on our way up the  
River.

Bill is acting hospital steward and  
has been for the <sup>last</sup> month I suppose he  
will hold the position until the Regt.  
returns at least. I sometimes have a  
notion of trying the Pioneer corp<sup>s</sup> but  
will wait until the Regiment gets back.

I will close by wishing this may find  
you all enjoying good health.

From your

Wibe

Write often you say you have written  
every week since I left Columbus  
except two I have received but seven  
letters from you they must get lost  
I will give you a direction which I think

will bring them through safe