

Cairo Ill.

April 25th 1864

Dear Mary

I again take my pen to answer your kind letter of the 23rd which I received last evening I cannot describe the pleasure which it gave me to receive such a letter and in so short a time it being but three days from the time it was mailed until I received it.

To read it ~~almost~~ seemed almost as though we were talking face to face.

You spoke of the good times that the boys were having at home and wished that I were there to share ^{their} joys no doubt but they are enjoying themselves but when the time rolls round that they have to start back

I will not have the sad parting ^{with my} dear family and friends to undergo. You wished me to keep in good spirits I will try to do so I have never regretted

enlisting in the service of my country
and hope I never shall we have had pretty
rough times since the regiment left but as
long as I keep my health I can bear with
it.

You spoke of the draft and hoped ^{it} would
come off and take some of the men from
Perrisville I sometimes wish so to but if
the rebellion can be put down by a volun-
teer force I think it will be more honor
to the nation.

I was glad to hear that you had got
up to see Mother and Dear Mary I hope
you will go to see her as often as you can
I do not get to hear from her near so often
as I would wish I have written to Eli
and Will and Jane also to John and Oley
but have received no answer from them
Tell Adda that her pap has not forgot
her yet I would like to see her and hear
her preach and sing. Tell her to be a good
girl and be kind to her Mother and
Theresa. I sent my dress coat home

by one of the boys that was going
home from here on furlough I sent it
in care of E. L. C. and told him to
leave it at Rogers' Board Ware Store
in Malta. you can get it and
take care of it

I believe I have nothing
more to write at this time except
that I am well

From your
O'Neil

P.S. I sent my likeness the day
after we came here