

Cairo May 7th 1864

Dear Mary I once more take my pen to address you. But I fear that I will not be able to write much of a letter this morning; having been on duty last night I feel very lazy and sleepy; but I will try what I can do. There has been considerable stir in camp for the last week, ^{by} the veterans arriving and leaving for the front a part of our Brigade have already gone up the river their destination I cannot tell but I ^{sup}pose it is either Huntsville Alabama or Chatanooga. ~~Yours~~ I suppose our regiment will be here in a day or to then we will be off for the field. I do not know when I shall write to you again if we should leave here in a few days I may not have the opportunity of writing until we reach our destination but I will write as often as I can; therefore do not be uneasy if you should not hear so often as you have heretofore.

Our government appears determined to break down

the rebellion this summer and I think that if large
armies will do it this summers campaign must end
it. I hope it may so that I can return to loved ones
at home. Dear ~~Mary~~ Mary, what a happy meeting it will
be if I am permitted to return to you and my dear chi-
ldren once more. ~~if it were not for that but the~~
~~the thought of my duty to my country~~
~~if it were not for the thought~~
of joining my family and friends and the knowledge
of doing my duty to my country, this would indeed
be a sad life for me; but these thoughts stimulates me
and keeps my spirits up: so I think if I prove true
to my God and my country I will gain enough to
repay me for all my privations.

I suppose the national guards are by this time in
the service of their country I say success to the national
guards and hope they may prove worthy of their name
but there are some I cannot say much in praise of
their spirit and courage I fear have faild them.

Dear Mary my health is still very good: Will is also hearty:
The other boys that came with me are improving in health:
we have been living sumptuously since yesterday, some of the
boys having received a box of provisions from home. Some of
the boys grumble a good deal about our living but as long
as I keep well I can get along very well you would think
so if you were to see me eat: I never had a better appetite
I can eat almost any thing that comes before me.

I want you to write all the news you can and please
send me a Herald occasionally if practicable.

Write to me what news you get from the boys I think
if we go to the army of the Cumberland I will try to find
Lewis I also want to know what has become of Henry

Send Mother news as often as you can what news you
get from me. Give my love to all my friends

I remain as ever your true Husband,

G. H. Coulson

Direct as that envelope was that I sent you

2^d Brigade 3^d Division 11th Army Corps