

CAMP DRAKE, MUFFREESBORO, TENN.
May, 28th, 1863

Respected Sister:-

I received your letter dated on the 14th. of the present month over a week ago, but delayed answering because I had expected another in a few days. It seems that Hooker is getting back to Washington as fast as he an. There is a rumor in camp that Grant has taken Vicksburg with twenty seven thousand prisoners and a large amount of artillery. It was not confirmed in today's papers, but without doubt there has been heavy fighting there for the last few days and which will result in a victory or defeat. The soldiers are very anxious to hear the news of the different departments, but there is one particular change in them here. When they first came out they would be cheered at the rport of the first little victory rumored in camp which half of the time turned out false. This is al played out. We believe the reports when they are officially reported. I think they had better saved the powder that they burned in Ohio for firing salutes, for a rebel victory. I think the rebels lost the most men but them you know they do not value mens lives as much as we do. I had heard the news that R. Osborne was married. We have not received that box yet. It is very dusty. There has been no rain for several weeks. I be.ieve that it is over two weeks since I wrote home last. I never put it off longer but once before. It is just one year ago today since we had out fight before Corinth. I saw John Fox last Sunday. He was well and has gotten to be a Corporal. I see our government is going to organize two hundred thousand negro troops within the next sixty days. I think theymay save a few white men's lives. There is to one corps in this department. General Wilich got back day before yesterday.. No more at present.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DAKE, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

June, 1st, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome letter that was posted on the 26th. The paroled boys have not returned yet. We daily expect to hear of the surrender of Vicksburg. This army may see some active service soon. Day before yesterday there were eight thousand cavalry and mounted infantry with two sections of artillery left this place. We suppose they are going to make a raid into Dixie. Some think they are going to try and destroy the bridge across the Tennessee river at Bridgeport. There are fair prospects of our moving but cannot say in what direction. We may attack the forces at Tallahoma but I cannot think so. This army is not so large as many suppose. I have not received that box yet. did you send it by express or by freight. If by the latter I do not think it will ever reach here. I heard that Cotter was going to speak at Marlboro last Saturday evening. I expect to hear of his drawing the wool over some one's eyes. Do not think that I should feel sorry if he should get eight or ten. I think a soldier well off if he can get into a battery. He tells a mighty smooth tale and never tells any thing on the wrong side. I shall have some thing more to tell you some day about Major, C. S. Cotter of General McCook's staff, but he laboring for a good cause and may God speed him. Our battery is in the best condition now that it ever was. We had several nice showers and things begin to look green again. I have not seen a field this yeazr that was being farmed to any kind of a crop, not even an enclosed pasture field. I shall wait and see what tomorrow morning brings forth.

Tuesday morning, June, 2nd.

All quiet and not so much prospects of moving as I expected. Well I must bring this to a close as breakfast is ready. It consists of flich and coffee. No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP[IN NASHVILLE, TENN.

June, 12th, 1863.

Respected Father:-

I am in the 5th. Michigan Battery yet, with about 35 others of our battery. We are expecting every day to be ordered to join the rest of the battery. From what I can learn our battery is to be fitted out again. The boys that are out to the front have two pieces of ours in working order. There are ten of the boys in another battery. I have not heard any thing about how th wounded are getting along. there are still about thirty of the boys missing. It seems that old Rosy outwinded the rebels at Murfreesboro. If not whipped them. Our loss is estimated at one thousand killed and seven thousand wounded. The rebels loss is heavier. Some say twenty thousand killed, wounded and taken prisoners. I cannot hardly believe it. We took five thousand prisoner or more, and they took several thousand of our men. They got quite quite a number of our boys. Some of them were taken prisoners twice but we4re recaptured by our cavalry the second time. From what I can learn the rebels are in the vicinity of Tallahoma. I hear that our men have taken possession of Shelbyville. There is some rebel cavalry between here and our main army that annoy our supply train very much. Last Saturday they captured some wagons an engine and two cars that were out about ten miles from Nashvie repairing the road. They were burned on the track. The Captain of the company that captured the train lives near where he commitee the deperadation. General Mitchel has issued an ordere to destroy all of the property of rebels that upheld or aided the guerillas or those who aided in any shape or form in destroying the road. This order embraces five miles on each side of the road. Mitchel sent out one regiment and destroyed a l of the a ove Captain's property. They burned his house and barns, and are hauling his rails into the City for wood. The people of the City are in a suffering condition for fuel. The poorest of green wood is wort \$10.00 a cord. Before the rebellion broke out Nashville must have been a pleasant City, but how different now. There is hardly a yard fence standing, besides there are hundreds of acres of beautiful groves near the City that have all been cut down for wood, and the soldiers have gone so far as to cut down the shade trees along the walks. Besides out men having used twenty of the largest churches, seminaries, medical colleges and so forth for hospitals. The state house, which has only one equal in the Union, is a miserable

dirty place and is used to keep the rebel prisoners in. The Court house is used for the same purpose. The large ware house and business houses of all kinds are used for army stores. In fact the soldiers run every thing in this city. Between here and Murfreesboro was a prosperous little town by the name of LaVerne that contained about wenty good buildings, one steam saw mill and one steam grist mill. All that marks the place now are the naked chimneys and piles of ashes. In fact there is hardly a house or barn standing between here and Murfreesboro. The latter place would have undoubtedly been burned had it not been full of sick rebel soldiers. The prevailing disease is small pox. I hear that Tyre Springs Hotel is burned to the ground. The yankees are making a serious thing of it now. I have just heard that our men have possession of Tallahoms and that the rebels have fled. If it be so that next thing we hear of them will be at Vicksburg. The last account from there was that our soldeirs had been repulsed. I think they ill make a desperate effort to hold that point. The rebels know of what a vast importance to us that the river should be open. Besides it cuts all communication off between their principal states that they get supplies from. The people of the northern states can talk about war all they please but they know nothing about it without they have been a soldier. Just supposed that the south were whipped and that our men should fight as well as the rebels have. Just think in what condition the north would be with all the sea cost and lake cost in the hands of the enemy. Besides four fifths of the capital and their whole army should run over our states for over two years, would the north carry it. Would they not fight with double energy then. I almost think some times that we will have to annilhiate the whole army before they give up. I xx xxx know that they will not have anything worth fighting for pretty soon if they do not quit. I saw Eestus Spellman. He is in the convalescent barracks. There are plenty of boats running up this far. You may direct my letters direct to the old battery as before. I was to church last Sunday night. No more for the present

From your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

June, 14th. : Camp at Nashville.

I received orders to join our battery and will start in the morning. The rebels attacked the boat as they were coming over the shoals eight miles below the City. They captured one loaded with hay and corn and burned it. It has rained hard all day. R. Roggers is in the hospital. He was taken prisoner an parolled. He will be at home soon. I have sent my watch up home by him because it costs too much to get it repaired here.

2.

You may cut as big a swell with it as you can. I think Roggers will come down to your house and make you a visit. I send the diary home by mail. Take good care of it as I want to copy it if I ever get home. I have it all from the day I left home, unless I have lost a part of it.

No more at present,

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

June, 20th, 1863.

Uncle:-

Dear Sir:-

Alpheus has requested me to write you a few lines and inform you as to the condition of his health as he is not able to write at the present time. He was taken sick about eight days ago with what we call camp fever. five days after he was taken sick he was taken to the general field hospital where he now is. I was over the see him yesterday. He told me that he felt very comfortable at that time and I think he will get along very well now, so as to e around in a few days. He has nice place to stay and is well taken care of for the army. I think him very lucky in getting to a hospital as soon as he did. Direct as usual.

Yours Respectfully,

L. B. Maxwell

CONVALESCENT CAMP, NASHVILLE, TENN.

June, 9th, 1863

Respected Parents:-

I have not heard from home for a month. There has not been any mail come from and going to the north fro over a week owing to the presence of some rebel cavalry in the vicinity of the L. & N. R. R. I thought I would write for the road will be open soon and I know you will e anxious to know where and how I am. I left the hospital yesterday and was sent to the Convalescent camp here. We have to sleep in tents, and are all divided into companies, all those of one xxxxxx division being put into one company. I like the place better than the hospital. I am gaining strength fast. I can walk a mile easy, and am on guard today for the first time. Am day guard in a house where I can sit down (and that always suits a soldier). Our camp is in a very pleasant and clean place. If nothing happens I will be able to go back to the camp in ten or fifteen days, although I may not get to go back for two moths. I have my discriptive roll and can draw clothing, and will get paid off sure if I stay here in fifteen or twenty days. I hear no news from the front only as I get it out of the papers. Our armies have been having the best f success for the past month,if the papers can be relied upon. I am beginning to think that I shall have a chance for the \$402.00 bounty for reinlisting as a veteran soldier after my three years are up. I should like to have agood long talk with you all in regard to the war. Write me about what you think about things North, South, East and West. There are hundreds of things that I should like to talk with you abot but there is no use of making a long letter as I cannot get room for all. The two greatest blessing I can ask for is good health(and yours) and a speedy and vigorous prosecution of the war.

No more at present, but remain,

Your affectionate Son,

A.S.Bloomfield.

Please write right away and direct to Johnson's Division,

Convalescent Camp,
Nashville, Tenn.

CONVELESCENT CAMP, NASHVILLE, TENN.

Jule, 16th, 1863.

Respected Parents:-

I suppose you will look for a letter from me every week and that is why I write every week. I have not heard from home for over one month. I feel as well and hearty as ever I did, all that I lack is flesh and strength. Yesterday I walked three or four miles. Am going to go to the battery as soon as I can get a chance, which may not be for ten or twenty days. I got a letter from the battery that was written last Sunday. They were at Tallahoma again and no prospects for their moving. Since I wrote you before we have had some good news and in fact none that I could call news. Morgan from all accounts is raising some great excitement in Indiana and Ohio. I am in hopes that it will all turn out well in the end. It will let the northern states know something of the cost of war and maybe it will help the cause of recruiting in the northern states. Besides I think it will turn out rather an expensive raid for the southern confedercy. I cannot think that one tenth of his men can ever reach their lines without begin taken prisoners. General Rosecrans and staff arrived in this City on the evening of the 14th.and it is reported that he and General U..S. Grant, Gen. Bragg and others are ordered to report at Washington. Bragg has left Chattanooga and at present has his head quarters at Atlanta. He does not seem to be very sociable with old rosy. Some are trying to make something out of the great riot in New York City, but I do not think it will amount to much. I think a few thousand soldiers xxx to apply old Abe's blue pills will cure the disease in short order. I think you will be safe in answering this and sending to this camp. No more at present,

From your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP REED, TALLAHOMA, TENNESSEE.

Jule, 24,1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received a letter from you on the 16th. of last month just as they were starting away with me to the hospital. I suppose you know the reason I have not answered it sooner. I received the letter that Father wrote after receiving the one from Lewis Maxwell yesterday. I left Nashville yesterday morning at four o'clock and got to this place about eleven. The trains run through to Stevenson and Bridgeport near where we encamped last summer while at Battle Creek. I found the boys all enjoying good health, and are helping themselves to the luxuries of the land, such as lack berries, applies and chickens. I think that I have about recovered and am nearly as sound as ever I was. The boys tell me that there was not one of them touched all through the fight after Bragg. They fired several hundred rounds. Our brigade lost more men than they did in the fight at Shilo. The same division was them that was before usx at Stone River. It was General Hardy's. The occupied Liberty Gap, a very strong position. Tell, Father that I thank him very much for his kind offer and good advice. I t was just s he said. there was no use of his coming down. I had very good care xx all of the time. Tell Gertrude and Thomas that I would like to hear from them some of the time.. From what I hear of the north the people are very much encouraged about the war. We expect hourly to hear of the news of the surrender of Charles, South Carolina. Morgan's raid seems to have excited the people in Indiana, Ohio and eastern Pennsylvania, but the soldiers all seem to be glad that he got up there. Our battery was paid off yesterday, but I did not get any because I did not get back in time to be mustered. They owe me about five months pay. I have plenty of money for my own use.

Have not heard any thing from that box.

Your affectionate brother,

A.S.Bloomfield.

CAMP REED, TALLAHOMA, TENNESSEE.

August, 8th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

Received your letter dated on the 3rd of the present month. Glad to hear from home. this was the first for over six weeks and I had begun to think some of you were sick. I have heard a great deal about the copperhead doings of late. They took quite a bold stand in New York, but I think they will see the day they will e sorry that they ever raised a hand against the draft. I am very glad to learn that there are a few men there that are not afraid to go into a gang of butternuts and take their pins off. That was one of the best deeds that I ever head of R. Hatcher doing. I think that one accident will over balance all of the other mean tricks.

I know jut what some would say that there are had cases on both sides. Suppose there are, should they not be praised for their good deeds? And if a few of the law abiding citizens would lend a helping hand I think it would not be long until they would not be annoyed by seeing butternuts coming out in public with their rebel eblems on. I wish a few soldiers could get amongst them. They would give them a chance to use their revolvers. I was pleased to hear how the people rallied to capturen Morgan. From what I acn gather from the papers the draft will come off soon in Ohio. There have quite a number of Officers and privates been sent to Ohio from each regiment. They say our regiments are to be filled up as full as the law allows. Our battery only lacks two men of being full at present. We have about thirty men detailed out of the regiment that our battery is in. The health of the boys is uncommonly good. We lost one man about two weeks ago in the hospital. He was from Charleston and leaves a wife and three children. As for our moving I hardly know what to say. I do know that night before last we were ordered to drat ten days rations and hold ourselves in readiness. Some say we are going to Huntsville. It has been showery for the past ten days. Have not had any very warm weather yet but expect it soon. I have heard about Thomas and Ed's short campaign. I heard they marched as far as alliance. I do not suppose that any thing happened that day any more memorable than a great many other days , but if they had to do as we do on a march it would have been a day long to be remembered, by every member in the company as well as every family within two miles of the road. There are being officers, or rather men for officers, picked out of this division for the colored regiments. There over one thousand able bodied negros in this division. There

2.

also refugees, white and black, with their families, coming inside of our lines every day, on their way north. I enclose these few lines, which I took from a news paper, because some one has come near expressing my sentiments on the subject than I can. I threw out some hints about how this division went in on the citizens on our last march. but I have never told you the particulars. You may think them big tales are hard ones to believe when men who are raised in the best of society. I can only speak of McCook's corps. Three corps started on the 24th. of last month, each took a different road. It rained all day on the first day and kept it up off and on for two weeks. The uncomfortable position that the men were in made them more reckless. They found the wheat mostly cut and in shocks. The army did not pretend to keep to the roads, but went across lots. We used the wheat for fuel, and generally made it handy to stop in a nice meadow, burning all of the rails, and killing sheep, hogs, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, once in a while a nice veal. Potatoes, ripe apples, garden stuffs, were rather scarce at first but we soon made them scarcer. Boys went into nearly every house, Union or rebel, taking all of the pork, flour or meal. Last fall when we were on our march to Louisville a woman sold a soldier in the 32nd. Indiana a piece of pie that had poison in it, from the effects of which he died. When the house, stood one mile north of Shelbyville. When the 32nd. came to this house they went into it and told the woman to get out that they were going to burn it. The women were not allowed to take an article. It was a splendid house and belonged to a wealthy planter. this is one case among a great many of similar kinds. Near the same place was a doctor that had been doctoring the rebels. Our soldiers did not leave a whole piece of furniture in the house. Broke every dish and spoiled every piece of clothing. The furniture was of the finest kind of was made in Cincinnati, and was far ahead of every thing you have ever seen. Our men were forced to throw away nearly if not all of their blankets. When they stopped for the night they would go to the nearest house and would take every thing that would add to their comfort. The feather beds were taken out and thrown down in the mud to sleep on. When done with them they would cut holes in them and scatter the feathers. It was a common thing to find fire arms in the houses. I sometimes think that the men have lost all respect for the tender feelings of the young women. Yes, very tender hearted indeed, so sell our men pies with arsenic in them. The commonest word of consolation our boys has to offer is "Never mind it is all for the Union".

3.

These are among the few evils of war. You can judge how copper heads would fare among suchmen. I have just heard that David Oby was killed in the battle of Gettysburg, and George taken prisoner.

If I should live to get home, and this war should last one year longer I would not meet one out of ten of my old associates who enlisted that can say that he is a sound man. There are one half of them dead now or discharged. The 7th. Ohio after the battle of Antietam had but forty eight men left out of the first one thousand, that went out, and some of them had been wounded three and four times.

Write as often as convenient,

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

How the riot Affects Our Army.

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMY CORPS,, July 17, 1863

The army continues in motion, as seemingly unconscious of the great riot in New York as before the riot seemed those living in New York of the existence of our great army. We have our reveillies and marches and tps and tattoos, as you had your battle of business, comprising carts, ears and omnibuses and daily promenades on Broadway. You had your work—we had ours. And yet you knew of our army's doings and talked of them, and gloried in them; and we know of the riot and shedding of blood in your street and talk of them, but not to glory in them. *Our soldiers look upon this riot as more than shameful—they are injured at it. And how could it be other wise? For over two years they have periled health and life in aiding to put force this rebellion. In these two years more than half their comrades have fallen in battle. It became necessary by drafting to raise a competency force to prosecute and end the war. This draft is recited---, and violence, pillage and murder follows in its track, and I wish my regiment was there.*” says Colonel after Colonel, I would wine these fellows out_If I had my battery there,” says a battery Captain, I’d blow every rioter to the devil,” I’d scout on everyone of the mean cowards,” says every body. Our brace and self-sacrificing soldiers would show no mercy. I would do them more good, I verily believe, to shoot one of your copperhead rioters than to kill a dozen rebel soldiers. But the excitement and danger, I imagine are pretty much over now, and it will all result, doubtless, in more vigilant, determined and successful arrangement of the draft. The rebel argues my take heartfelt these ___demonstrate ___ it will be only temporary; and if they ___ay say marching _ to their souls on account of them they will soon learn their deep jolly.

The opinion of the army is correctly yet forth in dispatch. The conscript Law is the incrite measure of the soldiers. they would fight to enforce it as heartily as they would fight the ragamuffin chivalry. they are enraged at any suggestion that it may not be enforced. There is nothing they would ___with ___good will as reluctant on __. We know this to be the opinion and the _ of the army. and it may ___ accepted as significant.

CAMP AT BELLEFONTE, ALABAMA, ONE MILE
 BACK FROM THE TENNESSEE RIVER AND
 ON THE NORTH SIDE.

August, 23, 1863.

Respected Father:-

After one weeks hard marching, battery A is in old Alabama. One year ago yesterday we left the Tennessee river. Who would have thought that it would have taken one year to have gained this territory, but it seems to be the general belief that this is the second and last time. I think this department was a little too fast in the start. One year ago today there was no other army the size of Buel's that had our four hundred miles of communications to keep up by mail. We are about ten miles down the river from Stevenson, and twenty five or thirty miles from Battle Creek. The railroads that runs from Memphis, to Corinth, Huntsville, Stevenson and Chattanooga, are all in good running condition again. I understand that the cars run within nine miles of Huntsville. We left Tallaioma one week ago today, and arrived here last evening after seven days heavy marching through tain, dust, hot sun, muddy roads and over mountains. We went direct to Winchester then to Salem, and crossed over the mountains about thirty miles below where we did last year. Followed down a bottom for fiteen or twenty miles, and then took up another stream that took off to our left, or rather came down from our left. Every body down here calls these hollows, coves. We marched up this cove for twenty miles, and then had to cross the mountains again where they were about two miles up and the same down. We have to double our teams to get up. The mountains are very rough being solid lime stone. This part of Alabama north of the Tennessee river is called northern Alabama and is settled with the poor class of people. It is the most loyal part of the state. Over one thousand of them joined our army last year. I think twice as many will enlist this year. There were quite a number of rebel soldiers came inside of our lines and offered to take the oath. Tthere were several bushwhackers shot, one or two being shot in our division. I do not think any of the citizens were personally injured by any of our soldiers, but their crops and property had to suffer. We used rails freely and I do not think any one ever saw peach orchards stripped any quicker. Applies are scarcer. Corn is plenty and good. Some field are ripe. I can say where the rebel force is but it is a general opinion that they will make a stand at Rome or Atlanta. Every thing seems to be working in our favor of late. We received one

weeks mail yesterday yet I got none. What kind of crops did you raise this year and are they good or bad. What are you doing with the machine? How did old McG. get out of that sheep scrape? Did Hatcher and A. Hamilton have the trail for taking off those bu'ternut pins, and if so the particulars of the trial. What do the people say about the draft in that neighborhood?

It was not very warm on this march. I only heard heard of two being sun struck. Two weeks ago the 19th. Regulars crossed the mountains and they lost between fifteen and twenty in one day by sun stroke. No more at present.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP TEN MILES FROM LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
WITHIN FIVE MILES OF ALABAMA AND
GEORGIA LINES.

Sept, 6th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received a letter from you over one week ago but owing to our unsettled position I put off writing. We left Bellfonte one week ago today and have marched every day but two since, going at the rate of from four to fifteen miles per day. The country is very hilly. They call them mountains down here, but I guess they would not be called so by geographers. We crossed the Tennessee river on a pontoon bridges opposite Stevenson. Our men had but little trouble in laying the pontoons. There were but three musket shots fired, and few of the rebels pickets captured. This is at the same point that Bragg crossed last fall when he attacked our rear guard at Stevenson. I think our men completely surprised the rebels by crossing here. Six hours after the first pontoon struck the water the bridge was completed and two regiments of infantry were across. The length of the bridge is one third of a mile. Davis' division was ahead of us and a part of Negley's, and two or three divisions of Cavalry. There has twenty seven regiments of cavalry and mounted infantry passed us. We hear various reports from the front but time will prove and not many days either, whether we are successful or not. This is a bold strike and will be the ruination of Bragg's army forever, if we have success, and if we should not gain the victory it will put us back in this department for months. Burnside is working in unison with Rosecrans. The latest news is that the rebels are holding Chattanooga. I think before this our men have their communications cut off. This cavalry of course, is going to do something in that line of business. We have thirty days rations with us. Our men are putting up large buildings at Stevenson to keep supplies in. The army is in the best of spirits, although we are getting no recruits from Ohio, Indiana, or Illinois yet. I fear it will be some time before we get a great many from Ohio since the draft has been postponed. I suppose that you have long ago heard that these hills and mountains are swarming with Union men waiting for an opportunity to join our army. There have been a number who have joined in this part of the army and I have no doubt that thousands have joined before this time.

2.

I think the rebels are pretty well played, and if we get possession of Atlanta, Rome and Chattanooga, without a fight or with a fight, that all this army will have to do will be to hold their ground. We have just one year from today to serve, if we put in our whole time. Now we will begin to count the time with the months as years. Some say that there is no a il to go north for twelve days. I do not know whether it is so or not. But I know it goes away from the brigade. I do t hink it is nearly as warm this summer as last. The health of the soldies is good, and we have but one thing that gives us much discomfort at this time, and they are small insects called the "chicker" They infest the woods, and as we have to lay around in the woods we get nearly covered with them. They are red and so very small that one can hardly see them with the naked eye. They seem to poison one all over. We have no remedy for them only to scratch. All of the rest of the letters that you write put the number of it on the outside or back as I do on this one and we will them know if any are missing or lost on the way.

I cannot think of any thing more at present, but you may look for stirring news from this portion of the army, before the coming forty days.

From you borther,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT THE FOOT OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
ON THE EAST SIDE, IN ALABAMA WITHIN
FORTY RODS OF THE GEORGIA LINE, FORTY
MILES FROM ROME, ONE HUNDRED MILES
FROM ATLANTA.

Sept, 12th, 1863.

Respected Father:-

It is with pleasure that I write you once more. I learned about fifteen minutes ago that there would be a chance to send mail about seven this evening, and as I supposed you were all watching for every item of news that you can catch from this army. You have long ago learned that we were on the move again. We have lain here one day. There were some cavalry skirmishing yesterday. The 39th. Indiana belongs to our brigade and are mounted and armed with sabers and seven shooters. They were out on a scout about fifteen miles from this place and were surrounded but they cut their way out with a little loss. Today the supply and ammunition trains are ordered back onto the top of Lookout Mountain. The report is that they are advancing on us but I do not credit the report. We have between thirty and forty prisoners at McCook's head quarters. We hear today that Burnside has routed Buckner out of Tennessee with a loss of three thousand prisoners, large amount of arms and rolling stock. Today sixty recruits came to the 89th. Illinois. I saw John Fox yesterday. He is well. We are having as warm weather now as we have had this summer. As warm as it is we can march fifteen or twenty miles a day. I think the heat does not have as great effect on the troops as it would in Ohio. It is steadier here. I imagine that you are inquiring whether we are going to have a fight down here. My opinion is that they will not make a stand nearer than Rome. I have an idea that they will try and hold Atlanta, and I think it very probable that there is where the fight will be if any where. It is my opinion that they will show a strong rear guard and retreat to some other point. The 20th. Ohio battery is in this division. They upset one of their caissons coming down the mountain and hurt five of their men very badly. It will prove the death of one or two. I want to know the particulars of the camp meeting. How did you make it pay? Did you sell your wool last spring, and if so what did you realize for it? What are you doing with the threshing machine this summer. Write sometime between this and next winter.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

Sept , 24th, 1853.

Respected Brother:-

I received your welcome letter dated the 13th also Father's . Was pleased to know that you were both in such good spirits. Ere this reaches you you will have heard of the important move of this department. IN my last I held to the idea that we were not going to have an important fight but I found it right to the contrary. On last Saturday our division was ordered from the extreme right to the extreme left to reinforce General Rosecrans division which had been fighting on Friday. We found the enemy in force. The distance from the right to the left was seven miles. We arrived there about the middle of the afternoon, and we found our men over powered and driven nearly back onto the Chattanooga road. They had lost nearly all of their artillery. Our division repulsed them and drove them back about one mile. Just at dark they charged with their force and drove our division back with a heavy loss. The 5th. Indiana battery lost one gun. We were under a heavy cross fire from two rebel batteries, but fortunately no one was hurt from our battery. That night we shortened our lines to about three miles, and during the night our men built up on a breast work out of logs as hastily as possible. On Sunday morning about eight o'clock they masked their forces on our center, immediately in front of the breastworks, and made a desperate effort to break our lines. They wanted to get between us and Chattanooga. They made three charges at this point but were repulsed with heavy loss. They then masked their forces on the left and drove our left clear across the road and got possession of one hospital. At this time they were within three rods of one section of our battery. We gave them canister and the infantry on the left. The ground was almost covered with dead and wounded. There was but one man left on one of our guns and three on the other who were not killed or wounded. After our men repulsed them they drove them back and held the road. This was about noon. About five o'clock they made a dash on our extreme right and were awfully slaughtered by one of our brigades that are armed with seven and nine shooters. At one time they had us nearly surrounded. Our battery occupied the center , and maneuvered on an open field, nearly in the center. They used grape, canister shell and solid shot on us. The wagons trains and caissons commenced their retreat down a gully through the woods and reached the Chattanooga road. Our battery silenced every one that we fired upon.

2.

We have redeemed our character also the division as fighters We had two kiled on the field, sixteen wounded, four or five missing. Sargeant,Hiram Lake of Shalersville, was shot through the heart. The other one was Carson E. Madden. Sargeant Leonard was very badly wounded in the shoulder. Some of the rest are dangerously wounded. Lieut. Belding was shot through both wrists, and in one it broke the bone. I think there were only two that were taken off the field, which were Lieut. Belding and Leonard. Nearly all of our wounded were left on the field to the mercy of the enemy. I cannot begin to tell you of the narrow escapes. It seems like a miracle that we got out alive. We could hardly muster horses enough to draw the battery away. It is my opinion that the rebels lost more heavily than we.

The rebels which we took prisoners, say that Lee and Hill were here with their forces from the army of the Potomac, and that Lee was in command. We have been righting them every day since. But there is little firing today and the report is that they are withdrawing their forces to Virginia, and that Mead is likely to get into Richmond. I should like to give you more particulars, but this battle is of such importance that you may read of it for years to come. I do not believe there was but one hard battle fought, and that was by Rosecr ns at Corinth. When you read the papers do not think of the writer has exagerated. Because it is impossible to do so. From you affectionate

Brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

Sept, 29TH, 1863.

Respected Father:-

I have put off answering your letter for a few days expecting that I would afford something more startling than I have at present. I do not suppose that there was ever an army the size of this that has had to undergo as much as this one as for the last nine days, but now our work is nearly over, or so near that we can sleep when night comes. I suppose you have heard a great deal about Chattanooga, but know little about how it is situated. It lies on the south side of the Tennessee river and is mostly back one half mile or so. The buildings with the exception of those built since the rail road is located, look as if the most of them had stood here for fifty years. In times of peace it contained a larger population than Marlboro. It lies in a valley six or seven miles wide. It is considerably broken and rough but the high range of hills on the east are so far off that the enemy cannot shell the place from there. Lookout mountain is on the west side and is nearly four miles back from the river, and just outside of our lines at present. It is the highest point in this vicinity. Our men held it for two days after we retreated, and then they evacuated it, blew up the road which led to its summit and made it impossible for the enemy to get any artillery on it than can bother us. Since arriving here we have built three lines of breast works clear around the town reaching the river on the right and left. I think they must be nearly seven miles long. They are made of logs, paper, stone and rags, and are thick enough to stop a cannon ball. They are three to six feet high, seven feet on top, eleven at the bottom. The timber and all of the buildings in our front are burned and cleared away. I think it would take the whole southern confederacy to drive this army out of these ditches, with our General to stand at our backs. In fact we have heard twice our number in the bushes. Tomorrow we commence another fort that is to mount eight guns. Since I commenced to write, I have heard that our men have possession of Lookout mountain, and had twelve pieces of artillery planted at the top. As for the rebels at present they are mighty saucy and keep up a very old front.

Their pickets and ours are so close that they dare not show their heads above the fortifications or they will get a shot. The lines are about three hundred yards apart. It has been very quiet since last Sunday evening, but previous to that it was one continual skirmish from one day's end to another.

2.

And several times they would almost draw on a general engagement. I have seen several brisk artillery fights after night. They have thrown several solid shot inside of our lines but did little damage. While our boys were throwing up their trenches, they threw a solid shot into the squad which bounded and stop when it struck one of the wheels of a No.1 piece.

When I wrote you before I thought we were worse whipped than we are. I since learned that we got away with most of the wounded, and all of the artillery that we captured the first day. I have no doubt but that you have seen by the papers that several divisions have gotten the praise of this battle, but Johnson's division gets none and never will. It is not because we do not get in the ditch so much, and it cannot be because we did not capture much artillery from the enemy. I am positive that our division captured more artillery in this battle than any other division ever did.

Yesterday all of the available ambulances of this army went out to the battle field under a flag of truce after wounded. It is now dark and the train is just returning. I am happy to say that two of our worst wounded boys are yet alive and may recover.

From all accounts none of our boys have been buried yet. Johnson and a part of his staff left this morning for the north.

General Willich has command of this division and Col. Harrison of the brigade. He was Col. of the 39th. Indiana. This brigade has been dimounted since the fight owing to the scarcity of horses. There have been a great many thousand horses used up. Our battery horses were not unharnessed for eight days nor unhitched for four or five days. They were without a drop of water or forage and some of them got so weak that they were entirely useless. We have ample room for our wounded. The houses being nearly all evacuated. The rebels had made a great deal of preparation at this place for their sick. They had built twelve large hospitals, very neatly arranged on a beautiful knoll. A part of them are two story, thirty by seventy feet each. One more large one stands out by itself and as near as I can guess is as large as our barn and is three stories high. They also had a couple of gun factories here and were building a large house for repairing cars. They also have a rolling mill well on the way. As for the accommodations that the railroad company prepared here, they were better than at Nashville, but since the war broke out they have used the tin roofing on the largest to make canteens. The cars do not run any farther than Bridgeport which is twenty miles from here.

3.

The river is very low at present. We have tress bridge across, and one division is encamped on the opposite side. As for reinforcements I hear a great deal about them but see none. Some say that two corps of Grant's army are already at Stevenson and are moving to our right. Some say that fifteen thousand of Burnside's men have arrived. I see in the papers that the War De artment has made arrangements to put thirty thousand more under Gen. Rosecrans and that they should have been here fifteen days ago. The 19th. Ohi suffered a heavy loss in the fight. I saw John Fox since the fight. He got another severe flesh wound in his arm but it is not dangerous. It is very dry here at present. Have not had a soaking rain since the first of July. Our camps are disagreeable on account of dust. Such a vast army crowded into a space not over three miles squire have tramped nearly every foot of ground into an ash heap. This battle will be a remarkable on in history on account of no rain falling.

Father, I was much delighted with the good tone xxx in general of your letter and I have tried to return the compliment by writing you a longer letter with as much of this department that I am able to gather. A private in the army is not expecte to know any thing but simply to obey orders.

From your affectionate son,
A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

Oct, 11th,

Dear Mother:-

You may think that I have forgotten you because I never write you; if so you are mistaken. It is only because the rest are the ones who do the writing. What I write to one is for all. I am well and hearty at present, although we have been on one-fourth rations from the 20th of last month to the 8th of this. You may wonder how we get along. I shall try and tell you. In the first place we do but little work, use corn in the place of coffee and for bread we use pop corn, or we take ears of corn and grate it up with a piece of a tin canteen punched for that purpose. We take this coarse meal and makes cakes or mush of it. You know I always said I wanted to go on some kind of an expedition of this kind. I am not the one to say that I am sorry that I enlisted. There has but one xxxxx thing that has outreached my expectations, and that is the length of the war. This is Sunday and rather quiet, only two shots of artillery being fired today. There has been some shell done every day for the past week. by far the greater part is done by our forces. It is the general belief that a very small force occupies our front. Mother, you know the white cotton shirt you sent me by Charlie, over one year ago, I put it on this morning for the first time. When I was in the hospital I was furnished with cotton clothing. I saw Robert Filsom a few days ago. His in good spirits and is as jolly as ever. From what he said I think he is a strong democrat yet, but he is death on old Val. I am sorry to say that we bury one more of our boys today. Corporal E. S. Beardsley. He died from wounds. He was highly esteemed by all that knew him. He was a printer in the Plain Dealer Office, Cleveland, Ohio Lieut. Belding has been promoted to Capt. of the 10th Ohio Battery, which was raised and organized at Cleveland. There is some talk that our battery is going to be put into the reserve artillery to recruit. If so it is probably that we will be sent back to Stevenson. The whole army is to be reorganized. Gen Thomas has command at present. McCook and Crittenden have been relieved of their commands. Our corps the 20th, and the 21st A C are to be consolidated and will be commanded by Gen. G. s. Granger. You may see a better account of these changes in the papers than I am able to give at present.

Dinner is over. We had coffee, hard tack and meat. From the latest accounts there will be no draft in Ohio. That speaks well of the State. There should be some measures taken to fill up the old regiments in this department. Our division got a few hundred and are to get more.

2.

The division lost half of their men in this battle. Yet Gen. Johnson's division gets no praise. One correspondent says we fought well, better than ever before. I wonder what he would have said if every man had stood his ground until he was killed, wounded or captured.

Mother will you excuse this small sheet this time. Please answer or get one of the girls to do it for you.

You may look for another in just one week.

From your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON SALE CREEK 25 MILES N.E. OF
CHATTANOOGA, 6 MILES FROM TENN. RIVER.

October 25th, 1863.

Respected Brother:-

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines not knowing when I will have a chance to send the letter as we have no mail here. I suppose you wonder how e ever to out here in the mud across rivers, and over hills with our battery. I can tell you how it happened. there is a brigade of Tennessee troops up here guarding the river and passess and they wanted Gerenal Rosecrans to send them a battery. It had to come out of the reserve artillery of course. col. Barnett decided on this battery as the one that should go, so one week ago last night our captain was ordered to report at col. Burnett's headquarters, in person, and received ordered to be ready to march by 12 o'clock next day. Capt. told the Gen. that it would be impossible for him to move his battery without better horses, harness and more men. So the general gave him an order for the pick from seven hundred horses, also for tow more pieces and equipments, harness, saddles, blankets and n order for all of the men he wanted to fill out the battery, with the privilege to take them out of any regiment he wanted to. It rained all day and we did not get ready to march until dark. We crossed the river and was ready for an early start on Monday morning. The roads were nearly impassable being cut up by forage and supply trains. We reached this place in two days. Here all of the battery but the left section went into camp. This under command of Lieut. Scovell went on up the river for fifteen miles to the top of the ford. That point I understand is the extreme left of this army. There is talk of the other two sections are to be sent to different points on the river. there is but on company of infantry in camp here with the batte y. There are two or three regiments off a mile or so. It seems very odd to get out of a large army and aback into the country where we cannot see the effects of war. In fact if we stay here I do not know whether we will find it out if peace was declared. Our rations continue very short but owing to a few privileges we take we are able to get enough to live on very well. We can go out twelve or fifteen miles to forage and bring in a few hogs, sheep, squashes, potatos wheat, etc. etc. The latter we take to a mill handy and get it ground. Last Friday I heard cannonading all day in the direction of Chattanooga. We have not heard the results. We hear good news from the eastern army for a few days ast. I cannot say how long we will be left in the brigade. Some thinks we will be put in the reserve in a few months.

2.

The brigade is commanded by General Spears. he is an east Tennesseian. We are in the 2nd. Brigade, 2nd. Division, 14th. A.C. I do not think that I ever told you that in the battle of Chicamauga, we were under the command of General Thomas. There is a rumor here that a part of Grant and Hooker's men are in the rear of the rebels and have possession of Atlanta. Since I wrote you before two weeks ago, one of our boys died that was wounded in the late battle. His name was Henry D. Isabel. he was from Portage country. His Father was here. I think the rest will all get well. It has been quite wet here this fall. and we have had three evenings that ice has frozen. I must go to water call. I am a driver again. I have the take the lace of one that was killed in our deta hment.

I have just learned that one of the boys was going to Chattanooga tomorrow to take letters and get the mail. I suppose you will go to school this winter, if so you will soon commence and then you will have time to write. Give my respects to Ed if he is there.

No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON SAIL CREEK, HARRISON COUNTY,
TENNESSEE.Nov, 1st, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I thought a few minutes spent in writing you a few lines might be of some satisfaction to you. We sent a man to Chattanooga after mail last week but I did not get any. The last I have received was dated Sept 22nd. We can send mail twice a week now. Since I wrote last Sunday it has been perfectly quiet. One would not think that we lay on the front line to be in our camp. The Tennessee river makes a very good line to have between two armies. there is but little danger of either crossing. Within the past week there has been some very heavy fighting at Chattanooga. We could hear cannonading very plain. Distance 28 miles. It was kept up all of one day and night. This was last Wednesday and night. cannot say what success our men had. Rumors are that Hooker had driven them eight miles and held Lookout Mountain. Yesterday there was six hours of heavy cannonading south of this place. I think it was to the left of Chattanooga. We get but very little government rations now but we forage enough to live very well. The weather has been quite pleasant with the exception of rains which are very disagreeable when we have to live in worn out pup tents. Last Friday night the water was three or four inches deep in my tent but a few minutes well put i with a shovel make a great improvement in my night's rest. Last night there was a heavy frost. We see no one but Tennesseans and there is between a quaker and a dutchman. As for the beauty of the country there is none except that which belongs to nature and I cannot say that they are to be admired. We are shut up in a narrow valley only here and there a cove running back into the ridge and gives the unfortunate inhabitants a chance to climb out. For this is the only way they can get upon the ridge I found out a few minutes ago that I could send this letter direct to Nashville by one of the boys that is going there for tents and clothing.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON SAIL CREEK, TENNESSEE.

Nov, 8th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I am very happy to find myself situated so as to write you again. Gertrude I received your No.3 letter and Celestine's that was dated Oct, 9th. I received Mother's letter today. I am much pleased with it. Could read it readily and I shall have here try it again. Since I wrote you last our battery, with the exception of one gun, has been sent to four different places on the river to guard fords. So there is but one piece here at present. I think we will stay in this position all winter. It seems quite lonesome, no Ohio boys near us. There are two regiments of Tennessee men here. All of the boys have good log shanties built. Charley and I have one which we feel mighty proud of. I must give you a description of it.

It is 10 X 14 ft. door and fire place in the east end and a Kentucky window in the west end. The roof is of clap-boards. The logs are of pine. We have a floor made of boards and a bed with plenty of soldier's feathers. Above the fire place (mantel that is the name) you might (if here) see a full kit of soldier's kitchen furniture which consists of two plates made from melting a canteen apart, two knives, forks and spoons three or four cups made from fruit cans, one little tin pail one small coffee pot with no cover and not overly bright either, and one thing more, — a great big loaf of xxxxx pumpkin bread bake in an old dutch bake oven. It is nearly as large as a cart wheel. The way we make them is to take one half corn meal and one half pumpkin, the latter stewed before baking.

On our stand, which looks mighty desolate without a cover, and nothing on it but an old rebel army regulation book behind the door hangs two canteens and two haversacks. For supper tonight we have corn, coffee and corn bread. We draw very few candles and there being a great demand we have to use a substitute which is made of pitch pine and pine knots. Lewis Maxwell has been promoted to sergeant; also W. Smith. I received a letter from Aunt Eliza Nash the other day. She said they had a party and that Thomas and Bob was there. That Thomas went home with the tallest girl and Bob with the next tallest. Who were they? You spoke of H. Wildman death. It was the first that I had heard of it. Where was he killed and what regiment did he belong to. I wonder if Ed will not find a wife out in Hoozierdom. All I have to say of Mike and Eliza is that they make a pair about like a pair of shoes that Jack Lewis was

2.

tring to sell to t lady. I am glad to learn that you had a pleasant visit out to Uncle Thomas' That was a good joke on you and Lucy that you had to ride in a big wagon. I suppose you are not troubled with a lame back from leaning against the back of the seat. We get mail every day now. There is fighting at Chattanooga. Direct hereafter to 1st. Division,

Reserve Artillery.

Care of Capt. Goodspeed.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP AT BLY'S FERRY,

Nov, 22nd, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I take this opportunity to pencil you a few lines to let you know of my present position. We have not moved since I wrote last which was the 15th. of Nov. We have a very pleasant camp We are in the woods a mile from any house. Things look mighty wild around here to what they do in Randolph. The rebels have not bothered us any for the past week. Last Friday night we went up the river a little ways and sheeled their forage train which was on a small island getting corn. Corn seems to be what they are fighting for now. Our men are about as hard up for forage as any army ever was. Teams go from fifty to sixty miles and the roads are so bad by the time they get to Chattanooga some of the teams have fed out their whole load to the mules. Our hard tack line is a little better. They run rations upon the steamers within seven miles of Chattanooga. I have but little idea when we are going to get the rebels off of Lookout Mountain. It may be months Mother I thought if poss that I might get to see Frank Englebee. I do not think we shall every get to see any of Burnside's men. The 104th. must be over one hundred miles from here at present. We had a few hours of rain yesterday and it has cleared up warm. I su pose that Father is home by this time. Tell him to write to me.

Philo Bierce, the one who got his leg shot off, is getting along fine. I hear cannonading down the river on our right on our right. It is very likely that it is nos. three and four pieces of our battery. When you write be sure and write a longer letter than I have.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT BLY'S FERRY

Nov, 29th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received your letter dated the 12th. of the present month last evening, and was quite glad to hear that all was well at home. Your express on the draft about suits me only I want the three hundred dollar exemption bill repealed. I got a letter from Mart Morlan last night. The past week has been one that will be long recollected by every soldier in this department. Last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday was three days of the bloodiest fighting of this war. On Wednesday from daylight until after dark there was the heaviest cannonading I ever heard. It was one continuous roar. We were at least thirty miles from the battle field. None of our battery was engaged. General Grant should have another star on his soldier if by doing so the people could place any more honor on him. He has taken between eight and ten thousand prisoners and forty pieces of artillery, fifteen or twenty of which are siege pieces. The rebels have been driven across the Chicamauga river. They say he drove them in confusion and with great slaughter across the old battle field. I'll bet they imagined that the half buried yankees on that field were rising up in their midst armed with sixteen shooters. Our men did hold Cleveland, but I heard that they have since fallen back after destroying the place. We heard the artillery firing at the latter place. While I'm writing I hear artillery firing up the river. We suppose it is at Kingston. Yesterday has been the only day that we have not heard artillery firing for nearly a month., in fact ever since we had the first skirmish about the 1st. of September.

There has been but very few days past that we have not heard firing. Now, I think we have a little more than paid them off for their conduct on the 19th. and 20th. of Sept. We hear good news from Burnside's and also from the Potomac. I think everything is working all right at the present. From accounts enlisting is going on with considerable success in Ohio. I think the greater part of this army will enlist in the veteran service. I understand the 29th. Indiana and 23 Ohio have reenlisted to a man. A great many rebels have deserted within the last twenty days. The greater portion of our army has been very hard up for everything but now I think times will be better. We have not drawn our winter's clothing yet and some are nearly naked. I am one of the fortunate as I have very good clothes left. We get but few government rations but we have plenty to eat.

2.

It consists of corn meal, fresh beef and pork. We use hominy and in place of coffee we use corn and wheat. For my part I like the change for camp and winter living. Today is quite cold. It is snowing a very little. There is some talk of the battery going back to Chattanooga. The health of the battery as far as I know is very good. We get but little news Papers are hard to get and you will see the official report of ts battle before I. This is all for the prese t.

From your borther.

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT STRAW-BERRY PLAINS, 16 MILES
EAST OF KNOWVILLE, TENNESSEE, ON THE
NORTH SIDE OF HOLSTON RIVER, AT THE POINT
WHERE THE EAST TENNESSEE AND VIRGINIA
R.R. CROSSES.

Dec, 18th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received your letter dated the 16th. of Nov, while we were on the march from Bly's Ferry to this place. this is the first opportunity that I have had to write to you for two weeks. We received marching orders two weeks ago today We arrived here last Thursday evening. We laid over one day at Kingston and two days at Loudon. AT the latter place we made the rebels light out so soon that they ha to leave every thing behind. We captured thirteen pieces of artillery, not all of them spiked either. They tried to burn them but only partially succeeded. We also captured two thousand small arms three locomotives and eighty four cars. The latter were burned. A great many thousand bushels of corn meal in sacks, several tons of empty cotton sacks that were brought there for the purpose of taking the crop raised in East Tennessee this summer. this was a heavy loss to the rebels. We were sent up here to reinforce Burnside's. Longstreet had his forces all surrounded in Knoxville for over two weeks and were fortifying themselves but the fourth A.C. Longstreet had to leave eighteen pieces more of artillery. The report is that these were the last pieces that he had and that his forces are making his escape over the Smoky Mountains into North Carolina. they made a desperate effort to take Knoxville. there were over four hundred dead in one of the ditches in front of the fort. His men say they chopped them down with axes when they climbed over their forts. The artillery men used spherical case as hand-ga-nades cutting thrm to two seconds lighting them with a cigar and throting them over the fort into the ditch. Burnside's forces are twenty-five or thirty miles in the advance of us. It is one hundred and fourteen miles from here to Bristol which is on the railroad of the Virginia and Tennessee line. We can see the mountains in North Carolina. Battery D is here. I am in hopes that I will get to se them. I ha e no idea how long we shall stay here. This is a beautiful country full of forage and every thing which a rich country affords. The rebels had to light so suddenly that they left everything. I do not think Knoxville is any larger than Akron, Ohio. and is by no means as handsome a lace.

2.

We drew some corn meal and a little fresh pork today, being the first rations that we have drawn for eight days and a part of the battery have not drawn rations for over tow weeks. You may bettr believe we have done some tall foraging. We have not drawn five days rations of crackers for the last month. I have done over one day without tasting bread. The way we get along is rather hard but I do not see any one but what is getting fat on it. The ca s run to this point each day and the road is in good order to Louden. The bridge is burned across the Tennessee river at that point as well as at Holston at this place.

No more for this time,

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TENN.

Dec, 20th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received your letter dated the 25th. of Nov. and was glad to learn that all were well at home. Since I wrote last Sunday the two left sections of our battery had gone to the front with all of the infantry but the 5th. Tennessee. They and the right section are here guarding the railroad bridge which was finished night before last. Yesterday it was washed away. The river is pretty high. They are going to work now and put up a good bridge on the old piers. The sections that are out in the front had a skirmish with the rebels and fired over a hundred rounds. I think no one was hurt. The report is that Longstreet has left for Virginia. The veteran fever is raging among the soldiers here. I think quite a number of our battery will re-enlist. Our piece is in a port at present. I cannot say how long we are going to stay here. You must excuse me for the shortness of this letter because it is very cold writing without any fire. I am trying to keep warm by sitting where the sun shines through one of the port holes in the fort. The east Tennesseeians are far from being Ohio boys. They are no company for any one. I suppose the boys are beginning to scratch around there now and every one thinks he is going to be drafted. I wish it would scare them so that about twenty-five would enlist. I believe that is more than the quote from Randolph. No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TENN.

Dec, 27th, 1863

Respected Brother:-

I do not know whether you have written to me lately or not but I know I have not written to you for some time. I am as hearty and look as well as ever I did but I cannot say that I am a sound man any longer. My weight is one hundred and fifty pounds. The right section of our battery is at this place yet. No.2 is in the fort. The left section is twenty miles up the Holston river from here. There is fighting at the front. I guess Longstreet will have to get out of Tennessee. Deserters and prisoners are coming in daily. General Willich's Brigade is here and all of the Lieutenants are detailed to work on the bridge. There are about one thousand men at work on it. I suppose you think this must be quite a large place if so you are badly mistaken. It is but little larger than Five Corners. As for the plains you cannot see them because it is hillier than any country you ever saw. I saw the 104th. Band a few days ago There was only one in it that I knew, Mortica S.

You have spent another Xmas and so have I, but I am not going to ask you how you spent that day xxx for I know you had an awful banquet beside of us. if you only had corn bread and milk to eat for supper and a comfortable night's lodging. I must tell you something about our Xmas. The day before we began to prepare. We sent out five of the boys out of our squad, two going in one direction and three in another to get some luxuries for the occasion. they went out eight or ten miles and came in freighted with two chickens. One was an old rooster with spurs as large as a cow's horns. Should not wonder if it was the one Noah brought over in the ark. The other was an old hen, so old th she had not a tooth in her head. The rest of our nicknacks consisted of corn pone mixed up with pure water, Mutton and sow e belly. Well I suppose all of the troubles the heroes of Ohio is the draft, but poor fellows, the burdens will soon be off their minds. there are plenty of regiments that are waiting for recruits. A great many number less than two hundred men, and some I have seen are less than one hundred. One regiment got off the cars here with ninty three men including officers. There were only two commissioned officers left. One would suppose they would go to th front rather down cast but it is right to the contrary. See what our little regiment done at Mis ionary Ridge and Lookout mountain.

2.

The 9th. A.C. only had three thousand and five hundred men for duty. The weahter had been lowry and rainy for several days. I suppose you are going to school this winter are you not? Write soon and let me hear all of the news about the ones that are drafted.

No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT STRAWBERRY PLEAINS, TENN.

Jan, 3rd, 1864.

Respected Parents:

The Holidays are past and many a sociable party of young as well as old folks have gathered themselves together for a sociable time, but it is quite different in the army. We have had a three years siege with no Holidays. New Years was the coldest day that we have had, and I expect the coldest that we will have this winter. Ice three inches thick was frozen. Our section is still at Strawberry Plains. The rest are out at the front. New Years I saw four hundred rebel prisoners brought in. They were not half clothed, some had no shoes only rags wrapped around their feet to keep them off the frozen ground. They were a pitiful sight. Some of them cried about their treatment. I think they are as good as so many recruits for our army. Old Abe's proclamation is going to bring thousands over. Our men are fortifying this place and a bridge will soon be completed. Major-General U.S. Grant arrived here today on the cars. General Willich had his old brigade, which consists of nine regiments, assembled today for the purpose of seeing what they thought about the veteran service. The signs are very encouraging. Mother, I promised you that I would not reenlist until I came home, and I consider my word as good as now as it ever was or I should go into the service again. Battery D 4th. Ohio is encamped about thirty rods from us. Eli and Ben are all well. You would not know Ben. He has grown a great deal since I last saw him. The 104th. O V I are encamped about fifty rods off. I saw Frank. He is well. I had never expected to get to see Burnside's army while I was in the service but I guess my words are going to come out true that is, that the western army are going to take Richmond. I believe the devil would get panic stricken were he to see us with Grant or Rosy as our leader coming. The 25th. Illinois in our old brigade John Fox belongs to it, but he is not with the. He is in the hospital from wounds received at the Battle of Chicamauga. It was the fourth or fifth scar for him. We have plenty to eat but get most by foraging. Battery horses as a general thing look very hard. We have very comfortable log shanties put up again. I am in hopes that we will stay here all winter. It seems like some to see so many of the boys that I know. I hear but little news. We seldom get papers less than ten days old. I have not heard from home since the 25th. of November. No more at present

From your brother, ----

A. S. Bloomfield.

Louisville, Ky, March, 12th, 1864.

Respected Father:-

We left Cleveland last Thursday morning and arrived in Cincinnati the same evening. Stayed there over night next morning took a train on the O & N R.R. to Louisville. Changed cars at Seymour 49 miles north of Jeffersonville, Indian and arrived at this place about 9 A.M. Jerry Ward and E roe were sent back from Cleveland sick. We have not seen any of the new Baltimore new recruits yet. I head that they were sent on ahead of us and are now at Nashville. Some say that we are going to leave here at three this afternoon. The roads are Cities are crowded with soldiers. I think the boys of Battery A have appreciated the good times of their thirty days furlough for there seems to be an uncommon number of sober faces for the past four or fi e days. Father there has been one thing told me by every soldier that has been home that it was harder to leave home the second time than it was the first. I could not believe it until I have tried it and I have found it true. I always tried to not let it come into my mind until the hour came that I was to leave. Battery D boys are in this City yet. I have just heard that we are not to leave for Nashville until Monday. I shall write as soon as we get there. \

We shall be equipped at that place.

Give my love to the rest of the family and let me hear from home frequently.

Your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP ONE MILE WEST OF NASHVILLE.

March, 20th, 1864.

Respected Brother:-

I presume you will expect a letter from me each week whether I have anything to write or not. we still remain in the reserve artillery. Battery C left for the front since we came here. Battery D is here yet, Iso the 19th Ohio The boys from new Baltimore have not made their appearance yet. I am very doubtful whether they can get in ur battery or even in the brigade because I hear that all of the companies are more thankful. I hear of some of the veteran regiments that have more than their quota of men. I think the old boys re-enlisting and coming home did more good to the recruiting cause than a whole regiment of recruiting of ickers could. I ha e not heard of any one that stumped it or made any exertions in any way io get any of them to enlist, in fact I think the most would have been rather glad to see the draft come off. I believe there is going to be something done this Summer. It looks as though we were not going to be defisient in men. The most of the States seem to be in anxious to have the rebellion put down by the way they are furnishing the men.

They say after the 6th. of next September the old organization of this regiment will be broken up and I suppose that we will be the 26th Ohio independent battery then. Our officers think we will join our old army corps the 4th. in east Tennessee in the vicinity of Knoxville. We have very cold weather here for this time of the year. We have very good quarters camps with stoves in, in fact we are seeing very good times. Come on guard once a week and have no horses to take care of.

We have plenty of rations. The prevailing disease is colic. As usual it is brought on in two different ways. Fi st by having too much to eat; second, by not having enough. Lieut Day has been promoted to First Lieut and transferred to Company B. Several promotions has been made among the Sargents and Corporals. Lieut. Belding arrived here yesterday., I suppose we will have two more Lieutenants and that they will come out of some other battery in this regiment. I suppose you did not get a very good opinion of our Captain from what lillle you got to see of him at Cleveland. You have not seen as many drunken officers as I have. One can get used to almst any thing. I would rather have a drunkard for a Captain t an a coward.

2.

And I would rather have a Captain that has some feeling about him even if he does get drunk once in a while than a temperate man who has no feeling for any one in his command. Captain has been sober every day since he left Cleveland. Some of our new recruits have the measles and two of the old boys have the small-pox. One is at home in Urbana and the other is in the hospital at this place. There are eight hundred in the small-pox hospital here. The quarantinn camp is only twenty rods from ours. I have had my arm picked but it does not take.

I suppose all of the boys have returned to their regiments that were at home on a furlough. I cannot help but pitying some of the ones who were left there. All of the boys speak about how quiet the copper heads kept during those thirty days.

Now, I want you to watch them and see what they dare do while the soldiers have gone back, and if they do or say any thing just mark them. Maybe we will get another thirty days furlough when our three years are up again.

What did the people think of the conduct of the soldiers? The thirty days spree will create a talk and draw a great many remarks from the people.

If you did not read that piece in the Portage County Democrat, of March 9th. concerning Philo Bierce just get it and read it. It is a true account. He lives in Windom, Portage County. We have some music in our camp. One of our boys is a good fiddler and has a good violin.

Well, Thomas all I can ask of you is to keep me posted on the home news. This is Sunday and I have not heard from home yet. No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Mch,27, 1864.

Dear Sisters:-

Today finds me enjoying the best of health. We are having beautiful spring weather and everything is backward in the vegetationline. Two years ago this spring the peach trees were in full bloom on the 16th. of march. Now I can hardly see that the buds have begun to sell. there are no prospects of our leaving this place at the present. We have not received our horses yet. Battery has just left for front. They are veterans.

I wrote home that the small-pox was bad here. So it is but here is only one of our boys that has it at the present time. He has died. His name was Geo. Cline. He was a veteran.

Wheeler is reported as trying to cross the river below this place with seven thousand cavalry. I do not think he can make a great deal off our men raiding it while there are so many troops in the rear. The Battery has received but little mail. We think it has gone to the front.

Celestine you must excuse me for not writing more. I believe times are nearly as dry here as they are at home.

Write as often as convenient and oblige.

You brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT NASHVILLE- TENNESSEE.

April, 3rd, 1864

Dear Mother:-

I received your welcome letter dated the 26th. of March this morning. I was nothing more than I ought to have expected to hear that Lydia was getting worse. You did not say whether she was at our house or at Bates'. The news about D. Stallsmith has been written to the boys several items since they returned. I do not think the boys would have done anything out of their line of duty if they had taken him out and given him a slight punishment, something like a coat of tar and feathers

As for myself I did not think there was a Stallsmith once that night and I doubt if any of the boys did. It is my opinion that bolting his doors would not have saved him half as much as it would for him to have thrown open his doors. My health is very good. We have some duty to do now having drawn our horses. Lieut. Scovel was taken to the hospital last Friday with the small-pox. You need not be in any ways alarmed about me getting it for I do not think there was any danger as vaccination does not have any effect on me. William Maxwell and the recruits from New Baltimore arrived here a few days ago. They have been put in Battery M for the present and I do not know but what they will have to stay there. You seem to think that the boys would have enjoyed themselves very much if they could only have had thirty days more furlough. Now, Mother I believe that it was better the way it was because if we had had thirty days more we should have had to quit spreeing and then the boys would have gotten lonesome and some would have become dissatisfied.

Your letter was the first that I have received from home. I hear but little news of late. What does come is not discouraging. I received seven old letters last week. In one I found the stamps you sent me.

Your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

April, 10th, 1864.

Respected Sister:-

I received th letter you sent by E. Roe yesterday. I am very sorry to hear that Lydia Minard's health does not improve. I am glad to hear that there was but one ticket at our county election this spring. it is much better than I had expected to hear from Randolph. It shows that the people are getting more united.

We are having rather a dry time for Battery a. We have received our horses and have battery drill once a day when it is pleasant. It has rained nearly every day for the past week.

We have no thad any heavy rains yet, and the sprin, has been very cold so far.

My health is very good at present, but I cannot say taht the rest have been blessed as I have. Since we came here four of our boys have died. Two of them new recruits and two old men.

One of the old men died of small-pox, the other of wounds received at the battle of Chicamauga. Another died of measles the other was John Honeywell. He died of a fever. there are eight o ten more down with the measles. Lieut. Scovel has had the small-pox but is nearly well again. Sargent B. H. Davis of Ravenna has been promoted to First Lieut in Battery G. You will recollect him. He was at the dance at New Baltimore

We have a new Lieut promoted from Battery B. We are much pleased with him at present, but the old saying is that "a new broom sweeps clean".

I received Thomas' letter last Thursday.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT NASHVILLE TENNESSEE.

April 24th, 1864

Respected Brother;-

Am well at present and always ready for my rations which are very good in comparison with what we have had to eat. We have soft bred nearly all of the time, coffee sugar, rice and meat and occasionally a barrel of kraut.

Tommy Crockett and xxx Nic have just gotten back here. They had been sent through to Chattanooga. Thomas Crockett is in the hospital here. Robert has been down to see him. the doctor says it is doubt if he can get well.

Today is cold and wet. We have been drilling most of the time but I guess it is over for a while. Captain tells us today that we have orders to go to the front. We are to start Wednesday if we can get ready. I suppose we will march through by land. Our destination will be Chattanooga.

I saw Charlie Bard a few days ago., He is at work here.

Thomas do you not think General Grant is going to make a bigger strike this spring than has ever been made? I am in hopes that he will. I hear that there is some talk that the militia will be called out for about sixty days. Will there not be a time of shedding tears and shaking hands when they start for some of the southern towns and forts to garrison them for a few days

Thomas keep me posted on the daily incidents of Five Corners. I will write as soon as we get to the front.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP FOUR MILES SOUTH OF KINGSTON, GA.
FIFTY MILES NORTH OF ATLANTA, GA.

May, 21- 1864

Respected Sister:-

I received a letter from you a few days ago, I also received one from Mother and one from Thomas and one from Gertrude since I have been on this march. None are answered. The last time I wrote was at Nashville. I have the best of health at present. I was some surprised to hear of Lydi's death so soon. We have been marching every day but three since we left Nashville.

One day we lay in front of the enemy at tunnel Hill, Ga. the other two days were yesterday and today. There has been skirmishing every day since we left Coutucia Springs, Ga. which was two weeks ago today. At Buzzard's Roost there was considerable fighting. This place is in front of Dalton. They were getting flanked and left their fortifications falling back to Resacca a distance of fifteen miles where they were entrenched. Here we had some pretty hard fighting. Our battery fired three hundred rounds. We suffered no loss from the enemy but we had three vary bad accidents. They were premature discharges of our pieces on being loaded. It was caused by the pieces being old and breech burned. They were all twelve pound Napoleans.

The first discharge was on No.3 piece blowing off one of V.B.Standford's arms and injuring the left hand so that he had to have his two front fingers amputated. His arm was taken off above the elbow. His face was badly burned but do not think he will lose his eye sight.

The second discharge was No.3 piece badly injuring E. Roes and J. Van Normer is badly burned. His eyes are injured.

The third discharge was on No5 piece injuring Wilson Davidson. No bones broken but badly burned and flesh cut and grains of powder in his face.

The vent thumbers thumb was blown out of place. The last we heard from them they were all getting along fine. The next morning their works were evacuated leaving three hundred wounded and their dead onthe field. Our old General Wilich was wounded badly. You will get the particulars of General Sherman's movements out of the papers. I have not space or time to say one tenth as much as I should like. The talk is now that the rebels have gone to Richmond and that we have orders to start tomorrow on a twenty days march.

2.

Some say our, the 4th.A.C., is going to August Ga. An order has been passed by General Sherman that no mail shall go north for sixty days so I suppose you will not get this for sometime. Mail comes here every day from the north. The cars run up to our front picket line. the army is in the greatest excitement for victory that I have every seen it and we have the greatest confidence that the war is going to be over sometime. Every thig is working to a charm. I say three cheers for the hundred day men and the three hundred thousand more called for. After this campaign is over I will write you the whole history so far as I am capable of.

We ar having pleasant weather now.

I remain your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP TWO AND A HALF MILES FROM DALLAS, GA
May, 26th, 1864.

Respected Parents:-

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines but not knowing that it will reach you any time soon. I think we are about thirty five miles north west of Atlanta. I suppose we are in the vicinity of the Altoona mountains because it is quite rough and hilly. We have been laying still all day. Yesterday the army came to a sudden halt about two hours before sun down. The 20th.A.C. had the advance. This is Hooker's corps The same old fighting Joe that used to be ranting around on the Potomac. We are on a road running nearly east and west. About four miles from here there is considerable of a river. Cannot say what the name of it is. Hooker began crossing this stream and when one division was across the rebels opened on them with several masked batteries placed in a woods near the bridge. From what I can learn the infantry held their position on the opposite side but our artillery had to fall back across the river. The artillery and musketry firing was very heavy for over an hour. The old 7th. Ohio was in the advance and were badly cut up again. The 23rd.A.C. are on our extreme right. they marched up in front of the enemy's works at Altoona. The rest of the Army has gone to the right to flank them. That is what gets the rebels now. They cannot stand flanking. There was artillery firing on our left about midnight last night but I hear none today. I cannot say what is going on in front but I hear no artillery firing. McPhearson is on our right. I suppose he is swinging around in the rear of the rebels or is trying to. I hear artillery firing all day in that direction. We started last Tuesday morning with twenty days rations and I think before they are gone we shall know whether the rebels are able to hold Atlanta or not. News from Grant up to the present has been cheering to this army, but between you and I Grant has his hands about as full as he has ever had them. We continue to take prisoners daily. We heard from V.B. Stanford a few days ago It will take months for him to recover. Father do you not think the Government calculates to win or lose this summer? it looks that way to me. I think it is time that we commence the work in earnest. I want to know who all were drafted from Marlboro and Randolph, if any.

I guess this has been the first time that the north really commenced to realize that there was a war going on in the south. Calling out the State militia is pretty hard on some people. Do not fail to write to me if you don't receive any from me. Your mail comes through but ours is stopped at times.

From your affectionate son, A. S. Bloomfield

IN RESERVE BATTLE LINE 3 MILES N,W.
MARIETTA, 2 MILES FROMT EH TOP OF
BALL KNOB.

June 2nd, 1864.

Respected Sister:-

I take this opportunity to let you know that I am well and have not received a scratch. For the past three days we have been doing pretty heavy fighting. Saturday and Sunday we fired over eight hundred rounds. The enemy shelled us but done our battery no damage. We are driving them every day but it takes hard fighting. This is a tedious campaign but our men are in the best of cheer. We take prisoners every day. One hundred and forty were captured this morning. The 20th. and 23d A.C. are on our right. The 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th are on our left and are closed up to the foot of Ball mountain. For several days there has been heavy fighting along the whole line. The roads are almost impassible from recent rains. It has rained 3-10 of the times, for the last fifty hours. Something of importance is going to transpire between the armies within the next thirty days. When this campaign is over I will write some longer letters. You must excuse the shortness of this one.

Write often for your oppportunities to write are better than mine are at present.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEAR MARIETTA, GA, 32 MILES
FROM ATLANTA.June, 7th, 1864.

Respected Brother:-

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to inform you of my whereabouts. Since I wrote home before we have had another engagement and compelled Jo Johnson to retreat from one of his strongest fortified positions in the Altoona Mountains, chosen by himself. the 4th.A.C. was on the extreme right with the exception of a part of the time. The 15th and 16th.A.C. went around to the right about ten miles and tried to xxxxx flank them out of their works but found their lines extended too far, so all of the rest of the army swung around on the left and succeeded in flanking them but not with out some very hard fighting. The 4th. A.C. took possession of the ground, first taken by the 20th.A.C. After crossing Pumpkin Vine river in front of their works, we succeeded in getting our lines established, most of the way within 150 to 200 yards of the enemy's works. They had very good rifle pits. That distance was very short musket range, yet we got our artillery in position in front line. The range was so short that we could throw canister far over their works. Our battery was nine days and ten nights in the ditch, and after day light, not one moment of the time was it safe for any one to show any part of his person, not even the top of his head, or there would be a dozen or more led messengers sent whistling at him. We worked nearly all night every night strengthening our works. We were not allowed to lay down a moment without all of our equipments on and at our posts ready for an attack at any moment. We could hear the rebels digging and shoveling every night and of course they could hear us. I cannot say that we got very sociable although we were close enough to carry on any kind of conversation. The ones in our front seemed rather selfish, but at other places on the lines they would meet our boys half way without arms and have a chat. We constantly expected to have a charge made by them. In fact they did try it twice in our front, only once however, they ventured out of their works. We gave them a double charge of canister out of each one of our guns that made them climb back quicker than they came out. the other time they only rose up in their works and fired a volley into our rifle pits, which however did nothing more than throw the dirt onto us, or wake up some poor fellow from their day time nap.

Our men had small holes to fire out of made by placing crack and amunition boxes filled with dirt, close together and firing from beneath them.