

Cincinnati  
April 3. 1863

My dear Jane

I wrote none yesterday, not because I had no time, but because I had too much time. It was a very lazy day as we sailed down the Ohio. Somehow I could not settle myself to do anything, but it made no difference, for if I had written a dozen letters I could not have sent them off as we did not land at any place on the way.

We left Parkersburg on Wednesday evening, without a regret, and commenced our trip down the river at a speed of about eight miles an hour. Johnny & I were on the Steamer with the officers, but the boat was not built for carrying passengers, and we were little better off than the men on the barges. They had a pen on deck that they called a cabin, but had not enough room for all the officers to sleep in. Lieuts. Justice, Maxwell, Johnny & I got the privilege of sleeping on the floor directly over the boilers. It kept us very warm, a little too much so. We reached Coalport during the night and stopped there to take in coal. Did not leave till after breakfast, so fast we passed Point Pleasant in day time. We passed there unmolested. I presume the rebels had left, as there was no sign of anything wrong there as far as we could see. There had been however, for the Melnotte that I went to Parkersburg on, had to stop at Pt. Pleasant or somewhere near it for two days, not reaching here at her expected time. We passed Irontown at noon, and towards evening Portsmouth.

At several places on the way we were greeted with the waving of flags and handkerchiefs by ladies from the shore, but at Portsmouth nearly all the town had turned out. The levee was crowded, and flags waved from almost every window: a small cannon was fired from the levee as long as we were in hearing. After this all was quiet till this morning when we came in sight of Cinclin. about five o'clock. They did not land us there but have made the boat fast to the shore on the Kentucky side at Newport. Lieut. Justice has gone ashore to report and get orders, and I expect to be busy enough as soon as he returns, so we learn that our regiment is now out at Lexington, Ky. Col. Leasure is in command of that city. It is probable that we will have to go on there as soon as we can. It is about one hundred & twenty miles from here by rail road in a southerly direction and formerly was a very nice place. If we have to take our brigade baggage there by rail road, it will take up a week to transship the wagons and horses. We could go on foot nearly as fast.

I have not seen Willie or heard from him yet, and didn't expect to till I reach the regiment. Probably he has written home before now and you know all about where he is.

I may not get a chance to write to you again till we reach

Lexington or some other place where we will stop.

If I had know to a certainty what a delay there was to be with this baggage I might have remained at Pittsburg till now and overtaken them here easily. Still I cannot tell you what an agreeable pleasure it was to have to see you once more darling even for the short time that I did, and perhaps a few days more in your company would have made me more unwilling to go back to the field again.

I hope you are not any worse for your journey, and you must let me know dear how your back is. I always report to you, even when I only have a cold, and I hope you will not hide from me and keep all your suffering to yourself. To be sure I cannot do anything for you, except sympathize, but even that darling will be a pleasure for it is all I can do now. However we will hope to meet again, and with the strength gained in carrying a gun on my arm all day I may be able to support your aching back. How I wish I had my arm around it now. That last evening passed me like a dream, and looking back I can hardly realize that you were there and gone again so soon. Well darling this absence has the effect of making me love & prize you the more, and I only wish to live to return to prove it to you by trying to please and cherish you more than ever I did before. With many hopes & prayers for your present and everlasting happiness.

I am darling Ever your affectionate husband

William