My dear Jane

I have been so busy for a week that I am surprized to find that it is gone round since I last wrote to you. Although writing more less every day it appears to me that I have less opportunities for writing than I used to. Sometimes during an interval when there is no business on hand I can write a letter to some one else, but I don't then feel like writing to you. So many are coming in and out of our tent or office and interrupting by asking questions etc. that I don't like to have one of your letters on the desk at such times; it is too public a place. When I wrote to you heretofore it was from my tent or on post at some quiet place where I was seldom disturbed, and I could imagine that I was talking to you. The quartermaster has gone to Nicholasville to day, and will not be back till evening, and I will improve my spare time today by letting you know what I can remember of the last week.

We have now the nicest camp that the regiment ever had. This is admitted by all. The labors of the men who were condemned to use their brooms have made it very nice, and they have been permitted to take a rest. The Col. since he has returned to the charge of the regiment has nothing else to do than attend his own men, and he does it well. He has made a wonderful improvement, both in the camp and the drill. The men act very different under his eye. The weather has not been so nice lately; we have had a shower almost every day, and the temperature is far from pleasant, being sometimes too raw and chilly to write comfortably. We miss our chimneys and fireplaces now. The showers have brought out the leaves and the grass, and when it gets a little warmer we will be all the better for the showers. At any rate we sleep warm and comfortable. The Quartermaster, Willie and I sleep together, and we have a good bed of hay and plenty of blankets. We also live a little above the army standard, although we have to pay for it. Our cook goes out to the country and buys butter and eggs, and once in a while some poultry. We divide the cost among the mess.

It rained too hard last Sabbath to have preaching, and it was omitted for the first time in a great while.

Our post office arrangements are now complete for a daily mail.

We send down a horse to Nicholasville every day with our mail and get the other up. It comes about five o'clock in the afternoon. I have not received a letter from any one since your No. 13 which is just eight days ago. I have answered all who have written to me, and if I don't get some will have quite a rest from letter writing.

On Tuesday, Willie went down to Nicholasville on business for
the Quartermaster. He got back the same evening just in time to escape a heavy rain storm. He has very little to do now, and can consider himself very lucky in getting such a situation.

On Wednesday, I went a fishing with Dr. Shurlock and Dick Holmes. We had to go about two miles to Dick's River. We went on horseback. It was a wild rocky, steep banked river, and the fishing place was at a dam near an old mill. There used to be a bridge across at the place but the rebels had burned it when they were here. We came very little speed with our fishing and I resolved to cross to the other side and try it there. I crossed the ford in an army wagon that was going to Danville for bread. Still I could not get any fish till I borrowed a rod from a boy. I promised him all I would catch. I got a good string of small sun fish. It was a bad day for the business. The doctors and Dick went home before noon and left me. I did not come back till the evening. I had to wait for a wagon to get back across the river in. This was not very easy to do, as the river had been rising all day from the previous rains. The next day it was impossible to find it at all. I am sorry for it prevents us getting our soft bread. We have lately got our bread baked at Danville and had abandoned the crackers again. We didn't get as good crackers here as we did in the Army of the Potomac, and the bread too although good enough does not look near so nice. I think it is baked from spring wheat flour.

Our men are kept busy here. They are often sent out on little expeditions that no one knows the meaning of. One whole regiment the 36th Mass. was sent off to Harrisburg twenty miles distant for three days, and just returned last night, not knowing for what they went. I think it is to practice the men in starting out promptly in small parties, and that our summer campaign will be of that character. It must be so if we go to East Tennessee as the country admits of no other kind of warfare on account of its broken and hilly character. Gen. Burnside is again about taking the field, and the advance part of his command is at Somerset on the Cumberland river. We suppose our destination to be near Knoxville or somewhere thereabouts in Parson Brownlow's region. The prevailing impression in Camp is that we will remain here a long time, but from orders that have come to the Quartermasters department in regard to keeping the team etc in order and readiness I think that a movement will take place before long. It might however happen that our brigade will go to Washington as I hinted in my last letter, but I have heard nothing further about it since then.

Capt. Bentley started home this morning. His resignations was accepted and he was honorably discharged. This I believe I told you would be the case - it was only a question of time. Norman Maxwell will now be Captain of Company E. and Johnny will
be made 1st or 2d Lieutenant. I don't know which. He has made a first rate Sergeant Major & the Col. told me the other day that he would make "a nice tight, little lieutenant." He is well and so is Willie. His quarters are very near ours now, and he eats with us yet. The quartermaster was very sorry to part with him, but could not ask him to stay when he had such a chance for promotion.

Norman Maxwell has just been in to see me. Mr. Brown has got my horse to day to go to Danville to a meeting of presbytery to which he was invited. The citizens around here are highly delighted with the 9th Army Corps, and have got up a petition to the government to let us remain with them. They have had a lengthy experience of their country being occupied both by our troops and rebels and of all that have visited them yet they like our behavior the best.

If you had come on by the boat with me you might have come all the way here. If we do stay this summer you must come down and see us. I have accommodations for you. We will see when the weather gets good enough, and how the war goes on.

But in the meantime I can only see or hear from you by mail darling, though that is better than not at all. I have some wild violets and a few other kinds of blossoms that I gathered on the banks of the Dick River when I was fishing, but I will not send them this time as I don't want to make your letter too bulky. I enclose in place of them a $10. bill. Will send more in my next. I got my pay for our four months $52. when I came back to camp, but don't think it advisable to send right away when everybody is doing the same thing. It is too much of a temptation for some postmasters, as you will see by the papers.

I answered Bert' letter. Remember me to all the children & all my inquiring friends. With much love and affection I am dearest.

Ever yours
William

Direct hereafter, to care of:
Lieut. J. Justice. Q. M.
3d Brigade 1st Divi. 9th A.C.
Camp Dick Robinson, Ky
via. Cincinnati O.