Camp of 3d. Brigade
Near Houstonville
May 1. 1863

My dear Jane

We have made another days journey nearer home. It is to be sure in the opposite direction from home, but I believe the farther we go that way the nearer we are to the end of the war and consequently are getting nearer home.

I cannot give you much account of to days journey as I was at the spring for water when we were ordered to march, and my pencil was locked up in the desk by the time I returned. It was a very sudden order. We just had time to eat our dinner, which was then ready and start at one o'clock. The Col. changed the order of march and put the Michigan men in front. It was a very warm day and the men suffered a good deal from the heat. I rode all the way today and kept with the train. Willie rides too; he will probably have a horse all the time. I have not seen Johnny to day. I went over to see him this morning and found that he was out on picket. I will get over to see him in the evening. We have just landed and pitched our tent. [It] was put up in five minutes after we were on the ground, my desk set up and our bed made, and I thought I would improve the few minutes of daylight left to write you this note for fear we would start too early to do so in the morning. The wagon train is still passing by our quarters, our cooks fire is blazing and the coffee pot on, but we will have to eat by moonlight for it is getting too dark now to write any more to night. May 2d. Was up by sunrise after a sound nights sleep such as a soldier can take. Not so hard a thing to sleep on the ground after all. Went out and had a good wash in a nice stream a few rods from our tent, called Hunting Fork, after which I feel fresh and ready for another day's journey. Our breakfast is ready and I stop again to do my part at that too. We still have bread, but a day or two more and we will come down to the hard tack again. Have had now a warm breakfast, good hot coffee, beefshank, bread, butter and boiled eggs, and am ready for travelling from now to night. The Col. has gone to Houstonville and we will not start till he gets back. I may not have an opportunity of mailing this soon, but will write on during my spare time till I get a change.

I went up to camp after breakfast and saw Johnny. He stands it very well and is in good spirits. Spent a couple hours fishing, but found the fish too small to pay for the loss of time, and I have just returned to pack up for our days journey which is to commence at one o'clock.

Sabbath morning May 3d. We commenced our march at one o'clock in the afternoon. A very warm day it was. The men hired wagons to haul their knapsacks, and it was a great relief to them.
The road was still good and hard but commenced to be rather hilly, resembling the Butler pike very much in that respect. We got on very well. The men relieved of all but their guns went on whistling and singing, and appeared to think it great fun. I rode about half way and then lent my horse to Lieut. Ashton who was hobbling along behind with a sore foot. We went ten miles arriving at Middleburg in the evening. There are only four or five houses in this town. It is situated on the Green River. This is the river near which the Mammoth Cave is, but we are still a good way from it. Our camp is about a quarter of a mile beyond headquarters which are on a fine sloping hill, with a view of some miles around caused by the winding of the river. Our men were in swimming a few minutes after we stopped. We are not to march to day, but will probably start again on Monday. We went down to the river after supper last night and had a good wash, getting rid of the dust etc. I saw Johnny this morning, and took a walk all round the bend in the river of about three miles. We cannot get any farther off on account of our pickets.

We have now got off the turnpike and mail route and shall have few opportunities for getting mails or news. I have not had any letters since yours of the 14th April. But the less I get the less I have to answer, and didn't care about getting any except from you. We may have better facilities when we get farther on, but that will take some time yet. You had better direct your letters to Cincinnati for a while yet, or till I advise you to change the directions. We will send a mail back to day, and I hasten to close this to get it in before it leaves.

With much I love I am

Yours affectionately

William

I almost forget to enclose you the specimens of flowers that I gathered on the rocky banks of Dick's river the day I went a fishing. I could have got you a specimen of a snake too. They were as plenty as the flowers.