My dear Jane

As I commenced the week by writing to you I will also close it the same way, and am very thankful that I have so many opportunities of communicating with you.

I was not disappointed in my closing expectation of my last letter, for about an hour after your letter was put into the mail bag, the mail arrived, and a letter for me was in it. It was not numbered but bore date of 10th inst. It was postmarked 11th and as it was here on the evening of the 14th it had taken something less than three days to reach this place. This is the quickest mail time between the two places. Usually they are six days on the way. The mail of that day was not a large one, and as I came back to my tent, many a one envied my luck as they called it, for who does not like to get a letter when away from home. I am much obliged to Bert and Willie for their Johnny-jump-up. You must have very nice ones this year. I do not see any growing here. I have been around to see the gardens at some of the houses in this neighborhood and find none of them have any flowers under cultivation. Their vegetables are not as far on either as you describe yours. Their garden arrangements are all in equal bad taste with their farming, and that equally bad with their dress and personal appearance. They are a hard set of people to look at and we see plenty of them. They come in numbers into our camp both men and women, selling us such things as they can spare. The principal articles are butter, eggs, poultry, corn bread, soda biscuit and cider. But these are so bad that they are beginning to sell very little of them. We of our mess have quit buying altogether.

Their corn bread is not raised and lies on the stomach like lead. Their biscuit of a dark brown hue looks like cakes of mud. Their butter is white and about half buttermilk. Their cider I have not tasted, but those who have tell me they think it is vinegar sweetened with molasses. Some bring in knit socks, which they sell for .25 a pair. This is cheaper than the government charges for a worse kind. Whiskey can be had plentifully at many houses outside of the camp, and we are obliged to keep some of these places guarded to keep the men away. Distilleries are plentier than churches. At the houses where the whiskey is sold and at others also the women have not over good reputations, and an officer of the staff tells me that he does not think there is a virtuous woman between here and Liberty. I know there are a good many who are not. One of the few houses in Middleburg we have to keep a guard on to keep the men out of, and our guards took seven men out of one in the country in one haul. In fact men came into
camp asking us to go out to their houses intimating that the girls there are all right. The sale of whiskey is pretty hard to stop. We had a disturbance in camp last night on account of it. A man named Rutter got drunk and attacked one of his messmates in bed. He beat him with a tent pole and broke his arm. He had to be subdued by the guards.

Since I wrote last our camp has been startled by the announcement of Morgan's cavalry coming. Judge Green and several other citizens came riding in in haste telling us that he was across the Cumberland in large force. They are pretty badly scared. He was here once before and stole a good many of their horses. He will not come on us unaware for all the citizens are interested and on our side. However we do not trust to them alone for our information. The 27th Michigan were ordered back from Liberty and have come back to their old camp. We have put out two lines of pickets and have a company of Wolford's Cavalry sent to us who act as scouts. Besides the Colonel and his staff ride out every day and look for themselves. We have nothing new in camp. No one is allowed to go outside the lines - this stops the fishing parties, but it is a small loss for none of them caught anything worth going for. We have been visited by a large flock of buzzards who soar over us all day attracted by the refuse and entrails of the cattle we have been slaughtering.

Besides irritating your back occasionally you had better commence taking the Syrup of the Phosphates. There may be some in the office but I think it was all done when I left. If there is any it is on the lowest shelf near where the scales stood. It is pleasant tasting and not hard to take. You should take it regularly like your meals, two hours after them or an hour before them. If there is none there send on to George. Let him get three or four pounds of it. He can get it good from Bullock & Crenshaw and at less cost than any other way. Don't get the syrup of the Hypophosphates, but "Syrup of the Phosphates." He can send it to Pittsburg and Bessie can bring it with her. Take about a dessert spoonful at a dose. But it won't be worth while taking it if not done regularly. Also avoid all over exertion and exposure.

I thought you had commenced your studies and were getting along fast. I judged so from your improvement in letter writing. I am sorry that I have not the first ones to show you the difference. The people here are behind the age in scholarship. What think you of a Squire who can't write? We have one here. He comes to the soldiers to get his writing done. The postmaster at Houstonville was up at Camp last week. He told our Col. that he had a strange set of men, for by the number of letters they sent he thought they must all be able to read and write. It is so, for they can, but such a thing is astonishing to the Kentucky people.

I had a visit this morning from Dick Holmes and got him to
take a sketch of the Camp of the Roundheads, which I send to Willie and Bert in return for their Johnny-jump-up. He made it in a hurry, but it will give you a good idea of the location. The other few houses in Middleburg are hidden by the tree. The sketch was taken from my tent which is on a high hill on this side of the camp, nearly as high up as the hills on the other side of it. We can look down into the camp from our elevation and see all that is going on in it. The old building on the left is a mill, and is quite as poor looking as the picture makes it. The tents inside the fence are those of the Brigade Commissary, which is at the foot of the hill we are on. Col. Leasure has his quarters higher up than us among a cluster of trees.

When I have done this letter I will have finished today's work as far as I can see. I never had so little to do. I am getting very lazy. I was too lazy to sew my trousers. The last pair I got were badly sewed with a machine, too near the edge of the cloth and ripped in several places, but I could not go to work to sew them. In fact I have no others to put on while I did it and I could not do it with them on. Yesterday I got a new pair of Cavalry pants. They are double part way down the leg and behind. They cost $4.60 but are very good ones. I will keep my old ones to sleep in. We spoil our clothes as much by sleeping in them as by the wear they get during the day. I have not yet got all the clothing allowed by the regulations for the first year yet. If we get more than that, it is taken out of our pay.

The weather is very fine once more. I hope it is as pleasant with you. It will do you more good than medicine. Take good care of yourself darling, and let other things go. I don't care what becomes of them if you are well. You are worth more to me than the world beside.

With much love and many kisses

Yours affectionately