My dear Jane,

We retired last night without any definite information from the men who left here on Wednesday, and continued so till today. The only word we have direct from there came by one of the men who went down with rations last night. He found them encamped fourteen miles from here at a little village this side of Jamestown. He says they are all right. Of course there has word come back to Gen. Welsh from them, but we cannot tell what it is. This man who has returned left there at ten o'clock this morning. They may be back tonight yet for all that, and the quartermaster is expecting them.

We have a very deserted looking place here now since they have all gone. It hardly looks like a camp at all. The tents are still standing, but it only makes it look more lonely to look or walk among them and scarcely see a man there.

The mail came again today, and that relieves us of any apprehension of it having been captured in our rear. Lieut. Hammond has also returned, coming part of the way in a private conveyance for the route that we came, and he saw nothing of the rebels on the way. I am beginning to have some doubts about the accuracy of Gen. Welsh's information. It continued raining a little, but has now cleared up nicely. Everything looks the better for it. The Creek is swollen up and looks like a river.

I am glad that I have plenty to do now, otherwise I would have a very dull time of it. Amusements are few when there are so few men about, and it would not be prudent to stray any distance away from camp. Willie's boil has broken and he appears to be all right again. I have not of course heard from Johnny since he left, but if the regiment does not return to night I think I will try to go out there tomorrow. As it is Sabbath we will not do any office work, and I think I can get a pass to go. I can ride out there and back again before night.

They are going to establish a post hospital at Columbia. There are a good many men in this division unfit for this summer campaign. They gave out in large numbers on these last marches. Very few of them are from our regiment. Two men in Co. G. have got a furlough at last. These are the first furloughs obtained by any of our Company. They will go home immediately. They do not live in our part of the County, but up near Hendersonville. One is named Grace and the other Snyder.

May 31

The regiment has returned again. They came during the night. I did not know or hear they were here till the morning. It was a very rainy night. I have to go and see to the delivery of some
clothing that came this morning and after that will go over and see how the men are after their tramp.

I have just been over to camp, and find only a few men awake. They came in about twelve o'clock very wet and tired, and are taking a good sleep. A few are up cooking breakfast and drying their clothes at the fire. They got completely wet from the first, and have been so all the time. It was impossible to get dried or find a shelter, and they got covered with mud into the bargain. They are very jolly over it, and appear not to mind it at all. They tell me they had a good time, sleeping in fence corners, barns stables or anywhere they took a fancy. They also appear to have lived well, and did a good business in confiscating poultry and mutton. They could not get the rebels to come to a stand this side the Cumberland. What were found, left as quickly as they could and got on the other side of the river. They captured a few that could not run fast enough. One of the captures was a Major. Johnny was fast asleep when I went to his tent. I did not wake him, but will be over again after dinner & will leave this letter unfinished till then, so as to let you know how he feels after his skirmish.

Thomas Nelson of Co. E a brother of James Nelson's is going home on a furlough along with Grace and Snyder. Snyder does not live at Hendersonville as I stated, but somewhere above Centre Church. His father is a cousin of Jake Synder.

The mail came to day again - quite a large one. I have a letter from Jos. Kirkpatrick dated May 2d. It was directed wrong, or not directed enough. It has probably been to North Carolina. He says that he sent me the Mercer Dispatch but I didn't get it, probably for the same reason.

The men commenced creeping out from their tents this afternoon, to sun themselves and brush the mud off their clothes. They don't look so bad after it as I supposed they would. They will only have today to rest. They have orders to start off again tomorrow, but don't know where to.

Johnny has got his feet used up. His boots have burst out, and his feet are chafed pretty badly, and swelled. He can't get them on again. If we only go along with them on the move tomorrow. I can let him have my horse if he falls back to the rear, and I can get another for Willie. But I don't think he will fall back. He is very spunky and curious about keeping in his place. He cannot ride along with the company. No one is allowed to ride along with the regiment except the field officers & surgeons. They are in front and behind the regiment. No one is allowed to ride amongst the men. They get the whole road to themselves.

If I had my documents all fixed up for this month I would not care how soon we moved. I like it better than standing still, but
this time my wishes are not starting them, for I would like them to remain for a few days till I get through. I suppose however, they won't stop to accommodate me. I had to go to work to day and issue clothing, or rather I keep the account of the clothing issued. We gave the men pants, blouses, shirts, drawers and everything they ask for. It can't be helped we have to do it Sabbath or not. Tomorrow won't be here to put anything off for. It amused our men when they came in and heard of Morgan's being in our rear. They knew better. Small parties of Cavalry sometimes do ride around, but a large force could not have passed them. They think Gen. Welsh is easily scared. They say that he has gone back to Cincinnati to have pontoons laid across the Ohio for us to retreat on! Of course he has not gone, but the men will have their fun.

It is getting very interesting here now. Between moving of troops and business, the dullness of camp is disappearing, and everyone who is well feels the better of it. My old appetite is again returning and I can eat nearly as much as I used to write you about. My trip round by Pitts. put my stomach back a good deal. I think I must get a lot of hard tack brought to Liberty when I go back there.

I hope you are getting along well. Your usual letter has missed coming this week, but is no more than I expected, on account of the changes in our route and location. That will soon be fixed all right again if we go in the right direction, but will get worse if we go in the wrong one. However, I can stand most anything now, and I don't want you to bother yourself writing too often dear while there is so much uncertainty of my getting your letters when you do write them. I shall write as often as I have opportunity, hoping that you will at least get some of them, enough to let you know where and how we are.

With kind remembrances to your parents and the children I am darling your affectionate husband

William