

Covington, Ky
Aug. 12, 1863

My dear Jane

I am once more writing from the Magnolia House at this city. We arrived at Cincinnati yesterday morning just one week since we left Vicksburg, which was a very good trip for such a large party. We crossed over here in the afternoon. I found that the 100th left here about the time we arrived in Cincinnati. I put up at this house once more and had a good sleep, having gone to bed very tired. Johnny is stopping here too.

Lt. Justice took the night train for home and will be there today. He talks some of coming back by way of Pittsburg. But you will see him and have an understanding about that in time to come either way if you decide to come. You can advise with him about it and decide if it suits you every way.

I mailed the letter I wrote in the cars as soon as I arrived, for I supposed we would go right on. But as we are here yet I thought I would write you again today.

In my hurry I may not have given you full directions about preparing for your journey if you decide to make it. If you think Siss would not be too troublesome on the way she might come too. She can be easily managed here. From Pittsburg or Enon Valley it takes 16 or 17 hours by railroad to Cincinnati, and from Cincinnati to our camp about ten hours more. So it is not so very far off.

If you come, bring such underclothes as you think proper, your brush and comb, two knives and forks, two table spoons, two good large towels and your wash rag. You need not bring a looking glass—we have one. Don't bring me any clothing—I have all I can need. I spent all my money here fitting up again. I had no idea how hard I looked till I saw myself in a glass. You would not have known me with dirt and rags. I got a new hat, vest and shirts and had to borrow money from Lt. Justice too besides \$10 I had. I expect to get new trousers and blouse as soon as we get settled in camp. My boots are the most serviceable article I have, they are good yet, while most of the men are barefooted. I am about well as usual once more. All my boils are healed up but one, but I can't get it closed on account of where it is. It always gets hurt and keeps sore, so that I can't ride any yet. I will be very busy till Lt. Justice gets back, and perhaps even then, but I would rather be so. Willie is well, but is getting very thin. Nearly all the men are getting sick. Col. L. took sick in the cars and his staff are nearly all sick. They are all at the Burnett house in Cincinnati. I don't know whether we will leave here today or not. We have no orders yet. There is some talk of us waiting here till the whole Corps comes up.

If you can get what clothes you need in a carpet bag it will

be better than a trunk. Johnny has got a wall tent for us. But don't come dear unless it suits you. Perhaps you would not think much of camp life if you tried it. We have had a lady with us all the way to Vicksburg and back again. One of Col. L's staff has had his wife and child here all the time and Capt. Powell and wife came up on the boat with us. She has been with him since the battle of Pittsburg Landing where he lost part of his arm and he is now going East to have the rest of it cut off. She has been well till we got on the boat. But I think the climate here is more like home. Please write as soon as you decide, so that if you come I can make some preparations for your convenience.

There is no news here. I send you a paper. With my respects to all my old neighbors and acquaintances I will close for this time, but not without my love, to yourself dear and the children.

Affectionately yours,
William