SC-11848a: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1864.

1863 February

For more information on this collection, please see the catalog record on the American Jewish Archives website.

Youngo Point La Dechy 2/63 My dear dear little Wefe! Javour of 24 725 mailed in same evelope with for letter carne at noon and I found then this Evening. They gave me undiscribable happiness, & geel gay chappy and dwould if I had an appreciative audience out up to might like ind days of your. I am hale and hearty everybody is compliment look and with it the buyoney of Quit for I was like many some ? what reduced by the unful Exposure and indisposition but emlike most of men in the army I allways Reef cheerfull and the consequence is that I do not get down very low and soon all right with a little rest. But as & have no one in my little lonely Tent lift Except Abraham Ruhman who is deer and I muse him, I can not

out up much. Abraham Kuhman I had about a week ago got him a very nice position as blest at General Osterhances Head quarters, lind he took sick two days after the was there and three days ago I had him brought to my tent and since that he fof come being at my quarters) get regular medical attendances. Il les improving, he is allrado been de good and Kind to me and being and all agraintance I could not been him among prances while sich. I that and hight my dead? The is doing Week can return to duty, I think & have written to you that dohny took Siell at arkansas Post and one or Level him to mamphin Hospital, do not Kurn how he is doing, ll & have a coloud man who cookes for an MEH, he is a good Cook reseline evel such as we can get and yet and boarding dues not cost no \$ 10 pl mobiles Each, while as the houts it cost \$10 5% por everto to then we had very poor board

fort wanted to know how I got the new house why my boyo captimed 68 doises and I took one of them it was after night and I dit not get as hundrome were as I would in day time, he is at make beer, Charley I told you has been very much under the weather but is getting all right, he is the Horse of the army as front as Peacock and as safe a an old Family Horse and I can side him right into the curous month I also took a very good coloud boy with me from all about 15 years old to wait on me but he is sich, & have a great big fellow named Heraid attending my house and blacking my boots and & do the bab. of my choice. Many of the boys are getting better but it seems that those who have been very week many of them are destill dience , We buried 12 within the last three days, WE have now nearly 200 men for duty and yet Sto sield, Since the I'd of Jamony We lost in Killed, died and discharged 12 add to that the lesses of the month before in which the battle of beeksburg

occurred and you will find our Steept Inffered Very much within the last bodays, but I am in hopes us are getting better There is one Item of news & must give your but you need not say any thing in your letter to me about that is you need not mention of the fact concerning look Thench. you know a toleb you in Mansfely if I could only succeed in hely from creating any dealoung dutes all right of have succeeded admin I have often kept Officers from dending letters to Papers in which they would ensist en francision me very highly and have done all I could to prevent any feeling of that kind and I must truly Say that look French used me as well as ever I was used by any body in the evoiled how to my Story. Jour Know ere have a German General communities out Division Courseling of three Buttenes of artillery & a Squadow of Cavelery

Quel Sheet That is General Esterhans and you also know that generally dam not very much preparessed in Javas fany high Officials because they look when them as impracticable or be Reshoim, but contrary to my Effec. man feel from any of those prepulices usual almost with berman Officers and besides all this a Sentleman's treated me with much condiality and Referment. Thench often said to me byon are the General's man , I am nowhere" + C + C + A thought I could See Something that the dit not like it much and I really avoriled Osterhans as much as devulet The day Gant Morgan Cof whom I specke to your left us, Out French went to see him and there met Gen! Osterhans. When he come home, he told me he would see sign, he was sick of the war ve va I as we had both greenently spoke that evay, I thought it was only

talk and would blow over, but it seemed he insisted and told mo & could as dist him in getting it Through, by talking to General Ostechans. I tall him & could do him no good a with the General, he days " yes you Carl & Run it now he thinks you are all the man in this regiments Brigade or Diversion" & total him I thought the General had treated me as he dit every Officer, but French said he knew better He said , as soon as a met him, he asked " about you, said he knew the first " line he met you at the Field before the Fort at likamas, you were a " Splendid Officed, in gast says he leny " man that sees you, would know at , once you were a man of military " Education and Deneral Morgan " said, yes indeed I have noticed , Ool. Driegel often on the Fields , he is a gallant and noble Officer , and Blechous tacked all the " tune about you to to Well you see I was and am yet very song to see the love lesign but he would insist and I wrote his

Designation for him I saw the Gen! Asporte to him about it and the said , by mind linker ligingal, dals it mind young mife paper link, dre fate mind und mid gradelled in Pyrjalles mind july my might stood his resignation is in wether it will pass or not d can not say, but one thing of do thin Osterhans will approve it, get & doubt very much that it will have as it is not Easy to get out of the service I am pretty well sates fiel it will not be accepted The bol was in about a half an hour ago and he is sony now that it is in am I am really somy to, he has been so very Kind to me I would late to loose him but I am pretty Ine we will not I want you to stay in Chicago entell & ring day 100 of april or until after Perach and their you go chome I hope en this and and frutty Inw Uncle Jam will have fraid us some money, so that down funish you, if I can come all right, if not you go home to

and fit Everything build our acher 10 fig the Grape vine, have a dup. porter build in albor Style for the Grapes Afit things furt as your want then so that when dem home everything looks well, when the old weather heaten lavior return to his friendly home. I am just of your Opinion that if it from now and does not pay me devile leave it as I have done my duty July. It pays me now cleaver Et reuse \$160 to 170 for months and that is not so had a Chave written you my views in regard to getting out. It is eron nearly midnight and & must start and my rounds to the liefly wish you were here to table a vide with me if it were not to amfule Stormy to night. Two of our Rams pan the Blocade at Vielebourg to day, the fired 76 shops at one with their heavy gumo, hit one of them Eleven Theres but hist withing men many one the four time and loving

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I. Youngs Point La. Feby 2/63

My dear dear little Wife!

Your very good and encouraging favors of 24 & 25 mailed in same envelope with Joseph's letter came at noon and I found them this evening. They gave me undescribable happiness; I feel gay & happy and I would if I had an appreciative audience cut up to night like in days of yore. I am hale and hearty; everybody is complimenting me on my returning good hearty look and with it the buyoncy of Spirit, for I was like many somewhat reduced by the awful exposure and indisposition but unlike most of men in the Army I allways keep cheerful and the consequence is that I do not get down very low and [am] soon all right with a little rest. But as I have no one in my little lonely Tent except Abraham Ruhman who is sick and I nurse him, I can not cut up much. Abraham Ruhman, I had about a week ago got him a very nice position as Clerk at General Osterhauses Head Quarters, but he took sick two days after he was there and three days ago I had him brought to my tent and since that he (of course being at my quarters) gets regular medical attendance and is improving. He has always been so good and kind to me and being an old acquaintance I could not see him among strangers while sick.

Is that not right my dear? He is doing well & I think in the course of a week can return to duty. I think I have written to you that Johny took sick at Arkansas Post and one or two days after the fight I had to send him to Memphis Hospital, I do not know how he is doing. We have a colored man who cooks for our mess; he is a good cook & we live well, such as we can get, and yet our boarding does not cost us \$10 per month each, while at the boats it cost \$10.50 per week & then we had very poor board.

You wanted to know how I got the new horse. Why my boys captured 68 horses and I took one of them. It was after night and I dit not get as handsome a one as I would in day time. He is a mate to Barcrofts horse, very gentle & a splendit goer. Charley I told you has been very much under the weather but is getting all right. He is the Horse of the Army, as proud as Peacock and as safe as an old Family Horse, and I can ride him right into the cannons mouth.

I also took a very good colored boy with me from

Arkansas, about 15 years old, to wait on me but he is sick.

I have a great big fellow named Hiram attending my horses and blacking my boots and I do the bal[ance] of my chores.

Many of the boys are getting better but it seems that those who have been very weak, many of them are dying; we buried 12 within the last three days. We have now nearly 500

men for duty and yet 300 sick. Since the 1st of January we lost in killed, died and discharged 62, add to that the losses of the month before in which the battle of Vicksburg occurred and you will find our Regt suffered very much within the last 60 days, but I am in hopes we are getting better.

There is one Item of news I must give you but you need not say anything in your letter to me about; that is you need not mention of the part concerning Col French.

You know I told you in Mansfield if I could only succeed in keeping from creating any jealousy I was all right. I have succeeded admirably. I have often kept Officers from sending letters to Papers in which they would insist in praising me very highly and have done all I could to prevent any feeling of that kind and I must truly say that Col French used me as well as ever I was used by any body in the world. Now to my Story. You know we have a German General commanding our Division consisting of three Brigades of Infantry, three Batteries of Artillery & a Squadron of Cavelery. That is General Osterhaus and you also know that generally I am not very much prepossessed in favor of any high Officials because they are Germans as I invariably look upon them as impracticable or big Reshoim [wicked ones] but contrary to my expectations in Genl Osterhaus I found a man free from any of those prejudices

usual almost with German Officers and besides all this a Gentleman & an Officer who from the very first had treated me with much cordiality and Preferment. French often said to me "you are the Generals man"; "I am nowhere" &c &c & I thought I could see something that he dit not like it much and I really avoided Osterhaus as much as I could.

The day Genl Morgan (of whom I spoke to you) left us, Col French went to see him and there met Genl Osterhaus. When he came home, he told me he would resign, he was sick of the war &c &c.

AMERICAN LEWISH

As we had both frequently spoke that way, I thought it was only talk and would blow over, but it seemed he insisted and told me I could assist him in getting it through, by talking to General Osterhaus. I told him I could do him no good with the General, he says "yes, you can I know it now; he thinks you are all the man in this Regiment, Brigade or Division". I told him I thought the General had treated me as he dit every Officer, but French said he knew better. He said: "As soon as I met him, he asked about you, said he knew the first time he met you at the Field before the Fort at Arkansas, you were a splendid Officer. In fact, says he, any man that sees you, would know at once you were a man of military education and General Morgan said, yes indeed I have noticed Col Spiegel often on the Field and he is a gallant

and noble Officer and Osterhaus talked all the time about you &c &c."

Well, you see I was and am yet very sorry to see the Col resign but he would insist and I wrote his Resignation for him. I saw the Genl and spoke to him about it and he said, [translated from German] "Oh my dear Spiegel, that pleases me, very much. I never liked him and still don't like him." Now his resignation is in wether it will pass or not I can not say, but one thing I do know; Osterhaus will approve it; yet I doubt very much that it will pass as it is not easy to get out of the service. I am pretty well satisfied it will not be accepted. The Col was in about a half hour ago and he is sorry now that it is in and I am really sorry too. He has been so very kind to me, I would hate to loose [sic] him but I am pretty sure we will not. I want you to stay in Chicago untill Spring, say 1st of April or until after Pesach [Passover], and then you go home. I hope ere this and am pretty sure Uncle Sam will have paid us some money, so that I can furnish you. If I can come all right; if not you go home & fix everything. Build our arbor &c; fix the Grape vine, have a supporter build in Arbor Style for the Grapes & fix things, just as you want them so that when I come home everything looks well, when the old weather beaten Warrior returns to his friendly home. I am just of your Opinion

that if it from now on does not pay me I will leave it, as I have done my duty fully. It pays me now clear of expense \$160 to 170 per month and that is not so bad.

I have written you my views in regard to getting out.

It is now nearly midnight and I must start on my rounds to the Pickets. Wish you were here to take a ride with me if it were not too awful stormy to night. Two of our Rams ran the Blockade at Vicksburg to day. They fired 76 shots at one with their heavy guns, hit one of them eleven times but hurt nothing nor no one.

My love to my children, mother & all,

Ever your true and loving husband,

Marcus

Jonnes Sont La Heby 9/63 My dear dear Wife, and in good divisto good health and good hopes. I can not Chants Hind providence enough for the preservation of my health and if only I would get mon frequent as in ances of your good health and that of my dear good Children Would feel prefeatly happy untill I could feel happier and that is as home with my little family. The Water drove us ont of on nasty mampy place when we were Camped before and we had to more en. half will up the wired and fortunately got a much hicer and dryer Carry Illum the and still in status gove before Vicksburg the Running of the block ash occasionally by a Imboat wall and the heavy canonading during the performance is all that changes the daily worting a dull Camplife. Herrs & can day int little, buty that my little clarkie Jinny died last night, he has been sield a week and I had hind well mound which is different from what is generally

done in the army, when a uigger takes siest he is turned and to die and they do du by severs and in all corners, I am all in Extracy with the Jolea of seeing Brother Jage and can dearcely wait for him he will make it pay slike it If he has not left send no is while Shirts and Paper Collars to spand up. Did you Ever receive the \$5 I send you " I think the Caymate will be here in a few days and then I will send you some money. de send a mae double Bunel Shat gime for Hambin to Millershing gets his he can go hamling Michael, Farah, the Children, Henry Theresa & The Children and all the friends & Kins all my belowed Children tver yand time showing husband ellureus Do day I brild me a more fireplace in my tent + it draws splendish, it looks for place. Weather warm, no rain for

My dear dear Wife!

I am in good Spirits, good health and good hopes. I can not thank kind providence enough for the preservation of my health and if only I would get more frequent assurances of your good health and that of my dear good children I would feel perfectly happy untill I could feel happier and that is at home with my little family. The water drove us out of our nasty swampy place where we were camped before and we had to move a half mile up the river and fortunately got a much nicer and dryer Camp Ground.

We are still in "Status quo" before Vicksburg; the running of the blockade occasionally by a Gunboat and the heavy cannonading during the performance is all that changes the daily routine of a dull camplife. News I can say but little; only that my little darkie Jimmy died last night. He has been sick a week and I had him well nursed which is different from what is generally done in this Army; when a nigger takes sick he is turned out to die and they do die by scores and in all corners. I am all in ecstasy with the Idea of seeing Brother Joseph and can scarcely wait for him; he will make it pay and like it.

If he has not left send me some white Shirts and Paper Collars to stand up. Did you ever receive the \$5 I sent you? I

think the Paymaster will be here in a few days and then I will send you some money.

I sent a nice double Barrel Shot Gun for Hamlin to Millersburg, sent it to Cohn. When Hamlin gets big he can go hunting.

Give my love to mother, Michael, Sarah, the children, Henry, Theresa & the children and all the friends & kiss all my beloved children.

Ever your true & loving husband,

AMERICAN JEWISH

Marcus

To day I build me a nice fireplace in my tent & it draws splendid: it looks so much like ones home to see a fireplace. Weather warm; no rain for two days.

Goungs Point La fety 19/63 My dear dear good Wife! Gesterdough mail bur. me your kink and muther in an offendedly unde written letter in answer to and received wrote to Carele Josey Sometime ago complaining of you not working enough. If Ever Evel I faid any thing unfiledwart or offersive to you my Kind wife, I sho most monthly and your frequences and pardon. It does make me feel to bad and do un Easy and cover when the mail comes and brings Everybody letters but mid that I may some thing very untint but your know I can not meand anything until at impleasant to you my good wife. Ofter the battle of arkains as t when I felt in the highest gle ele preserved three mails in one weeth und not and word or letter dit of get. Can you wonder at me being emeany? I get do down in finite that I was allmost mud that I was so much com Johnented and only behavior & surreis. but as won as I heard from your

I felt proud of it. Nord my sweet wife you must forgive me and third that if do day anything at all not fest right, et is in consequence of my pealours and endying love for your and migolean foundly. I am well and hearty and not for three years have I had So bully an appetite as for three weeks health of our Regiment is not improving any dan fan to fay, we have anly 350 men for duty, anany of the emfit for duty" would soon be all right if their die Every day in this army, the lever for their miles is allmost one Continual Granegard of new Frances Sast night Captain Pheland of an Regiment died, from man, leanes a loge and deven I mall Children. he as evell as many other ones dece Simply because as soon as they get Seell a little, they give way hearne despondent and some to die, Vour Theland was and of my most andent and warmest friends, he was a devont wish Catholic

For the last & days it ramed here Continually day and night and it makes it very disagreable but I have a new wither Overcout and leggins pre Regiment who resigned and from home, to that down goout in the rein, I have thank God no com. filaint at present perther themation how thethy sie I never was better I have a very pleasant little home and here I dissible it (I have two tents one a Mail dentand in the Rear closed and it a com mon or Wedge tentand chowing ofrener the Centre region in the Rear wall of Im dent it answers for folding door to my Common dant. Us you Enter my tent in the corner stands a large table made ant of Stone But by taking out 3 sides and leaving three potter numbers a board right ender the top which make a thebre on that table I am now mothing to your. Ofter passing the table on the right hand side you would see a very mice bing fore place which I helped to bild, & funt tool out and breadth of my

Tent about a yand wide and an Yard and a quarter high, in which it is not cold yet the inceapent pains make Every thing damp Ufter passing the fire place is a Corner in which stands a Hot Containing my Clothere and an which abraham Shuman is setting, who is well again but still stops with me and en a manner waits an me, he is a very good bay I am trying to get him discharged there come the opening in my common tent On the left hand side stands my Cot, and which I rest my weary and Victors body, Sately an old friend of more and a claim and at that. Charles . 13. Feloval the formes Editor of the national Democrate Came down with a deamer load of samitary Goods for the section the soon do he gound out I was here, he dend me, a nice bed Theit, which I have filled with huy, two sheets, fullow slips, Juin Mellow, 2 woolen Shirts, Vin Cushing duid lipples and Peaches

and Cadfish and many acter lette things with this Compliments also a Schlafrock " and fonce that he is continually trying to do me good by Everybody the Lame mon you know that was so answins I should be Cerrono Olycut. I also have in my tent a nicelline Than and Care bottom chair and Campettool which mable a very Comfortable little dent, I wish to God you could be it I know you would tujuy it. Ou my little lent we have a bley of the bat by our ming my saddler Mater braket 10. This week Capt widow here Orter-Harres adjutant Leveral, called an me and but Cal Tunand Commending 1t / Ingade & his aid de Campala tol U. Ochman Inspector General of the 13 d W. I Comy Corps Lieut Caldwell aid de Camp & the Special quite a mice time at may quarters, This lead definary is it splendid Officer and a dans of here delivery in Baden

That same day major General We Clemand rode through con Camp for impection of made this aquaintance asked himto alight which he dit and come in and stopped with me quite a while I so you see I home Vory important visitors, atom you much not thinks that I am going round and the other chand if my conduct as an Officer and sentle man son ho there men and they feel like seeking my agramlance and eese me very Linit I there you would not want me to refuse it. I fought to Day that I have a floor in my tent. I am daily wanting for Josep and Everybody Else is waiting Wel will make it pay with the thelp of God will as faor as it has haid fretty well we will leave the dervice". How my dear girl & do not want you to worry yourself about me any more than your can help, our sweet baby will some him a big birt und then you can ge with out fried you know

You Know you allways was as handsome as any of them you must try and theep in Keep up for my salle you know how happy and proud it makes me feel to see my wife the mother of my dead form Children look well, if you contitons set on the saddle in my lettle tent hear me tell the folks of my clear wife I know you would smile if not langs out hearty. There never was a man as proud of his thije and from Children as Col Spugel in the world. Haming letter pleased me very much, hope he can tall terment well when derm home, I will write to him soon, my Lizzie ought soon to be able to write to her per a few lines. I would very much little to Dea Moses in his new pants , he must not fraget shis pa. Tittle & fatter much be quite and institution with her two teeth Oh but I would like to see her Eligabeth must not feel discome There are just as good a Mac arello in the deal as ever have been cought and if it isn't this Mac it will be anoth I one even if I have to throw out the bait to catch them one.

I have no time to day to worke to michael ar darah or any of the dear friends but will soon. Here my love to all of their and the clear children, & and to happy to Know that our children get along senwell logether Sinhed Miller Mar Mannigh duf burnfagen at mind might unife for in Cimpal Summerman Kinner nind for the the ming bedandend dal might though Landowski ift, combiffed in forms White sond toften to your long deting and almount and Ever line tappecionale down Park in Maceuns be onto an institute The formy started on I received a splended letter from Henry Heges I sent it to you let Sarah read it for our also from Moses, Many

Head Quarters 120th Regt. O.V.I.

Youngs Point La. Feb. 17/63

My dear dear good Wife!

Yesterday's mail brought me your kind and rather in an offendedly rude [?] written letter in answer to one I wrote to Oncle Josey sometime ago complaining of you not writing enough.

If ever ever I said anything unpleasant or offensive to you, my kind wife, I most humbly ask your forgiveness and pardon.

AMERICAN JEWISH

It does make me feel so bad and so uneasy and cross, when the mail comes and brings everybody letters but me, that I say something very unkind but you know I can not mean anything unkind or unpleasant to you my good wife. After the battle of Arkansas Post when I felt in the highest glee we received three mails in one week and not one word or letter dit I get. Can you wonder at me being uneasy? I got so down in spirits that I was almost mad that I was so much complimented on my behavior & success but as soon as I heard from you I felt proud of it. Now my sweet wife you must forgive me and think that if I say anything at all not just right, it is in consequence of my jealous and undying love for you and my dear family. I am well and hearty and not for three years have I had so bully an appetite as for three

weeks past.

The health of our Regiment is not improving any I am sorry to say. We have only 350 men for duty; many of the "unfit for duty" would soon be all right if they only had a change of diet. Many die every day in this Army. The levee for three miles is almost one continual Graveyard of new Graves. Last night Captain Phelan of our Regiment died, a poor man, leaves a Wife and seven small children. He as well as many other ones die simply because as soon as they get sick a little, they give way, become despondent and sure to die. Poor Phelan was one of my most ardent and warmest friends; he was a devout Irish Catholic.

For the last 4 days it rained here continually day and night and it makes it very disagreeable but I have a new rubber overcoat and leggins presented to me by Captain Myers of our Regiment who resigned and gone home, so that I can go out in the rain. I have thank God no complaint at present, neither Rhumatism nor Phthysic [throat or lung infection]. I never was better.

I have a very pleasant little house and here I describe it. I have two tents; one a Wall Tent and in the Rear closed on it a common or Wedge tent and, having opened the centre seam in the Rear wall of my Tent, it answers for folding doors to my common Tent. As you enter my tent, in the Corner

stands a large table made out of Store Box, by taking out 3 sides and leaving three, then nailing a board right under the top which makes a shelve. On that table I am now writing to you. After passing the table on the right hand side, you would see a very nice big fireplace which I helped to build, I just took out one breadth of my Tent, about a yard wide and a yard and a quarter high, in which I keep a very good fire; although it is not cold, yet the inceassant rains make everything damp. After passing the fire place is a corner in which stands a Box containing my clothing and so forth and on which Abraham Ruhman is sitting, who is well again but still stops with me and in a manner waits on me. He is a very good boy; I am trying to get him discharged. Then, comes the opening in my common tent. On the left hand side stands my cot, on which I rest my weary and virtuous body. Lately an old friend of mine and a warm one at that, Charles B. Flood the former editor of the "national Democrat" came down with a Steamer load of Sanitary Goods for the sick. As soon as he found out I was here, he sent me a nice bed tick which I have filled with hay, two sheets, pillow slips, 1 pair Mittins, 2 woolen Shirts, Pin cushion, dried Apples and Peaches and Codfish and mariy other little things with his compliments, also a "schlafrock" [dressing gown], and since that he is continually trying to do me good by everybody; the same man

you know that was so anxious I should be Census Agent.

I also have in my tent a nice arm chair and cane bottom chair and camp stool which make a very comfortable little

Tent. I wish to God you could see it; I know you would enjoy it. In my little tent we have a keg of ale bought by our mess, my saddles, water bucket &c.

This week Capt Gordon, Genl Osterhauses Adjutant General, called on me and brot Col Garrard commanding 1st Brigade & his Aid de Camp, also Col A. Schwarz, Inspector General of 13th U.S. Army Corps, Lieut Caldwell Aid de Camp & they spend quite a nice time at my quarters. This Col Schwarz is a splendid officer and a Son of General Schwarz in Baden.

That same day Major General McClernand rode through our Camp for inspection. I made his acquaintance, asked him to alight which he did and came in and stopped with me quite a while, so you see I have very important visitors. Now you must not think that I am going round enjoying myself & acting fancy, but on the other hand if my conduct as an Officer and Gentlemen suits these men and they feel like seeking my acquaintance and use me very kind, I know you would not want me to refuse it. I forgot to say that I have a floor in my tent. I am daily waiting for Josey and everybody else is waiting. We will make it pay with the help of God and as soon as it has paid pretty well we will "leave the service". Now

my dear girl I do not want you to worry yourself about me any more than you can help; our sweet baby will soon be a big Girl and then you can go round with Col Spiegel, you know.

You know you always was as handsome as any of them; you must try and keep so, keep up for my sake. You know how happy and proud it makes me feel to see my wife, the mother of my dear four children, look well. If you could only set on the saddle in my little tent and hear me tell the folks of my dear wife, I know you would smile if not laugh out hearty. There never was a man as proud of his wife and four children as Col Spiegel, in the world.

Hamlin's letter pleased me very much. I hope he can talk German well when I come home; I will write to him soon. My Lizzie ought soon to be able to write to her pa a few lines. I would very much like to see Moses in his new pants; he must not forget his pa. Little Hattie must be quite an institution with her two teeth. Oh but I would like to see her. Elizabeth must not feel discouraged. There are just as good a Mac arells in the sea as ever have been caught and if it isnt this Mac it will be another one, even if I have to throw out the bait to catch one. I have no time to day to write to Michael or Sarah or any of the dear friends but will soon. Give my love to all of them and the dear children, I am so happy to know that our children get along

so well together.

[Untranslated German text]...

Write soon and often to your loving, doting and admiring and

Ever true & affectionate

Marcus

I presume Josey started ere this.

I received a splendid letter from Henry Herzer I sent it to you let Sarah read it for you, also from Moses, Mary and Girty.

AMERICAN JEWISH



Youngs Point Ja Deb. 19/13. My dear dear llife . The much exertment in Camp this morning that Decarely Know what to say! but thereach offin Other Officest to a momber of men leaving for their happy homes, though I would be a happy man indeed Home yet to leave as orme do to would rather wort arrhole () My lovely Wife Weekland Auhman who I got discharged will care on you and tell you all all those I would wish, he is a good has Indeed to can give your ownelly to stand by your daw hate & Your brown and hue husbaust

Head Quarters 120th Reg. O.V.I. Young's Point La. Feb. 19/63.

My dear dear Wife,

So much excitement in camp this morning that I scarcely know what to say. Col French & four other Officers and a number of men leaving for their happy homes. Though I would be a happy man indeed were I permitted to leave for my Home, yet to leave as some do I would rather wait awhile.

My lovely wife, Abraham Ruhman who I got discharged will call on you and tell you all all that I could write. He is a good boy indeed & can give you much of interest. God Bless you, my love & stand by you. I am hale & hearty & will soon see you.

Your loving and true husband Marcus.

This includes Every Officer at present in the Part Except It vayen who is sich in Hospital. puffeed quarter 12 set O.V. Jonny Soint La Jeby 20 My dear dear levely ellige. Most likely ere this reaches you Abraham Rhuman coher left here to day has been to see your told your many things concerning me which I am seitesfiel have interrested you get though the has only left this morning with many Verhal messages of love to you from yet & feel so happy and pather lonesome that I can not go to sleep without Conversing with you befoream of Juper to, I mis Ool French this Evening he has always been very Kind to me in fact Ethemely so. I have this day issued three long eneral Orders in relation to matters in the Regiment and two Precial. Outers, & and determined to renoval and regenerate the Regiment, down not Stand to see men die from Sheet enpetivity and neglect. We had this morning 315 rield men reported and Dan willing almost

week from to day there will not be 200 reported.
Othir Evening the Officed formanded to the Governor a recommendation for my promotion Endoused by the Bugal Commander, General Osterham, Gent Mo Obernand and bol Schwarg the Inspector General of this army. from of Inch a document it will bet a fine prece of Literature for out family & want you to show Every ond of my friends who had an Interest in the fine Horse they five 2 Sented me & would more particularly like to see it. Whole gord don't you feel proud of your doldier huslands God bless you and the dear children To mother and all my dear relatives to quiculs Good night Write soon Jones who agined this is the Ever your loving there one that used to tease more and Marcus of and Marcus of Care Can you supposed in 2 for antiety to see Josey, he furt coneces in the light time. The Paymenter will Come here Doon Vitten he will get all

This includes every officer at present in the Regt except

Lt Taylor who is sick in Hospital.

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I.

Youngs Point La Feby.20/63

My dear dear lovely Wife!

Most likely ere this reaches you Abraham Ruhman, who left here to day has been to see you & told you many things concerning me which I am satisfied have interested you. Yet though he has only left this morning with many verbal messages of love to you from [me], yet I feel so happy and rather lonesome that I can not go to sleep without conversing with you by means of paper &c. I miss Col French this Evening he has always been very kind to me, in fact extremely so.

I have this day issued three long General Orders in relation to matters in the Regiment and two Special Orders. I am determined to renovate and regenerate the Regiment; I can not stand to see men die from sheer inactivity and neglect.

We had this morning 315 sick men reported and I am willing almost to bet my existence that in one week from to day there will not be 200 reported.

This Evening the Officers forwarded to the Governor a recommendation for my promotion endorsed by the Brigade Commander, General Osterhaus, Genl McClernand and Col

Schwarz, the Inspector General of this Army.

I send you a copy of it. I feel proud of such a document; it will be a fine piece of Literature for our family. I want you to show it to all my friends in Chicago; every one of my friends who had an Interest in the fine Horse they presented me I would more particularly like to see it. Ah old girl, dont you feel proud of your Soldier husband!

God bless you and the dear children & mother and all my dear relatives & friends.

Good night. Write soon. Ever your loving & true

Marcus

Jones who copies this is the one that used to tease Mosey and make him cry at Mansfield and in the Cars. Can you forgive him?

I can scarcely sleep for anxiety to see Josey, he just came in the right time. The Paymaster will come here soon & then he will get all cash.

Yeard Guarters 120th Regt. O.S. Jones Jones Point La Jeby 22/63 My dear Kind and levely Wife! Though & chard written to only last night and thuman only left here two days ago with intention and and happy to night and must write to you of Ever only a short letter your good and kind letter of the 13th made me the promisest and gayest husboled in the army, a husband who gett that he had a woman at home who thered furt how to write to make her hunhand feel good, that was and and the man reason why I felt Do feel so happy the nest peason is that my Regiment is doing well, more life and energy dis played then has been in two months. the sield list reduced by 32 in two days and I had the micest Drew Parade had June we left Memphis The Regiment was careless, duty lowy to lieto.

Left on my hands with three hundred & fifteen sick men in Camp and One hundred and seven une sick away in hospitals is und Very great flearme. Out French of late sield and discomaged (and wally in his best never had the required Energy to control to conduct a legt left Everything go, Officers got don men indolent reachers & sier. Us soon as the Reg - Three days ago fell in my hando I issued the most stimpent Ocher, for meals diet, Cleanlings to that could be and I gave notice to the Officers that whatever Company was unt by the 1th day of March perfectly free of long ness sfilth, the Fints anno tacentrements in good con dition such company Officers, & Should report to the Head quarters of this Chiny to be dismissed the device for incompetency and & assend your Every one can see the Effect, Everything looks Encomage hie and Cheefulness is retimined and I am satisfied in less their one month a decided improvement

Many of the Officers have we digned in our Regiment and I hope about 8 more will usego they are good men but just a fit for a Hebamme " Jahamma" with good young and energetic Offices Inchas a will select & will soon have a regiment second to none in the served in discipline as we now already are decord to none in fighting. I could almost see Hamlin ofun his large blue Eyes and shaighten himself when he told you about his proff the recienced from his teacher, y. He is all right you know you always said he was a Springel all over. Sont you think the Gringels all right? My Liggie most take good care while the has the Chickenporates so she want catel cold and so that she cango to School soon and learn in order that she will he Smart Ewigh to wear that pretty dress I tring for her she is operfectly right, it will be a Union Dress. Morey here Pany will be furthering whenever the gets his errough. I would dery much like to see the two pretty little teeth of my smeet lettle Hattee, as to her having black Eyes and

being able to say Pa, I do not fel ite discomaging your, but ones wishes are frequently father to ones Thoughts and believes. right my Clothe with the Exception. of Halling are all night and I am all right. God bless god to all write often to your time and loving quatest and iety with the Marcus Linds fand Monthal And min B diff wife may an mind brancing brancing waste marked, foffentlif in inflowed with with timpal and whimmed girtiful Oblalny are later med engrand when downder Joseph brainfle did dief gut mift in han mighty and sent and bound did dotters find in your knimm gaz fufor night unifor all go fant in I enne al gother willed if wint ar in kinged gril Gill yanny major for do on dif ways bald. min has before know. In grand B2 in Dyna Whing in Ban orkal Jang of amilias. The Marous Inhat tymay as & by no oftal. If fall mind find a wood for med your maffer dan Miel.

gind zin future for dals not wrift mind mind frie Tifes
all Obert find Pryming to commentarioned friend to

Head Quarters 120th Regt. O.V.I.

Youngs Point La. Feby. 22/63

My dear kind and lovely Wife!

Though I have written to [you] only last night and Ruhman only left here two days ago with intention and promise to see you, yet I feel too good and happy to night and must write to you if even only a short letter.

Your good and kind letter of the 13th made me the proudest and gayest husband in the Army, a husband who felt that he had a woman at home who knew just how to write to make her husband feel good. That was one and the main reason why I felt and feel so happy; the next reason is that my Regiment is doing well, more life and energy displayed than has been in two months, the sick list reduced by 32 in two days and I had the nicest Dress Parade had since we left Memphis.

The Regiment was careless, dirty, lousy & sick. Left on my hands with three hundred & fifteen sick men in Camp and one hundred and seventy-nine sick away in hospitals is no very great pleasure. Col French of late sick and discouraged (and really in his best never had the required energy to control & conduct a Regt) left everything go. Officers got down; men indolent & careless & sick.

As soon as the Regt three days ago fell in my hands, I

issued the most stringent Order for meals, diet, cleanliness &c that could be and I gave notice to the Officers that whatever Company was not by the 1st day of March perfectly free of lousyness & filth, the Tents, arms & accourrements in good condition, such Company Officers I should report to the Head quarters of the Army to be dismissed the service for incompetency and I assure you, every one can see the effect; everything looks encouraging, live, and cheerfulness is returning and I am satisfied in less than one month a decided improvement will be visible.

Many of the Officers have resigned in our Regiment and I hope about 8 more will resign; they are good men but just as fit for military Officers as I am fit for a "Hebamme [Mid-wife] Fabermann". With good young and energetic Officers such as I will select, I will soon have a regiment second to none in the service in discipline as we now already are second to none in fighting.

I could almost see Hamlin open his large blue eyes and straighten himself when he told you about his puff he received from his teacher. He is all right; you know you always said he was Spiegel all over. Dont you think the Spiegels all right? My Lizzie must take good care while she has the chickenpocks so she wont catch cold and so that she can go to School soon and learn in order that she will be

smart enough to wear that pretty dress I bring for her. She is perfectly right, it will be a Union Dress. Mosey's blue Pony will be forthcoming whenever he gets big enough. I would very much like to see the two pretty little teeth of my sweet little Hattie. As to her having black eyes and being able to say Pa, I do not feel like discouraging you, but ones wishes are frequently father to ones thoughts and believes.

My Horses and Horse fixings are all right, clothes with the exception of Handkerchiefs are all right, and I am all right. God bless you & all. Write often to your true and loving

Marcus

I am awaiting Josey with the greatest anxiety.

[translated from German]:

Dear esteemed Mother:

Don't worry about me. With God's help and your blessing everything will be alright. I hope your Jewish son [illegible] will give you much much joy and you don't have to worry about Brother Joseph when he comes. The Sutlers are in no danger at all, not more than if they were at home, and if it is God's will he will soon make enough money to visit you again very soon.

With greetings and kisses from your ever-loving son, Marcus.

Dear Brother-in-Law and Sister-

Today I was wishing from the bottom of my heart that Mich. were here so he could see his brother-in-law command his regiment as a colonel.

Good night, your Marcus.



FROM THE 120th OHIO.

THE HIGH STANDING OF THE REG-IMENT.

All the late letters from the gallant and brave 120th Ohio, speak in the most decided terms of the improved health, spirits, and general welfare of the Regiment. New officers have taken the place of those who resigned, renewed health has returned to the soldiers generally, so that there is scarcely a new Regiment in Grant's Army which answers so fully at roll call as the 120th.

Colonel Spiegle has infused renewed energy and determination throughout the ranks of his Regiment, and from all that we can learn, he has the fullest confidence of his men, and when the hour of battle arrives, (if it has not already come,) the ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH OHIO will meet the fee as gallantly and bravely, as any, even of the oldest Regiments.

The resignation of Colonel French, and the promotion of Colonel Spiegle to the command of the Regiment, seem to have been fortunate circumstances; for whatever may be said of Col. French as a man, as an officer he lacked the energy, industry, pluck and ambition now so freely accorded to Col. Spiegle. Besides. Col French was an easy, plastic individual in the hands of such characters as R. V. Dean, and whose Democracy allowed Duan to circulate Vallandigham's infamous speech in the Regiment, and to read the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Chicago Times, Medary's Orisis, and other iceasonable publications, to the unsuspecting soldiers, at a time when general gloom pervaded their ranks, and sickness and death were everywhere present. And we here desire to say that whatever remarks we have at any Aime made, reflecting on Col. Spiegle, were named by the belief that, by his presence and silence and srithout reproof, he allowed Dean and his assistants to circulate these treasonable eats which were denounced and prohibited by other loyal Commanders. We are most glad to know that a different policy as adopted by Col. Spiegle, as soon as he in Chief Command of the Regiment, and that among his first acts, as acting Colonel, was issuing of the following address to the

Address of Colonel Spiegle.



COLONEL SPIEGLE'S ADDRESS TO THE 120th REG.

I have to day been informed that some soldiers of this Regiment, have, at different times, expressed sentiments disloyal and unbecoming a soldier of the Union Army, when about the Sutler shop of the 96th Indiana; saying that if this Regiment should ever have to go into another engagement, not half of the men would fire s gun for this d—d abolition war, &c. When I heard it I thought it almost impossible, that any soldier of the gallant 120th liegiment, which so nobly stood up at the battles of Vicksburg and Post Arkansas, to defend the good old flag, where every heart swelled with pride; when they saw the stars and stripes first planted by the 120th, wave so proudly, succeeding the traitorous rag on the stubborn ramparts of Post Arkansas, could make use of language disgraceful to the Regiment, disloyal to the country, and productive of evil only to the good cause, for which we are enlisted. If there is one man in the Regiment who would refuse to shoot at a rebel, in an engage ment, let him step three paces to the front in order that he can be marked as a coward and receive the reward of a trailor, such talk will only strengthen the rebels, disgrace the Regiment, and further defer that, for which we are all longing, an honorable Peace. If any of us differ with the acts and doings of parties at home, and policy of the administration, let us hope that those at home, who have nothing to do, will see to that. What-ever is wrong will in time, by the American people, be righted. Ours is the proud position of maintaining the world-wide and noble reputation of the American Volunteer Soldier, who stands classed with the most intelli-gent and brave in the known world—our's is the petriotposition of restoring the grand and sublime American Union-tranquility, peace and happiness to our bleeding country—knowing and appreciating our position none but the most loyal and high-minded thoughts and expressions can emanate from our hearts and lips.— Men! for God's, your country's, your friends at home, your own and my sake, do not, either by thoughts, pressions, or willful actions, disgrace yourselves. Stand by the Government right or wrong. You may now do an unsoldier-like act, which, by excited men at home may be approved, but rest assured it will ere long come sweep-ing like an avalanche, your own good name and leave you in shame and disgust over your own acts of violating your soldier's oath. While you are in the service, be soldiers' in every sense of the word, so that when in private life, you can ever be respected and honorable cit-

Delivered on Dress Parade, Monday, Feb. 22, 1863.

This patriotic address of Col. Spiegle has been followed by others of a like character, and the 120th Ohio now have the commendations of their Division Commander, Gen. Austerhouse, as one of the best disciplined and most soldier-like Regiments in his Division.—For intelligence and bravery, the soldiers of the 120th have ever stood as high as any Regiment in the army, and we have always had the most unbounded confidence in their patriotism, integrity, gallantry and heroism. Sad and dark days have they seen, but we believe a bright and brilliant future is before them.



From the 120th Ohio.

The High Standing of the Regiment.

All the late letters from the gallant and brave 120th Ohio speak in the most decided terms of the improved health, spirits, and general welfare of the Regiment. New officers have taken the place of those who resigned, renewed health has returned to the soldiers generally, so that there is scarcely a new Regiment in Grant's Army which answers so fully at roll call as the 120th.

Colonel Spiegle has infused renewed energy and determination throughout the ranks of his Regiment, and from all that we can learn, he has the fullest confidence of his men, and when the hour of battle arrives, (if it has not already come,) the ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH OHIO will meet the foe as gallantly and bravely, as any, even of the oldest Regiments.

The resignation of Colonel French, and the promotion of Colonel Spiegle to the command of the Regiment, seem to have been fortunate circumstances; for whatever may be said of Col. French as a man, as an officer he lacked the energy, industry, pluck and ambition now so freely accorded to Col. Spiegle.

Besides, Col French was an easy, plastic individual in the hands of such characters as E. V. Dean, and whose Democracy allowed Dean to circulate Vallandigham's infamous speech in the Regiment, and to read the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Chicago

Times, Madary's Crisis, and other treasonable publications, to the unsuspecting soldiers, at a time when general gloom pervaded their ranks, and sickness and death were everywhere present. And we here desire to say that whatever remarks we have at any time made, reflecting Col. Spiegle, were caused by the belief that, by his presence and silence without reproof, he allowed Dean and his assistants to circulate these treasonable documents which were denounced and prohibited by other loyal Commanders. We are now most glad to know that a different policy was adopted by Col. Spiegle, as soon as he was in Chief of Command of the Regiment, and that among his first acts, as acting Colonel, was the issuing of the following address to the Regiment:

Colonel Spiegle's Address to the 120th Reg.

I have to day been informed that some soldiers of this Regiment have, at different times, expressed sentiments disloyal and unbecoming a soldier of the Union Army, when about the Sutler shop of the 96th Indiana; saying that if this Regiment should ever have to go into another engagement, not half of the men would fire a gun for this d—d abolition war, &c. When I heard it I thought it almost impossible, that any soldier of the gallant 120th Regiment, which so nobly stood up at the battles of Vicksburg and Post Arkansas, to defend the good old flag, where

every heart swelled with pride; when they saw the stars and stripes first planted by the 120th, wave so proudly, succeeding the traitorous rag on the stubborn ramparts of Post Arkansas, could make use of language disgraceful to the Regiment, disloyal to the country, and productive of evil only to the good cause, for which we are enlisted. If there is one man in the Regiment who would refuse to shoot at a rebel, in an engagement, let him step three paces to the front in order that he can be marked as a coward and receive the reward of a traitor. Such talk will only strengthen the rebels, disgrace the Regiments, and further defer that, for which we are all longing, an honorable Peace. If any of us differ with the acts and doings of parties at home, and policy of the administration, let us hope that those at home, who have nothing to do, will see to that. Whatever is wrong will in time, by the American people, be righted. Ours is the proud position of maintaining the world-wide and noble reputation of the American Volunteer Soldier, who stands classed with the most intelligent and brave in the known world - our's is the patriotic position of restoring the grand and sublime American Union - tranquility, peace and happiness to our bleeding country - knowing and appreciating our position none but the most loyal and high-minded thoughts and expressions can emanate from our hearts and lips. - Men! For God's, your country's, your friends at home, your own and my sake, do not,

either by thoughts, expressions, or willful actions, disgrace yourselves. Stand by the Government right or wrong. You may now do an unsoldier-like act, which, by excited men at home may be approved, but rest assured it will ere long come sweeping like an avalanche, your own good name and leave you in shame and disgust over your own acts of violating your soldier's oath. While you are in the service, be soldiers in every sense of the word, so that when in private life, you can ever be respected and honorable citizens.

Delivered on Dress Parade, Monday, Feb. 22, 1863.

This patriotic address of Col. Spiegle has been followed by others of a like character, and the 120th Ohio now have the commendations of their Division Commander, Gen. Austerhouse, as one of the best disciplined and most soldier-like Regiments in his Division. – For intelligence and bravery, the soldiers of the 120th have ever stood as high as any Regiment in the army, and we have always had the most unbounded confidence in their patriotism, integrity, gallantry and heroism. Sad and dark days have they seen, but we believe a bright and brilliant future is before them.

Head Greaters Jonny Foris my dear good Wife. Jom very kind and lovely letter of the 17th came to night to that it was congenial das the pleasant. Sem of a lovely day en fine " need not to be said, to hear that you are well, a discription of my good levely Children & The assnance of the well being of my dear mother oficends is all it meds to make me feel a gay bold and halfy " Ladgelbry" I am really disappointed at the failure of being able to obtain the groupe of the Jaces of your the Children, & had secretty flattered myself to be simposed with just that very pleasure and I feel reluctand and chagemed to give it up, the conduct of little Hatter, so very unlady little however continues me that I veglish Ir be at home, for it is wally

you an expectant bell Wife spending the Winter by enjoying the pleasures and announcents of a large City and I and Officed in the W. S. Anny to have a daughter most nine months old that acts so very unlike a young Lady of Edneation and accomplishment the only consolation left me is that when I come home I must take Hattie Especially in my case. Get aside from all sport & fell Very much anoyed for I had made all calculations to love it. Of have written so unch of late that there is scarcely any thing left for me to day, for besides digging and the Canal to walfast Vinner toupper, Dill Impection and dressparade there is withing left new, with the Elceptern of my emecasing Efforts to reduce the dicklist by Encouraging the boys and matting them clean & wart & dann happy to day I am sneceding leng well, I have it down from 315 to 255

infine days, of the want cases about 4 are dying in our Regiment Every day, the Ductors think to night the ballance will must all get well De would just like if you could see the General and Operial Orders I issuel fine taking Command, I have to be thirt in Order to save the Regiment. Od discharged all my darkies they stale more from us then they Exerced There is not a negen in and Regiment though thousands are edling about here home of the Volices will have anything to do with them any more. Do you remember a bright little dummed bay by the main of Lemis at Camp Mansfield . If you don't of bet Mambin dues. Well he is a very land Some boy a very genteel & smart by and looks talks for all the world little Hambin will at his edge (12 years) he was all ways a quat garrite of mind & I Kept my Eye and find, some two weeks ago he tross sield and looked had and belonging to a Company when 16 had deed

I was afeared my little fet would die Of had him but to my quarters & saw to him, attented tincomaged him It as some as he got better had him a good hed made in my work tent and I lave now the pleasur of Jeing him hale and hearty his red cheeks and hight Eyes returning. The now tends to durning all the calls 15 a day and is assisting and white coals. He is as happy and gay and good looking that I know you would love him if you would see him. My Expense since We will in the field are about 20 Vollars for months and for that I live for my little quiend Herry the Deigeant Major was promoted a Frentenant for his bravery and the field and is now an his Uncle Major General Sherman Staff Le comes to see me once at twice weeld The weather is very warm & since it ceased raining incepantly the health of the men is improving and they are "getting more cheerfull. My homes are doing tolerably well, not as well us they would if they could be covered

Luck I have not shaved some & left Men John. The Major has been very scall for the last month past, but is how about fit for duty. The adjutant is Very well. The quarter Marter has also been very much under the weather but he too has recovered. He is a great friend of mine. De Shanton am hew Inglan is very much of a Gentleman and a warm friend of nime. Dis Hamman and Stouffer and aft Success you saw and the Caro, the former is very much of a Jentleman too es the latter only I do not have much faith in him as a dr. & believe Il can truly day all the Officers in the Regiment are my friends. Elevatof the old Officer Land resigned and gone home and 6 more aught to do, as they are to all asul prakly to stand Dervice, it takes young Energetic and action men who have always been used to hardship and hand Labor, like me for instance, to be able to Stant Campaigning ' & believe & answered all your questions. Dand daily looking for Josey to come, am antions to Lee him and hear what he has to say about my Hamlin, Liggie, Morey that bad girl Hattie Ever your time sloving Marens my love to Eligabeth.

you must try and Keep well and hearty and good looking don't trouble your = self so as to get ald looking I want you to be as levely and harrowne as Ever to enjoy a many many happy fear in lack Inha Mollar. John of a for great and diff ynffrieten

John for kunn if storf mit dinfan dinipate

gran laffand ofan din diff birthe Monther wonden.

Mindlifan dinter & France since linkandere Profound for das hapla Mallan dir juf yalaht god wropifud. defind gold for Innk mufl tyrfund and falter of and sind think you filler Mayor of major to grid, dis amond sufflight Sommis Uniform. Def proford ming forther bill for the some some forther balls. in profe butt In Brymigh wint If momante Som Ist Joseph Anglif some ylunder vado mand at kinners, ar Longling from fint fundad Yaler most made an for kom. det bind inbergenyt. Alink gun Ber and stir binks Pepmerstenn, orfiningen, Buntan Annunde Marens

My dear good wife!

Your very kind and lovely letter of the 17th came to night and that it was congenial & as the pleasant as the "Sun of a lovely day in June" need not to be said. To hear that you are well, a description of my good & lovely children & the assurance of the well being of my dear Mother & friends is all it needs to make me feel a gay, bold and happy "Sodger boy".

I am really disappointed at the failure of being able to obtain the group of the faces of you & the children. I had secretly flattered myself to be surprised with just that very pleasure and I feel reluctant and chagrined to give it up. The conduct of little Hattie, so very unlady like, however convinces me that I ought to be at home, for it is really "shocking" for people of our standing: you an expectant Col's Wife spending the Winter by enjoying the pleasures and amusements of a large City and I an Officer in the United States Army, to have a daughter most nine months old that acts so very unlike a "Young Lady" of Education and Accomplishment. The only consolation left me is that when I come home I must take Hattie especially in my care. Yet aside from all sport, I feel very much annoyed for I

had made all calculations to have it.

I have written so much of late that there is scarcely anything left for me to say, for besides digging on the Canal, Breakfast, Dinner & Supper, Drill, Inspection and dress parade, there is nothing new, with the exception of my unceasing efforts to reduce the sicklist by encouraging the boys and making them clean & wash, & I am happy to say I am succeeding very well. I have it down from 315 to 255 in five days, of the worst cases about 4 are dying in our Regiment every day; the Doctors think to night the ballance will most all get well.

I would just like if you could see the General and Special Orders I issued since taking command. I have to be strict in order to save the Regiment. I discharged all my darkies; they stole more from us than they earned. There is not a negro in our Regiment. Though thousands are idling about here, none of the Soldiers will have anything to do with them any more. Do you remember a bright little drummer boy by the name of Lewis at Camp Mansfield? If you dont, I bet Hamlin does. Well, he is a very handsome boy, a very genteel & smart boy, and looks and talks for all the world like Hamlin will at his age (12 years). He was allways a great favorite of mine & I kept my eye on him. Some two weeks ago he took sick and looked bad and, belonging to a

Company where 16 had died, I was afeard my little pet would die. I had him brot to my quarters & saw to him, attended & encouraged him and as soon as he got better, had him a good bed made in my cook tent and I have now the pleasure of seeing him hale and hearty; his red cheeks and bright eyes returning. He now tends to drumming all the calls, 15 a day, and is assisting our white cook. He is as happy and gay and good looking that I know you would love him if you would see him. My expenses since we are in the field are about 20 Dollars per month and for that I live fine.

My little friend Henry the Sergeant Major was promoted a Lieutenant for his bravery on the field and is now on his Uncle Major General Sherman's Staff; he comes to see me once or twice a week. The weather is very warm & since it ceased raining incessantly, the health of the men is improving and they are getting more cheerfull. My horses are doing tolerably well, but not as well as they would if they could be covered.

I have not shaved since I left Memphis. The Major [John W. Beekman] has been very sick for the last month past, but is now about fit for duty. The Adjutand is very well. The Quarter Master [Ezra V. Dean] has also been very much under the weather but he too has recovered. He is a great friend of mine. Dr. Stanton our new Surgeon is very

much of a Gentleman and a warm friend of mine. Drs. Hammon and Stouffer, our assistant Surgeons, you saw on the Cars; the former is very much of a Gentleman & so is the latter, only I do not have much faith in him as a Doctor. I believe I can truly say all the Officers in the Regiment are my friends. Eleven of the old Officers have resigned and gone home and 6 more ought to do so, as they are too old and sickly to stand service. It takes young, energetic and active men who have always been used to hardships and hard labor, like me, for instance, to be able to stand campaigning. I believe I answered all your questions. I am daily looking for Josey to come, am anxious to see him and hear what he has to say about my Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & that bad girl Hattie. Ever your true & loving

Marcus

My love to Elizabeth.

You must try and keep well and hearty and good looking; dont trouble yourself so as to get old looking.

I want you to be as lovely and handsome as ever, to enjoy a many many happy year in each others "Youthful Company".

[translated from German]:

Dear Mother:

Although I wrote to you just yesterday, I cannot let

this letter leave without assuring you, dear Mother, of the child-like love and devotion of a loving son for the best mother who has yet lived. I am well and healthy, thank God and if I had a piece of stuffed stomach or about 10 yard fresh lungsausage, which you prepared, I could then, if you were here, offer you a hearty snack.

I long very very much to embrace you, dear Mother and I hope to have that pleasure very soon.

I am expecting brother Joseph daily and believe that, if he comes, he can sell five hundred dollars worth a day. I am convinced.

Many regards to the dear sisters, brothers-in-law, brother and friends, your devoted Marcus