

Dear Nellie.

Camp Pequin Miss.
June 29th 1863.

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the reception of the long looked for and dear memento. Your picture. You can't imagine how highly I am pleased with the precious gift. Think it is very good. And without any intention to flatter. I must say that is beautiful and lovely. if true could not be otherwise. Think you might have written me a letter. The little card was a treasure. I have not heard from you the 1st of May. You may imagine how anxious I am to hear from you. It is strange that you do not receive my letters. I have written every week since the battle of Thompsons Hill on the 1st of May. Have almost become disheartened. and began to think that you did not answer them. Think that there is something wrong in this matter. for my letters to others go directly. Should ^{not} be surprised if some kind friend occasionally saved you the trouble of reading them. Would give anything if I could grant your request. that of being at home on the 4th. but tis impossible - for my business of such a nature that tis almost impossible for me to leave until this fight is ended. then the Lord says that I may have a leave of absence. as I have been a poor boy. And then I am going to Hasier Land - especially to see you. and spend a few days

Please don't call me a "naughty" boy: that makes me feel very bad. You may rest-assured that I am going to be there some time in July or August. I tell you confidently that I am thinking seriously of quitting the Army at least for a short time. I feel like I would like very much to spend two or three months at home then go to war a gain. What do you think of the arrangement. The siege of the City is progressing finely. There is not any certainty in the length of time they will hold out. Should not be surprised if they would hold out two months yet.

The weather is extremely warm and improving every day. I fear that this summer will be very fatal to the Army. I think I can stand it finely at least have so far. You would scarcely know one of your acquaintances here. We all have such nice brown faces. And look like regulars. This sunny South is one of the Countries. We are having a nice time here eating apples. Peaches and all kinds of nice fruit. of which there is an abundant crop. And any amount of vegetables of every description. Well I know this letter will interest you. for I feel in a crying mood. And have for the last month. because of the blues. which I have had most horrid. bad. I must say that at times I feel almost ready to despair and give up the idea of ever living to see the end of this national strife. And see this once happy country restored to that standard of honor. which it was a few years since. To restore it will cost the life of many a good man. Mollie I have seen my brave comrades

fall on every side. like grain before the scythe. That
is the time that mens souls are tried. And this army have
had their sufficiently tried. And proven competent for the
task. Well. Could we look to the East and there see
such grand victories. What we fight for here - they loose there.
But when I pay you the visit. then you shall have a
completely history of the entire campaign. in the most
eloquent. language at my Command. That is not great
since the days I preached. Sorry to say that I have fallen
some grace. so far as practice is concerned. I must explain
the cause of such bad penmanship in this letter. Your
picture is on the desk. open. and I look at it more than
at my writing. I think it the greatest and dearest present
I ever received. There is but one thing in the world of which
I think so much. That's the Original. I feel perfectly
confident that this will cause many blue days to pass
over my head. especially while I am in the service. Yet.
those blue days. will be spotted with many bright ones. if
I ever receive any letters. from you. I will write to
you every mail which is twice a week. Suppose the
P.M. will think I am in earnest. And so I am.

Well this elaborate production must soon close -
I hope to hear from you soon. Please write me a big letter
and I will promise to be one of the best boys in the army.
Must say that there is some room for improvement which
you alone could cause made.

Yours. sincerely
Henry

Rebel

[1863]



Miss. Mollie Emmons
Grand View
Spencer Co.
Ind.