Friend Katie,

I read your kind letter of the third last night and take the earliest chance of answering it and here to assure you I never knew the value of a letter till I had been from home about four months it is the greatest pleasure that comes to a soldier to hear from home.

My health is better than when I wrote to you last but is far from good now you think it would make me homesick that would do me no good and I should suffer more than now.

Well that I have seen a big battle and had a hand in with the rest. We started from Nashville the 23rd and marched 11 days and had 15 fights in the 11 days I think that is doing pretty well the worst of it was the rain and standing pitched nights in the rain.

It commenced raining the morning we started from Nashville (and we went with the right wing of the army) and rained till the next morning we got the benefit of the worst of it but before we left Nashville Govt. furnished us with rubber blankets and they kept us dry and the first day out we had a skirmish we had 2 horses killed and three men wounded it makes the coolest mans blood course more rapidly through his veins to hear the Bullets whistling by his head and the shells flying through the air like infuriate demons it can't be appreciated till heard this fight I have just spoke of happened about noon and when it was over and the relays had left the road was kept open to the centre with a despatch and attempted to cross from one turnpike to another and had not got in the woods and when our advance guard were fired on and several of us went out and reconnoitered and exchanged several shots with them and our Capt ordered us back and we kept back and the
one day if we had kept on we should have been taken prisoners but as I said returned here and did not get through with our mess of food about one at night and it seemed like as though the windows of heaven were taken out this like as thought is the southern style of expression well we camped for the rest of the night in an old coopers ship and had good fires and drink some coffee got a dry and had a good sleep on the soft side of some boards without our blankets was you have seen some day portable of a soldiers ears and in morning of a soldiers couch be on down in the floor but that was nothing to what the reality is that there was just a column the column where we lay down was dry I have eat meat that I cut the worms out of and slept in the water more than once and the no uncommon thing for us to find worms in the bread we have to cut but I must go back to my story Early in the morning we were in our saddles and on our way back and the booming of cannon to let us know there was something for us to do about noon that day the rejoined our regt and acted as flanked all day that day for the ride right in the woods ahead of us and men ride the main column of the division we did not shake our guns that day but the next day we had quite a sharp skirmish and the third day out we stood pike I mean the night of the third we scouted through the country till the day before New Year and where stationed where the Rebels was nearly succeeded in turning the right wing of the army we got there about eleven and went into a field on the right of the turnpike and had not been in there more than half an hour when we were shelled by one of our own Batteries to commence with and they soon saw their mistake there are formed in line and every fourth man held a cone and the rest of us got in line and look and marched back to a piece of woods in line and about a mile back we had not been there long when the reds began to show themselves in front of us and we played away at them but they were turning and right all this time with about 2500 men or some prisoners said we took but we faced around so as to meet them and gave them a warm reception they had two pieces of cannon and we had none but our guns shot five times and the reds are afraid of them they would not come out of the woods
To meet us on an open field although there was only 275 of us in fact.

Just before the 6th Ohio and the 2nd Penn Cavalry ran away and left us the 7th Penn Cav only stayed to support us we fought about ten

minutes on foot and had orders to fall back to a fence that
lay in the direction of our horses we fell back in good order and
lay down behind the fence and the bullets fell like hail around
us one knocked a sliver off arail about 2 inches from my head
we were in hopes to draw the rebels out into the field but they were
so many near we say in time "think that fence then we were ordered
back to our horses and when they saw us leave they shouted
and poured the lead into us a perfect storm we got one our horses
and fell back to get in line of battle and the rebels though
we were retreating and they came into the field pretty Col.Synopsis
Lee Brave des Braves " turned us round and rode out ahead
waving his sword "Come on" said he and then "Short boys"
and we did go on and the short we set in crown the dust of battle we drove them from the field with many a good
man fell the dust there and the horses that was killed
almost covered the ground lives almost back when we
read the charge the 15th Mich saw us and said was the
best one they ever saw and Geo. Stenley said the 4th Mich
cover the right wing from being turned and a large wagon
train besides.

The ground pitched that night on the battle
field and a dead rebel lay rights ahead of me his head and arms
were all trampled in the ground by the horses our orderly and I took
him and laid him by a fence he was warm but he was shot through
the head I stayed in my saddle and reached the rebels and the
Old year hat and the New one in two was not very pleasant as
we could have no fires and the water all froze hard in our

The next morning there was more than 12,000 Cav on the ground
where we fought the night before was the grandest sight I ever
seen they get in line three deep and almost as far as we could
see each way the put us in front the best of honor for the bear
we took the day before but there is always plenty of help when
some is wanted and we did nothing this day except go back and get
some rations and we thought to get some rest but just as we

A miserable we were ordered to saddle and the lead to stand by that night two nothing of what happened the next day. Friday when their right in sight of us we saw the hardest fighting for an hour and a half we had seen yet the roar of musketry of booming of cannon was awful. There was a hard battle and the rebels crossed. Back that night they made another assault and were repulsed. With a very heavy loss, I have just heard all well and the boys will get a chance to finish. "I asked me about lying around, one health or food is very good and have to ride in the rain if we are ordered to and sleep on the ground and the ground here is endlessly uncomfortable, as you can judge because anyone can take care of their health."

"We have the same tents we had in Detroit. They are terrible cramped and made of much about as thin as the raincoats you have in with but these southern rains are twice as extra as they are here and run through them some, and the tents are the worse for wear."

"On a march we can't have time as we have to lie out of doors the weather here is the worst. It has been raining everyday as I have been in this camp."

"Suppose this is the worst season of the year here the campers don't have time to embalm before another storm comes and make it ten times worse."

"Our tents are in a very bad shape, not new, and all the boys in them."

"Our surgeon is doing all he can to kill us and send us to the hospitals to he will do nothing for us till we can't hold our heads."

"I hope you are well and I don't want you to enjoy yourself and I don't know you should. I should like to be there to sympathize with you and do what good I can."

"I hope you will get out of your budget and I will out of mine before long but I think you should know I have to tell you this myself and wish you good luck and write as soon as possible."

"Yours sincerely Eugene H. Benson"