No. 9.

Manassas April 29th/63

Dear Friend Kattie,

I read your kind and welcome letter today at noon and as you requested me to write so you could get one more letter before you went into the wilderness I was about to do as you requested when we receiv'd orders to strike our tents and move camp together with the rumors that the rebels were in force and in one hour the tents that have sheltered us for nine months were taken down folded and sent to the fortifications and then orders to encample our horses and pitch our small tents. They are about six feet one way and ten the other. That is the cloth is and we pitch them with two arbuts and a cross pole staking
the rains to the ground and it covered the roof of my house for all the time. This night and under my little clothhouse by the light of a candle and on a piece of board across my heels to hold my papes on and try to convey a few of my thoughts to you if this poorly done please consider the circumstances and excuse bad writing and mistakes generally 'tis our orders to be ready to march at a moments notice and we can get up out of a sound sleep and in a half hour be off with all our trups Thattie I don't want you to think 'tis our design to run away and not fight far from but we want our camp where we can leave it and go out to fight and come back and find it a home for us again I'll try and tell you about
expedition which returned last
sunday after an absence from
camp of six days marching over
240 miles and destroying a vast
amount of rebel property there
was about 7000 troops went the
first Co. Brigade commanded by
Acting Brg. Gen. Minto among
the rest is unnecessary to tell
you the Gallant Forsth is a man
member was along and did the
most of the work. We marched
to a village called McMinnville
and captured 115 prisoners there
among the rest Dick McCains
the celebrated Tennessee Guerrilla
chief Brg Gen John H. Morgan's
wife two trains of cars which we
burned we also burned two cotton
mills that were making clothing
for the southern army, and
the Depot three RR Bridges two
Grist Mills three distilleries.
we also burnt 30,000 lbs Bacon 200
Bales Cotton two hogsheads sugar
40 Barrels whisky and about 200
tents and lots of camp equipage.

I am, sir, very, very, pleased with
all that is taking place here and
should have a discharge would not take

I think the war will soon come to a
close for great destruction prevails all
through the country where we go and all the
prisoners we take all say that the people all
suffer throughought the southern confederate
and the rest of them are anxious to see
the old Constitution and the laws enforced.

There is a report here that Bragg is shot by John C Breckinridge there
is a feud existing between the
border slave states and the extreme
south. Bragg represents the latter faction
and Breckinride the former. His words
argue between them and Breckinride

drew his pistol and shot him. I hope it
may prove true.

I want to know if I was a republican yet can tell
you my principles I think the laws
and constitution are the standard
and that I am willing to die to
defend them if it should come
to that and I think we will have
a battle here soon that will tell one
way or the other and I know they
can never whip us here for 40,000 troops could hold the place against any force. I hope the enemy will come soon for I want to see the end of the war. I always said I did not care for the negro only when they used them to abuse the whites, I never was an abolitionist but am as good a republican as ever. I think that I have done very well telling you the war news and as the Band is playing excuse me if I stop to listen to the old familiar airs that thrill my soul with pleasure and emotion. Ah! Those airs remind me of home every time I hear them more vividly than on any other occasion. Roll call is over and the camp is still as I can write without interruption. My health is quite good again and I feel encouraged and think the warm weather will agree with me.
you wanted to know if we had plenty of reading we do but have to pay for it at a very dear rate we can buy daily papers for a dime a piece and when we are on scoots we confiscate many nice books I am reading one now one of the Waverly Novels Quentin Durward is the title very interesting and the best book I ever read I took it from a rebel house entitled Reverses Of a Bachelor should you ever have an opportunity read it for my sakes I am glad you have so good times there going to socials but God willing I will be there soon to participate You think they keep us on the march a good deal Its true the Co... have done all that has been done for the last four months in the department of the Cumberland
I went over to see James V. Field.

Earl and he read me Godline's letter and I also read one from his wife she keps up good courage tis two weeks since I saw him he hopes to get a furlough there but did not expect it right off. The other boys are well that came from home with me to wit Ayo Ed Demgy Emly Rease Ed Thander wrote to me the other day and told me lots of news and sent me one of the tickets that was voted the last town meeting.

Tis a sad thing for Mrs. Clark to become insane and it would not have thought of her but we cannot see into futurity and tis well we cannot. I think Mr. Clark makes good work with his farm and am
Thatigeoneverwillmake
averygoodliving.
Do you thinkJim Flanders
and Maria Meyercontemplaten
matriemony. I think theyeach
well one is as cross as the other.
Well Hattie this sheet is abou	
t full and I must bring all this bad
writing to a close my pen is very
poor indeed. I will see before
I write to you again you will
be some twelve miles nearer
then you now are but will not
get my letters so soon tell me
where you make your home.
I was glad to hear that Dwight
was well again. What do the
people think of Charles Richardson
up there now.
Hattie tell me if Mother feels
bad about Charles and me and
if you think it wears on her
I know she feels very bad does
she grow old faster than usual
Please write soon and oblige
your sincere friend
E. H. Browne