No. 11

1863

Camp near Salem Turn, July 26th

Dear Friend Hattie,

Yours kind and truly welcome letter of June 13th was duly read and now at the earliest opportunity I endeavor to answer it to the best of my ability which is poor enough at present for I have been confined to my bed for two days but I feel some better this afternoon. As you will see by the date and perhaps have heard before, the army of the Cumberland has made a move at last and the result you already know we have been in the front right and rear and left of the army and we have met with little resistance so far. We started on the 24th of June and on the fourth day after our Brigade had a hard fight with a portion of Wheeler's Rebel force and charged right over breastworks and drove the enemy out and then we
followed them and got them in a tight place and the 4th Mich and 7th Penn Caw took about 375 prisoners that was a proud day for our boys how proud they felt as they came riding in with one and there prisoners a piece and then the rest of the Brigade charged right through the village of Shilohville where the Rebs had a battery planted but the Gallant Boys took their guns from and drove them on still but here occurred the most melancholy scene of all for the Duck River being swollen by the rains at that time and the Bridge being narrow and the Rebs were trying to save one piece of thine cannon got right on the Bridge when one of the Horses that drew the cannon was shot and blocked the passage across the Bridge and the Rebs were in such haste to escape that that they dove into the river and many perhaps 40 or 50 were drowned, the next morning I was there together with my Brother Charles he got a fine Saddle and I got a Hat such as is worth $30 in Dixie and
Well that the general features of the war looks better than ever before within the last month our army has taken 10000 prisoners and munitions of war without end and the south stands in need of both if very much the feeble resistance we have met with convinces me that they each men and means All the Major Generals have gone to Washington now and when they get back I expect we shall make the last grand closing move and the rebellion I suppose you have enjoyed yourself greatly in that new school house Did you go home the Twentieth Baptist mine in Tenn the rain poured down in torrents and we were wet to the skin but my brother was with me and a grand national salute was fired A noon from every Battery in the army here I never heard so heavy firing except at the Bloody field of Murfreesboro you recollect that on New Years day that was fought and you will see how soldiers spend their holidays you asked where Spencer Thomas was he is sick in Louisville by and tells me he thinks he will always be a cripple his back got hurt some way I have seen Ed Woodcutt several times he holds his regards also Ed Enyey Durley Chese are all well we are expecting four months pay today and the boys feel in good spirits I feel much better than I did this morning I had fever I think his broken and shall try to go along when the army starts if possible
Asco was "left at Murfreesboro sick but overtook us here you should see the boys cheer and shake their comrades' hands after they have been left back it is then that one's heart thrilled to meet kind friends once more" if ever here is the place to try a friend that when I was left back sick Snavely gave me every cent he had and I shall always be grateful to him and many greater sacrifices than that have I seen. The boys talk for each other. I suppose that your school is nearly done for this summer and that you are not sorry let me here console you for your past trouble with those unruly elements of yours and congratulate you that your relief is so near. A hand Eller told me all about the celebration at Galesburg. I think Mr. Stuart is the best orator in the state of Michigan but don't think much of his principles. Gov. Blair was with us and read us a speech in Manchester in this state he told
us that we were as good as any soldiers from Mich and he said that was praise enough and so we think for it shall ever feel proud to have marched under the banner of a state that sent as brave men as our own dear old native state. Tis said that Secretary Chase said he considered us the most loyal state in the union as much for Mich. Well that they are going to get pay and it must go, hoping to hear from you soon and asking pardon for this poor scribbling. I will bring this to a close believe me your true friend.

Eugene H. Brown.

Don't fail to answer soon.