

From E.F. Slaughter to Eliza Colgan

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Hickmans Mill

[*text stricken through*] Oct[.] 7 1864

Mrs[.] Colgan

It has been some time since I recd. a letter from you and I believe it is time I was writing you. Our health is good and we have plenty to eat and we ought to be thankful to divine providence for providing for us in time of need.

crops are light here and grain is getting scarce and prices of every thing getting up, corn is one dollar per bushel, hay 15 dollars per ton[,] wheat 2.25 per bushel. But this is not half as high as goods in the stores[,] the farmer cant keep up with the merchant[.] It takes as much money now to get our domestic as our whole store bill used to be. I suppose you know all about high prices[.]

Our railroad is done from Independence to Kansas City and by next spring will be run through to St[.] Louis. the people of Independence can hear the engine whistle every day as it carries material from Kansas City along to the end of the road. If we only had peace we might enjoy the sight of such improvements. But we are harassed all the time by unreasonable demands and unreasonable charges and cant be the quiet and contented citizen we wish to be[.]

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I wish you could be on your farm and keep it in repair. But you cant live o nit now without a great deal of repairing and making new fence. You and Aunt Liz will have to stay in Kentucky til you can see your way clearer than at present[.] I cant save any thing for either of you for I have tried till it is no use. they always tell me if they are my rails they will not take take them but if not they will take all[.]

We got a letter from Jim and he speaks of a good many boys you know. he says that H.C. Brooking is his captain and William Henry belongs to his company, and is well[.] there was a great revival of religion in the army[.] the letter was mailed at Memphis but did not say where the army was[.] I hope you may get a line from him.

Write very soon[.] Tell Rochester to write. Good Bye[.]

Your sincere Friend

E.F. Slaughter

Mrs[.] Eliza Colgan