

From Leigh R. Webber to Miss Brown

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Gibson Co. West Tenn.

Aug[.] 30th 1862

Dearest friend Miss Brown,

We have not yet entered again into the cavalry service, but it is most likely that we shall do so before long. There is also some talk that we shall go back to [*text stricken through*] Kansas, but I hope not, especially to Lawrence. I was never so tired of staying at any place since I enlisted, as there. Not because, of the place itself, but because our government and treatment was mean and [MS. faded]. Most of the rest of the men feel just the same, saying they had rather go to tell than to Lawrence, and that it is the meanest place they were ever in, full of damned Abolitionists. A good many of them say they wish that the guerrillas would take and burn the place. But it always seemed to me that our boys got a fit of being contrary, when we were first at Lawrence. They never acted so in regard to the negroes, either, before or since[.] They treat the darkeys here, as kind as need be.

As usual, we are all in good health. The

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weather is very hot by day [MS. faded] so cool that at revile a [MS. faded] more after breakfast. [MS. faded] many apples or peaches now. The early ones are all gone, and the late ones are not yet ripe. But we have plenty of melons, and sweet potatoes begin to be brought in for us to buy. The fuss that we had the first of the week, has entirely subsided. The captain's kind of generous treatment of the affair, quenched all ill feeling. [MS. faded] show likest God [MS. illegible], when [MS. faded][.]

We have a chance to go about the neighborhood, a good deal, and to get acquainted with the disposition and habits of the people. It is strange with what tenacity they cling to their peculiar institution. There is nothing that they [MS. faded] feel so much and care so much about as to [MS. faded] slaves. I honestly believe that many of them would rather have [MS. faded] children, than to let their niggers go off with us. If you take away these, you take away their gods, and what have they more"? There is no genuine love for the

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[MS. faded]

They would be glad to have the Union [MS. faded] if they were sure that it would strengthen and sustain [MS. faded] as it used to, not otherwise.

I spoke of the habit among the ladies of using snuff. The other day, I was over to Mr. Webb's and saw a Miss Williams, sister to Mrs. Webb there. She is "the niciest [kind?] lady" as "Baby" says and yet while conversing with me, most of the time, she had a stick [MS. faded] stem and [MS. faded] this style of talking.

[MS. faded] Bennett's. While talking with him [MS. faded] to speak about our having lost but few men by sickness. "But" he said, "some killed dem selbes." (Dutch for themselves). "What!" said Old Bennet

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[MS. faded] The people are not much afraid of us now. But [MS. faded] that we will have as many apples and peaches as we can eat. It is a great benefit pecuniarily on the whole, for the Union Army to be here. The people can now get salt, flour[,] clothing and most everything at a fair rate, while before, they could not get them at all, or [MS. faded] fabulous prices. They now can [MS. faded] receive the money for it. [MS. faded] goes by, then [MS. faded] the very best fellows. [MS. faded] Whether such an [MS. faded] is creditable to us, I will not pretend to decide.

Tomorrow is our regular muster day.

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[MS. faded] called into the field, [MS. faded] of the Government to the [MS. faded] and may [MS. illegible]. There is but one of my brothers now out of the army. And he is where there are no enlistments. It would seem that the "Sturgis blood," from which our neighbor's say we especially, get our fighting pluck, still runs in our veins. I hope however [MS. faded] descended, from a [MS. faded] from that [MS. faded] erecting [MS. faded]

And, even in serious things [MS. faded] controversy," I proposed to the following question: "If I should wish to have a funeral sermon preached for me, and should leave the

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money to pay [MS. faded] Unitarian minister [MS. faded] should fall as Herman did?["]

Would you all listen to such a sermon? Would you treat my memory with the same liberality that I would do for either of the others? Or Am I an alien from the commonwealth of Israel?

I have written at this time, so that I could receive an answer without delay. You will probably receive this just in time to write an answer, a week from tomorrow, Sunday.

Every day of the week seems like Sunday to me except perhaps the first! I hope you will not disappoint me [MS. faded], and that each letter will be answered [MS. faded] received.

I remain as ever

L.R. Webber

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Sunday Morning Aug. 31st

I received a letter from my oldest sister last evening. She wrote that my two brothers had started for the seat of war. They are probably in Va. by this time. There also came a report that we have got to go back to Missouri in a few days. But I shall continue to hope it is not so, till we are on the way. Deliver me from going into Missouri, where our men can get whiskey, and where we shall have to engage in guerrilla warfare. The only effective way to put down the guerrillas, I believe, is to conquer the rebel army at Richmond, and to take all the [strongholds of?] rebels. If [MS. faded] fountain, is exhausted [MS. faded] will fail, of course.

The great error in the conduct of the war thus far has been [MS. faded] I don't believe [MS. faded] of guerrilla war, only [MS. faded] the rebels are beaten and [MS. faded] annihilated. Experience has proved, that guerrillas infest the country, just in proportion, as the great rebel armies of the rebels are successful. That it will still be so is the opinion of your humble friend[.]

Webber