

From A.J. Sexton to Catherine

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Fort Scott Kansas

Mar[.] 17/62

Dear Catherine

Yours of the second of March came duly to hand and contents thourly perused[.] I was glad to hear of your good health that is a great consolation[.] I have worried a good deal about you when I heard how deep the snow was in Wis[.] this winter[.] it must be very lonesome there this winter[.] I can imagine how it looks there with the snow two feet deep[.] before this time you must have warm wether [text stricken through] unless I have forgotten how the wether is in Wis[.]

as for my self I have seen no winter since we left Wis[.] the wether is here like summer[.] the ground begins to look green[,] the grass is about two inches high[.] it will soon be good feed here for cattle if there was any to feed. this part of Kansas is thinly settled[.] all the settlements there is is along the streams and they are far between[.] it is a good farming country here[,] the only trouble is market [.] they have no regular market[.] the nearest point to the Mo[.] River is one hundred miles and that is their market at

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at present.

I suppose you would like to know what I am doing. Well we are all setting around the fire in our tents buysing our selves as best we can[.] it is raining[.] it rained all day yesterday and all night and is raining to day so there is no drilling. some of the boys are reading[,] some writing[,] some singing[,] and some sleeping[,] and all busying them selves as best they can.

we have considerable guard duty to do[.] it takes twelve a day to guard the camp ground and town[.] if there is any extra guards wanted Co[.] E is the co they call on[.] the Captin spoke to the Colonel about it[.] he said Co[.] E shouldrs [soldiers] was brave[.] he said they was the healthiest co[.] on the ground and the largest. That is so[,] our co[.] is the largest and best drilled and I am not the only one that thinks so[.] I heard a man offer to bet fifty dollars that our co[.] could beat any co[.] on the ground in the manual of arms. there is none of our co[.] in the Hospital[.] I think our reg[.] is favored with good health in comparison to the Kan[.] Regt[.] they have buried from one to four a day with the measles[.] their doctor says they have been to free with those fancy women which invest these Southern towns. that disease and the measles together is pretty sure death[.] it seems to bad to see men throw away them selves in that way when perhaps they have Fathers and Mothers or prehaps wives

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who mourn their loss if loss they might call it[.] [If] I were them I should consider it no great loss.

March 19th[.] I made a mistake yesterday in dating, it should have been the 18. to day it looks like good weather again[.] how long it will stay so I know not for is very changible here. our Regt is still

wating here with patience wating further orders[.] how long we stay I know not but I should judge by the appearance of things not long. our living is not as good here as it was[.] some of the boys complain of the fare but it is as good as I expected[.] We have beef and now and then a [mess of beans?], hard bread[,] coffee[,] and sugar. our tent has lived well enouf [*text stricken through*][.] they made a special requisition and drew a hog that weighed one hundred and fifty pounds[.] they found it about a mile from camp.

I receive your likeness which you sent[.] I call it a good picture[.] I tell you, I was glad to receive it but would rather see the original[,] but I must content my self when I get lonesome I can look at that. you must not find fault if you do not get letters regulur[.] the mail dont go regular[.] I shall write twice a week and you will get them[,] some of them at least. it takes your letters twelve days to come through[.] I must close for want of room[.] Give my love to all enquiring friends[.] Kiss the children for me[.] love to Father and Mother and reserve a good share for your self[.]

from your Husband
A[.]J[.] Sexton

[P.S.] Direct Fort Scott[.]

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[*written around edge of page*]

[P.S.] My health is good[.] it was never better than it is now[.] James health is good[.] Write often[.] Good bye for this time[.] This letter will not go untill day after to morrow[.]