

[Bentley 3435]

West Point, Kentucky, Dec 20th 1861

Dear Father and Mother.

I received a letter and three papers today from you, and was glad to hear that you were all well. I got a letter from Chauncy M Crego Wednesday and he wrote that Mothers health wasent verry good this winter. I havent been verry well for the last week. I took a heavy cold last Saturday and it settled all over me so that I was so lame that it was hard work for me to get around, so tuesday I commenced taking the medisen which I got from Doctor Jones, and it has helped me so that today I feel quite like myself again. I suppose what makes me some lamer than I should be, last week I was vaxinated and it has began to work. It was reported here that they were having the Small Pox in Louisville and the Colonel ordered every man to be vaxinated in the Regiment. Anson and Horace are both well and evjoy themselves first rate, they both send their best respects to you all. Thadius Vining has been sick with the feaver three or for days but I think he is better today. Anson Lewis has been sick in the hospital, about a week with the feaver but this morning I hear that he is some better. Levant Bangs is at the hospital yet, I havent seen him in some time, though I hurd the other day that his foot was gaining sloly. The doctors of this regiment are such that I shouldnt like to have doctor me. They give one kind of Medisen for every disease, the medisens most commonly in use are quinine, epicac and opium and sometimes Calomel.

We are upon Muldroughs hill yet and expect to stay here this winter, unless our men are repulsed at Bowling Green. It is reported here that General Buell sent word to Buckner that he must have all the women and children removed from town within twenty four hours or surrender. Buckner sent back word that he would doe neither and said that he was ready for company of any kind. The report says that Buell took command in person Thuresday, and there is a rumor this afternoon that Buell has whipped him out, though one cannot tell any thing about flighing reports now days. I doe not anticipate of ever being in a battle, it does not seem any more like a rebel state where we are than it did when we were in Michigan. I wish that this Regiment could move down where the main army were stationed so that if there was any fighting to be done we might have a hand in.

The fort is nearly completed. They have all of the gunns mounted, seven in number, six smooth bore and one rifled cannon. They are savage looking things I tell you, and when one is fired when you are in the Fort it will almost raise him of his feet. Ten thousand rebeles would have no business with us here. Bowling Green is about ninty five miles from here to the south west of us. I received a letter from Frank Randall day before yesterday, he was at Elizabethtown and was in camp there with six other Regt. He said that he had not been able to get a pass and didnt know whether he could come where i was or not. I wrote to him yesterday and told him if he couldnt come where I was to send those things which he brought for me on the stage to West Point. He wrote that he was well and liked the place verry much, he cooks for his Father and one of the Lieutenants, so he has a pretty easy place. A few words about our Colonel Wm. W. Duffield, he is one of the best men that I ever saw there is not a man in the whole Regiment that can say a word against him. The officers of

Company C are all pretty good men. Captain Deland is a verry good man, though he is pretty cross wonce in a while, but he hasent been verry hard with me. Lieutenant Iott is a fine little fellow. But the best officer that we have is Lieutenant J. Curtis Purdy, he is one of the best natured men that I ever saw, he goes around to all of the tents about once a day, and he allways has a story to tell to get them all laughing. There was a Colonel here yesterday to inspect our Regt, he complimented it verry highly, he has been on the Potomic viewing the armies there, he says that we are as well drilled as any Regt that he ever saw for the time that we have drilled.

Since I commenced this letter, Bangs has arrived in camp, he is pretty lame yet, and will be for some time. The weather here has been verry warm and pleasant for the last three weeks, they are plowing all around here for the last two weeks. But this morning it begins to look as though we were going to have a storm of some kind. I wish that you would tell Doctor Jones to send me something to clense my blood, for I dont want to get sick in this place. I received a letter from Aunt Harriet and a paper from Grand Father, they were all well when they wrote. But I must close for it is getting late. Write as often as you can and let me know how you all get along. tell the folks to write to me as often as they can, they all have more lesure moments than I have to write and a much better place to. Father and Mother, I want to ask one favor of you, and that is I dont want you to kill your selves with hard work, tell Arlone that she must be a good girl and help her mother as much as she can. I hope and trust that this war will close before another year at this time. Give my best respects to all enquiring friends.

From your only Son

John. C. Love

West Point, KY December 20, 1861 continued

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From your only Son

John. C. Love

West Point, KY December 23, 1861

West Point Kentucky Dec. 23

Dear Parents

I take the present oportunity of dropping you a few hasty lines as Captain Deland is going to Jackson and starts in a few minuets. I doe not feel very well today for I have had the Ague. But I think I shall be all right in a day or two. Father I want to ask a favor of you, and it is this, I would like to have you send me a box of pies cakes and apples when the Captain starts for Ky. But I must close for he is about ready to start, From your only Son.

John C Love

Write often Yours

West Point Kentucky Dec. 23

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John C Love

Write often

Yours

West Pointe, Ky Jan 4th 1862

Dear Parents.

I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that my health is a great deal better than it was when I wrote you last. I received some medicine yesterday from Doctor Jones. I commenced taking it as soon as I got it, and today I feel much better. Anson has been quite under the weather for about a week, but he says that he feels much better today. I think he will get along in a few days. Horace is as tough and rugged as a bear. Charley Bouroughs and Miron Wade are both well. Yesterday about two o'clock they received marching orders for six Companies, and our Co was one of them, with three days rations in their haversacks and their napsacks on their backs six companies left Muldrough hill at ten o'clock this morning, they are expected to go to Green River though I cannot tell, some think that they will see some fighting soon, but this Regiment won't do any fighting unless Buckner should whip the federal army out near Bowling Green which I hope he won't. Lately we cannot get any news about what is going on in Kentucky for General Buell has ordered the Louisville papers not to print any thing about the movements of the armies of Ky for the next thirty days so it looks as though Gen Buell intended to attack the rebels soon. Anson, Doc Moulton and myself with seven other boys are left here yet because we were unable to stand the march but we shall join them as soon as we get a little stronger. We have lost two more boys out of our Company, one is Anson R. Lewis, son of George Lewis, he died the 30 of Dec, the other was Russel H. Farnum, he died the 2 of Jan, both died with the Typhoid fever. Farnum was from Parma. Vinings boy is down with this fever but I heard yesterday that he was better, there is quite a number sick with this fever now. The weather has been very warm and pleasant until within a day or two, yesterday it rained all day steady and the most of last night and it is a pretty muddy day for the men to march and it looks as though we should get some more rain before it is over. All that I need now is some provisions from home for I am getting tired of fresh Beef salt Pork Rice and hard bread. I have money and clothes all that I want. Tell Mr Hoeg S G Crego S S Love C M Crego and Aaron Crego that I would like to have them answer the letters that I have written them. Write as soon as you receive this. Mother don't worry about me for I take as good care of myself as I can. If I should be taken down sick I should let you know it. From your affectionate Son,  
John C Love  
Direct as before and if I am not here they will be forwarded to me.