

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

John Brown, Jr., wrote these letters to his wife Wealthy Brown during the early years of the Civil War. He enlisted and served as a Captain of Company K, 1st Kansas Cavalry (later the 7th Kansas Cavalry). Colonel Charles Jennison headed this regiment. It appears his wife and son John were living in Ohio, probably Ashtabula. The letters start while Brown is on a recruiting trip in Canada and Michigan. Many of the letters in January 1862 are written from Camp Jackson and Camp Johnson near Morristown, Cass County, Missouri. Brown's letters from February and March 1862 were written from Humboldt, Allen County, Kansas. Brown writes from Camp Wendell Phillips near Lawrence from most of April and May 1862. The last few letters are written from Madison, Indiana, on his way home to Ohio. The letters are very descriptive of camp life and names of many of the men in his company are mentioned. Several letters mention associates of his father's such as William Partridge and Richard Hinton. Almost every letter mentions how much he misses his family. Native American scouts are also mentioned by Brown as valuable to the war effort. Brown discusses the problems of determining local residents' loyalty in the war on the Kansas Missouri border in his letter written January 21, 1862. In the letter dated January 26, 1862, and continued on the 27th, Brown writes that he sent ten black soldiers to save a slave mother and children whose owner was planning to take them further south. In his letter dated March 9, 1862, Brown describes the execution of a soldier named Driscoll from Company H who stabbed another soldier, was court martialed, and shot. Brown sent a letter of resignation, because of his continued poor health, to Gen. James Blunt in May 1862. NOTES ABOUT THE IMAGES: Brown frequently made notes in the margins. To make it easier to read these images, the pages with these notes are included twice--first with the original orientation and then again rotated ninety degrees to aid in reading the note. A letter from Hannibal, Missouri, is dated December 7, 1861, but the content of this letter and subsequent letters makes it apparent that this letter was written sometime in January 1862 but before the letter dated January 11, 1862. The images for this letter are placed in the correct order for content but will seem out of order chronologically based on date. The last letter in the group is missing its first page however the content, about primarily family matters, makes it apparent it was written in late 1861 or early 1862. The text version is one file that presents the letters in chronological order, except for the the exceptions noted above. It is necessary to scroll to the appropriate date. SEVERAL PAGES IN VARIOUS LETTERS ARE WRITTEN IN A NUMERIC CODE. This code, between John Brown, Jr. and his wife, encrypt private messages between the couple. A key to the code and transcriptions of those letters can be found filed with the original letters. The code key and transcriptions are available in the repository upon request. Access is restricted to these particular letters; researchers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or provide written permission from same, to see those transcriptions.

Creator: Brown, John, 1821-1895

Date: February 14, 1861-November 29, 1863

Callnumber: John Brown, Jr. Coll. #833

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John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Windsor, Canada West.
Thursday, Feby 14 / 61

The picture I took from home of you, is a much better one than the one I rec'd in the letter to day. Don't you think so? - Remember me to Martha and all who care to hear from me.

My Own Precious Wife

I reached here from Colechester last evening and with greatest pleasure found yours of Jan. 30th in which you also mention having sent one to Chatham. I shall immediately write to have that sent on to me here. To day I have rec'd yours of the 10th Inst containing your Ambrotype, and a nice little letter from Johnie. Don't fail to continue to write to ^{me} here until I give notice to the contrary - Since last Wednesday, a week ago yesterday, I went to Colechester. In that Township are several important settlements of fugitives - distant from here via Amherstburg 31 miles - After I left Amherstburg I had no way of getting a letter out from "the Bush" as the back settlements ^{in the woods} are here called, and have in consequence been unable to reply to your dear letters until now.

Well here I am again, tired in brain and tired in heart. How I do long to be at home. There is an old

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

accordion belonging to the family of Mr Cary, on which I have been trying to play "Home Sweet home". You can hardly imagine how I am starving for music, and I regret that all else, starving for that deeper, profounder harmony which two loving hearts can only appreciate. A mere pecuniary consideration could never keep me away from home in this way. Did I not feel, that I am laboring to promote the best interests of a people who have been "cast out, and trodden under foot of men". I would relinquish my undertaking & forever retire to a home so far from the turmoil of life that its valleys and rocks, should never have heard even the "Sound of a Knell", nor smiled when a Sabbath appeared.

Since I wrote you at Amherstburg, I have lectured three times to crowded houses and have established not less than 11 different Reading Clubs. and have traveled on foot, visiting the homes of these fugitives not less than 30 miles. If I had lectured every evening the labor would have not been greater. Since wherever I have remained at night, the neighbors have gathered in and the talking has been kept up till midnight frequently.

You ask me to give a detailed account of my every day life. I wish I could. But since I left Cleveland I have not written a word in my journal, and I don't see as I am going to get time. — So long a break has occurred in my records that I fear I shall have to give up trying now to remember what has occurred during the last month. However I will try to get time for this in the future.

I do hope you will not fail as I have in this respect. for I read your journal brief though it be, with kindest interest. And now let me say, that if you do not get a letter from me as often as you think I ought to write, don't worry or be anxious about me, for I shall send you a letter as often as I can. — I expect to leave tomorrow for Lewis Clark's settlement, away back in the Bush. and I may not have opportunity to send a letter out to be mailed for several days. You must not therefore be surprised if you do not hear from me until I return again here where I shall certainly expect a letter or

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

two from you when I do get back.

Dont give yourself any uneasiness for fear the Editor of the Free Press will Challenge me. Since the Detroit Daily Tribune published the report of the meeting in Windsor as Copied from "The True Royalist". The Free Press hasn't opened its head. It is now wholly evident that it Can't be kicked into an exhibition of honorable or mighty resentment. And it is now unable to trot up its head among its own party while pursuing an opposite course. So, that gun is pretty fairly silenced.

On the night of the 7th that day you say Johnnies cheeks got frosted. I lectured at a School-house in New Canaan Settlement the house was full of people, and though the stove was kept pretty hot. I had to blow my fingers to keep them warm. I staid all night at the house of a Colored man whose family consisted of himself, wife and three Cats - not wild Cats, but great domestic Cats. They had a great open fire place where the logs threw out all the heat they could, and yet to keep warm, the Cats would get so close the fire as to scorch their hair. Had it not been for the blankets I brought along, I dont know as I could have gone to bed at all. As it was, my feet remained so cold I could not sleep a wink. Next morning the old lady, thankful that I was not frozen, said "Well Child, I hopes de Lord 'll bless ye, in all yr undertakens, Kase, I dont believe you'll do nothing only what's right, In fact, I know you wont." Was'nt that a beautiful expression of Faith in another? - May I be preserved from ever weakening such a faith.

I have got a letter from Mr Redpath to day, in which he avows my plan of going out to Hayti this Spring - Says we must get into Hayti at least 100,000 emigrants before we go down there. The reason that I proposed to go is, that, ~~that~~ the Colored people here most of whom are fugitives, want the testimony of what has been actually seen there, regard to induce by some one whom they can place full confidence in. They are willing to take my word as to what

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

I might myself see, but are not so ready to take information second handed. This was my reason for proposing to go thus early to Hayti.

But don't imagine I would go without taking you along with me, or if I should not think best to go now. I should have no idea of going without first making ample provision for the well-being of you and Johnie. You don't know how very dear you both are to me.

All my plans and schemes always embrace you and him.

I have not yet seen the letter which you say David Adams has written me concerning the oil business. It is true as you say that I did not expect they were going to need any further assessment from me this winter. Supposing that the well on oil creek and the Trumbull oil Co's well would be sufficient to occupy their attention until Spring.

However I shall furnish my part. But say to David that I cannot have my part forth coming until Mr Redpath gets another remittance from Hayti. I recd \$25 (Twenty Five Dollars) from him to day, but have to pay out the greater part of it immediately. The vessel from Hayti is due about these days, when I shall get another remittance when it comes. Please ask David to advance for me a short time, (if the assessment must now be paid in) and I will soon refund him. He can take a lien on my share until then.

I have to pay Express and Custom House Charges on a Box of Books papers &c from Boston, to morrow, amounting to between \$10 and \$12.

It is now getting late and I must again say good bye. My regard to that Cleveland fugitive Slave case, I can only say — Well, swearing is all I can say. — When you sent that money to Mr. Stearns, did you also write to him? It will be necessary to do so as the Savings Bank must have your signature so that they may hereafter know that your checks are genuine and not the checks by another hand in your Name. I shall send you a letter just as often as possible. Kiss Johnie for me and believe me, always, Faithfully, Your loving friend, John Brown, Jr.



Lowell - Kent Co Mich
Nov 9th 1861
(Monday afternoon)

My dearly loved Wife: -

Have just returned
on foot a distance of eight miles
Carrying my luggage from the place
where I spoke last evening - On
Saturday Morning I mailed at
Ada - a letter to you - Came on
to this place and spoke to a very
large audience at the Congregation-
al Church here - got one recruit
but I don't think I shall take
him as I am told he will get
drunk - After 1/2 past 10 o'clock
at night after the meeting I went

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Queen - I was glad
 to get your letter and
 yours also I wish
 - I shall send myself
 of the ideas contained
 in yours Queen I
 find it means my to go
 far through the
 wilderness -
 I am very anxious
 to join my company
 and shall leave
 whether I get many
 recruits or not.
 Good bye
 As always. Faithfully
 Yours. John
 Brown. John

8 miles to the Township of Boone
 Walked half of the way and rode a
 lazy horse in the rain the rest of
 the way - Got to my stopping place
 1/2 past two o'clock at night - and
 yesterday I slept some it being
 the day of rest - At evening had
 a crowded meeting at a School
 house - Got one recruit if his
 wife will let him go - don't
 reckon on him very much, though
 I rather think he will be on hand.
 Now I am going by Rail R^d about
 30 miles from here - thence 3 miles
 on foot to a place 18 miles West

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

of Grand Rapids Called Pasmont
where I am to have a meeting to
night - from there I return to
Grand Rapids where I hope to get
another letter from you and where
I hope to find Col Lewis or at least
a letter from him - Cannot until
I return to Grand Rapids determine
whether I shall go South into
Allegan County or North to Newaygo
on the Muskegon River - Shall
write you again in a day or two
- Have finally rec'd the letters from
the boys forwarded to me from Detroit
- From their accounts the Company is
rapidly filling up there, If I do not
soon get the kind and number
I want here I shall start on
without further delay - I am
at pleased with their joining Garrison's
Regt. if all is as represented. -
Am glad you have joined Bentley's

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

singing Class— Hope you will not fail to take Johnny with you for you will remember that— he will learn as well as you— and especially learn by ear to discriminate between Concord and discord— Do be sure and have him go too—

Well I had a good laugh over your account of the old fellow in search of a wife— By the "ear-marks" of that joke. I should call it Sauren's— what do you say Sauren?— Martha, you ask what I say about you— I say I wish I could see you and kiss you again—

— I have had one letter from J. M. Loomis all well a few days since— I shall probably go North in a day or two to a place called "Pent-water" where I hope to get some Superior Indians as Scouts— I don't fail to write me very often directing to Grand Rapids as before until further notice— How I do want to see you all again and yet I must not allow my mind to leave my business and run away home too much— Johnny my dear boy I was very glad to get the Card with your name printed on it with your own hand— I look on it often— It makes the tears come in my eyes— Goodbye again— dear ones all good bye John

John Brown, Jr., correspondence



So remember that you are
ever my loved and most
Christ's ones
Your husband John
Grand Rapids Mich
Dec 12th 1861
(Wednesday Eve.)

My dearest loved wife:—

I have just
returned from Samont, walking the
entire distance and carrying my
baggage all the way 16 miles— I find
here two letters— One long one
written last Sunday and the one
a day or two before— Your letters
have all now come safely to hand
and I presume you have a number
of mine sent you from different
places— The last, I wrote from
Lowell on Monday— After mailing
that letter, I started on fine velvet,

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

train for Samont — Stopped at the
nearest Station, (Six miles from there)
and tried to reach the place on
foot in season for the meeting — but
instead of two miles as I had been told
was the distance, when I had sweat
along very muddy roads for two miles
the bell at Samont was ringing for
the meeting to commence, and yet four
more weary miles must be accomplished
— Near the end of the last mile
I met a great crowd of people re-
turning home, but back they went,
ringing the bell again when the
Church (Congregational) was in a
few minutes filled. After talking
a short time, it was suggested by
the Chairman that since many
from a distance who had gone
home would no doubt be present
if I would adjourn until the following
(Tuesday) night — I did so, and



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

last night had one of the largest
and most enthusiastic meetings.
Had just enough Secession opposition
to furnish variety. Two fine fellows
from that place will go, if their
wives will let them. But of this
I am not quite certain. On
my way west from Sowell to
Samont while on the cars, a letter
was handed me from two men of
Ionia a place sixteen miles east
of Sowell, and who came to hear
me on Saturday evening at that
place. One of the men is Clerk
of the Court of Ionia County - the
other, an Ex Treasurer of the County.
Both these men will go if I can
give them a few days time to
arrange their business to leave. I am
invited to hold a meeting at Ionia
and also at Grand Haven, but

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

I am now quite resolved to go North to get some Indians for scouts. About fifty miles North at a place called "Pent-Water" are several thousand Indians, and I am told there are many fine men among them who are willing and anxious to enlist but no one would take them - Thus far, although I have got several good men, it has been a slow business recruiting - Taking all that I feel at all sure of. I can't count on more than ten new recruits - But I shall still persevere - Every where I meet with the truest sympathy and every attention in the world, but so many men have gone already to the war from this region that it is really a very slow business this recruiting. I must now get a goodly number who will carry their Rifles with them too; prepare fully for any attack while going through Missouri or be greatly exposed to capture. I don't mean to run any unnecessary risk of being overpowered by greatly superior numbers - There are other ways of getting to Kansas - City the Can. if it should be beat. go through via - Savenport and Iowa city to Leavenworth - At any rate, you may be sure I shall not run any foolish risk if I can avoid it. So do not "borrow" as you say, any trouble.

(2)



It is now ten o'clock at night
Mr & Mrs Piasek are
sitting near by the stand where
I am writing - He reading the
late news - She, sewing on a shirt. The
Gov. talks strongly of joining my company
as a private in the ranks and taking his
chance of promotion on the principle
of demand and supply - Don't know
whether or not it will end alone in talk

To day I have received a
letter from Col. Lewis - I had written
him to meet me here and go with me
into the pine woods of the North part of
the State - I also enclosed to him my
note of \$50.00 for three months asking
him to discount same if he possibly could
as I had only \$3.00 left. He sent me
back my note saying it would be in-
convenient to discount it, but enclosed
a ten dollar bill which he lends until
I can get my pay from Government.

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

This is of course better than nothing.
I must make this \$100 go a great ways
by travelling on foot all the
distance when if I were
able, I might ride at least a
part of the way. He also writes that
he cannot say when he can join
me in this recruiting expedition. His
business forbids his leaving it. Perhaps
the long tramps through mud and
snow and cold do not look so pleasant
in prospect. As to money matters
at home, I do hope Smith will be
able to get something for you from
the oil interest. I believe I
am the only volunteer in that ^{oil} company
and it seems to me that some
arrangement might be made which
would enable you to meet your
current expenses without drawing
on that little fund in the hands of Mr
Stearns, at least until I can get
my pay from Government. Saying

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

nothing about the labor, trouble and
anxiety I have met in raising this
company so far, the greater
share of the expense, has
come out of my limited
means - until they were exhausted
and finally have been obliged to run
into debt, or abandon my undertaking.
I don't know how I am yet to
get along. Certain I am, I will
not give up. God only knows
where the money is to come from
to enable me to get through this
undertaking and get fairly into the
field with my company full. None
of course but fighting abolitionists
will join me; of these, only a small
percentage are fit for soldiers. The
larger portion of what are technically
called Anti-Slavery men, are
either men of words instead of deeds
or are, what is still worse, "dogs in
the manger", forever grumbling that

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

the Government won't do any
thing. Just as if they themselves were
not part of the Government. —
If the existence of Government
depended on such dam'd
drones the entire machinery
might fall into rust and ruin
for aught they would do except, eat
and sleep and growl. —

Thursday Morning
Dec 13th —

I have only a few moments to
add a word or two before the
mail leaves — I shall remain
here to day answering letters and
making arrangements for a trip in
another direction — Will write you
before I go. It may be I shall
when I cannot get a letter out to
you for a week — Will write as often
as possible — Don't fail to write to
me just as often as you have. I
don't know how I could stand it if it
were not for hearing from you often —
Capt Allen is in my mind all
the time. However he will probably be
well treated — — Dear Heathy, and
Johnnie, if you think you absent from
my thoughts day or night, you greatly



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

much to do.
Write me almost
every day want
you. Direct
to Care of J. W.
Dennis until
further notice.
If that
sum I asked
you to send
me from Mr.
Stearns comes
in, I will
remit it to
you as Wendell
Phillips has
sent me some
little help.
Ernest Smith
has also sent
me ten dollars.
And now
I must run
more day
Good bye
(You can
only guess how
(over)

Grand Rapids Michigan
(Sunday eve) Dec 29th 1861

My dearly loved wife:—

How glad I am that
I can again send you a word in
answer to your dear letters which
I find in the hands of Dr Bissell
on my return to this place. Last
night I got back from my long,
and I may say perilous journey
to the North Country. I went on
foot to the Indian country 80 miles
North from here, but found that
all the young men who are good
for anything were gone hunting
and trapping and would not return
until sugar making time. I
however brought home with me
two uncommonly good men, one of
them is probably the greatest



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

much I
think I give
my own
kind of
and not
over little
don't write
me about
him a great
deal want
you.
You can
hardly
recognize
my hand
as to
see you
all ones
more.
I do see
you in
my dream
both by
day and
night.

hunter in Michigan. But I had
a very hard journey - much of the
way along the Lake shore in storm
and night when it is twenty miles
between neighbors. In fording
streams I had some narrow chances
which I will give you an account
of when I see you again. Thank
Heaven! the recruiting for my
company is now about done. A
letter from Postwick says that
Hoyt was mustered in as 2nd Lieut
which could not be done with less
than eighty four men - with
those I have here now the
Company of 100 - will be made up
- and then such men. I had
rather have this company than a
Regiment of average men. Well
I feel that I have accomplished
what I undertook in spite of all
and every difficulty - And



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

day and
 night -
 I have
 several
 more
 letters to
 write to
 night and
 I must close
 As always,
 fondly yours
 John

expect to leave here on the
 morning of Jan. 1st. Shall have
 to stay in Detroit one day at least
 as I expect to have the men mus-
 tered into service at that place - -
 then to Chicago - Probably shall
 leave there one week from tomorrow
 for the west. You may be sure
 I shall act with all the discretion
 I possess in regard to the time &
 mode of getting through. - -

Postmark Days Dec 14th - "The
 are all as well as can be expected. Some
 boys in the hospital but all doing well.
 The move tomorrow for West Point in South
 Western Missouri. The boys are all in
 good spirits and wishing for you to
 come. They are in very comfortable fix. Just
 at present so far as money matters are
 concerned yet not flush. Come as
 soon as possible for you are longed for
 every day by all. Hoyt has been
 mustered into the service and is all right.
 Tell the folks that we feel fight and
 fight to whip here and nothing else.
 Write me at Leavenworth as soon
 as possible and come as soon as
 you can. We have our horses and



much I
think of you
my own
kindly
and
our little
town. Write
me about
him a great
deal want
you.
You can
hardly
realize how
my heart
aches to
see you
all once
more.
I do see
you in
my dream
both by
day and
night.
I have
several
more
letters to
write to
night and
I must close
As always,
fondly your
loving
John

Winter in Michigan! But I had
a very hard journey - much of the
way along the Lake shore in storm
and might when it is twenty miles
between neighbors. Oh fording
streams I had some narrow chancy
which I will give you an account
of when I see you again. Thank
Heaven, the prospect for my
company is now about done. A
letter from Potomac says that
Noyt was mistaken in as I understand
which could not be done with less
than eight or nine men - with
those I have there now the
company of 100 will be made up
and then such men, I had
rather have this company than a
Regiment of Cavalry men. Well,
I feel that I have accomplished
what I undertook in spite of all
and every difficulty - And

evening of Jan. 1st. I shall have
to stay in Detroit one day at least
as I expect to have the men moved
into service at that place -
thence to Chicago - Probably shall
leave there one week from tomorrow
for the week. You may be sure
I shall act with all the decision
I possess in regard to the time &
mode of getting through. -

Potomac says Dec 11/4 - "We
are all as well as can be expected. Some
boys in the hospital but all doing well.
The more tomorrow for West Point in South
Western Missouri. The boys are all in
good spirits and waiting for you to
come. We are in very comfortable fix. Just
at present so far so many matters are
concerned yet not much. Come as
soon as possible for you are longed for
every day by all. Noyt has been
undisturbed the service and is all right
just the fellow that we feel right and
right to wish here and nothing else
thinks me at Sacramento as soon
as possible and come as soon as
you can. We have our horses and



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

I have got some Sabres for the boys
Yours in haste.
Sicut B. H. Postwick

Thus far I have labored under every discouragement — As ~~now~~ I would accept none but sober, temperate men and as none would join me but fighting anti Slavery men these together with the Governors Proclamations forbidding the enlistment of men to serve in Regiments not raised in their respective States have made the task of getting up this company one far more difficult than most persons can imagine

I have succeeded in spite of all. and the longed for time has come when I can once more be with my company. If there are any of my friends who blame me for not sooner joining my company, I can only say "they know not what they do."

You can hardly imagine how much pleasure your letters afforded me — Every word about you all — and Johnny's little letters too. Yes Johnny it did make the tears come in my eyes to see your name written by your own hand, but the tears came because I was glad to see your little letter. Tomorrow I shall send to you Johnny, directed to my picture to remember me by. An artist here wanted me to sit; and gave me one which I send to you my darling boy. — Now that the time has come to go away still farther from you all, my thoughts are more than ever with you. How lonesome I have been, and how I have to day longed to see you again if but for a little while, — I will write you almost every day if I can — Say to Owen and Sauratta that I must consider this letter also, as answer to theirs I have so



Duplicate to
Cleveland

Kannibal Missouri

Decem 7th 1861

My Own Loved Wife:-

We have all reached this place in safety though owing to the bridges being burned on the Lunny and Palmyra Branch, we have been delayed and put to much extra expense

Tomorrow at 7 o'clock we leave on the Kannibal & St Joseph RR for St Joseph The road is I believe now in running order though, yet we are not without apprehension of trouble between this and

Seamsworth - We must however go boldly forward hoping for the best, but prepared for the worst - I wrote you at Chicago just before leaving and will write you again the first opportunity especially on our arrival at Seamsworth I feel a great deal of



Responsibility resting on me
and of course am anxious for
Success —

Dear Wealthy, Johnny &
all, my heart is still nearer
and nearer to you all — Do
write me immediately and
very often until further notice
directing to Capt John Brown
Company K, 1st Kansas Cavalry
Leavenworth Kansas —

I must write another letter duplicate
of this to you at Cluettons Hand
not time to write to any one else
to night. — Good bye once more
for a short time,

Forever your loving
John



Leavenworth City Kansas
Saturday Evenig Jan'y 11th 1862

My Own. My precious Wife

How glad I have been made this eve. by the receipt of a letter from Jerry inclosing yours of the 3th and one from you direct mailed at Cleveland on the 7th - The last I wrote you was at Hannibal Mo. We were detained between Hannibal and St Joseph one day in consequence of another break in the Road causing a smash up of two freight trains. A Train came on from St. Jo. and we carried our freight around the break - Reached here all safe and sound night before last. Our Company as soon as we stepped on to Kansas soil (we crossed the River on the ice) gave three hearty Cheers for Kansas and the Kansas Brigade.

On reaching Leavenworth we found Col Jennison and Lieut Hoyt. Hoyt had come up with Col Jennison to assist in getting the Company in the right shape to leave here. He says some of the men had had the

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

measles, but all were much better. George King had been sick with typhoid fever, when he saw him last a few days since he was at Kansas City and was getting better. Young Tourgee was taking care of him. I shall see him if he is there, in two or three days - I am told he has been very sick - If he should not likely to be fit for duty. I shall get what is called a sick leave for him and let him come home - I shall write to his father at once. You can hardly imagine how it affects me to have any of my men sick. They seem every one of them like as if they were members of my own family. It is astonishing to me to see the indifference which many if not most of the officers show towards their sick or wounded men. God save me from ever becoming so destitute of heart!

I heard that George had got better and come up to the Fort here, but this must be a mistake for I have been to all the hospitals here and



(3)
Cannot hear of him - I shall
of course know all about how he
is getting along soon, and shall
report at once. The families and
friends of any of my men who are
sick may be sure that all
that can be done for them either
by way of sympathy or attention
they will receive from me as faithfully
as if they were my own brothers -
We have a fine lot of hospital
stores and Mr. Sloat is here with
me to take special charge of this
department - Could the friends
know how anxious I am for the
welfare of my men, they would be
sure nothing would be left undone
that could minister to their wants or
comfort.

(Yesterday the men were
mustered in here, who came with
me and my company being full
I was mustered in as captain of
the company. We expected to have
drawn the arms and horse
equipments for them to day, but there
was a great review of troops at the
Fort and nothing else could be



until Monday— Mr Hinton also is here and thinks of going East in a day or two. He will call and see you if he does— If we succeed in getting arms &c on Monday we shall leave here to join our Regiment on Tuesday morning— I like Col. Jennison very much. — — — Have got a pair of boots making here, not knowing when I shall have another chance as ^{we} are to move soon into the Indian Territory and Texas. We shall probably have the honor of constituting the advance guard in this expedition. Gen Lane is looked for now here every day when he arrives he is expected to organize his forces here at once and commence his march southward. — — — You will of course continue to write to me here — I believe I have given you complete directions but in case I have not I will now and the same directions are good to any who may send to any of my



Company - If to me, direct
to Capt. John Brown Jr. Company
K - Col. Jennison's 1st Kansas
Cavalry - Leavenworth City
Kansas - A messenger
goes from the Regiment to the
Leavenworth every two or three
days and he will carry letters
back and forth. - I shall
write you very often - If you should
fail of getting letters as frequently as
you may wish, it will be no
fault of mine - it will often be
that our messenger may fail
of getting through or some delay
may occur on the Hannibal
and St. Joseph R.R. - over which
the mail is carried, do not be
alarmed then if you do not get
letters very often. You may be
sure I shall write as often as
every other day or at least have
a letter ready to send if it is among
the possible things. You will
write me almost every day won't
you. How my heart goes



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

after my loved wife and boy the
light of my home. If ever the
time comes when peace shall
once more prevail, my highest
ambition will be to make a
beautiful and happy home for
you and Johnny. A few acres
of land in some beautiful and
healthy spot which we can
make our home. The very
thought has a witchery and
charm for me which I have
never before so fully realized.
Though I am going away
South on an expedition fraught
with peril I yet feel full of
hope that I shall meet you
again — Tell Johnny that I
think of him and don't forget him
at all — that I want to have
him climb into my lap and cling
his arms round my neck. Oh
how I do want to see you and
that dear boy and all of you. The
world without you seems as nothing
and vanity. I can in the fulness
of my heart adopt the language
of the poet when he says



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

"Let them toil for fame who please
Or for gold renounce their ease
What is fame? An empty bubble
Gold! a shining constant trouble"

Every day I live the more
settled I am in the conclusion
that the word "home" is the best
in the English language - and
to make it with us, all that
it can be on earth, is the
fondest of my hopes - It is
getting late and I will bid you
good night - Will write you
more tomorrow and still
again before I leave here.

"Hoyt says give my love
to Mearthy and tell her that the
reason I have not written her is
that I have been away on active
duty ever since I came here &
have scarcely written to my own
folks" He has just come in
and gone to bed complaining of
feeling rheumatic pains in every
joint - Sweet happy dreams
to you my darling wife and our only
boy - A kiss for you both. Good
night -