

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 Driscol 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 latter 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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Item Identifier: 216668

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Thirdson Canada The Cole here last evening the peached here	
Fig. 13 18 18 18 Thindson, Canada Th	ext
Shired thursday Helin 14 1	161
They Own herrow Witho	
I reached here	home
Colchester last evening and with great	test
pleasure found yours of Jan. 30th in a	
you also mention having sent one to Ch.	
I shall immediately write to have that	
to me here. To day I have recorgours of	
Inst Containing your ambritype and a	
little letter from John ie. Don't fail to	
to write to here until I give notice to	the
Contrary - Since last wednesday,	
week ago yesterday, I want to Colche	
that Township are deveral impo	
Settlements of Fugitives - distant from Via amherothung 31 miles - after	1
left amherstrang I had no way of g	tt.
letter out from the Bush" as the	
Settlements are here Called, and h	
in lansequence been unable to	reply to
your dear letters until now,	7,7
There here I am again,	tires
in brain and timed in heart. He.	
long to be at home. There is an	
Janes of the	



accorden belonging to the family of Mr
Cary on which I have been trying to play "Home sweet home". For Can hardly imagine though
Sweet, home", for Can hardly inaging how I
Um staring for music, and morel wan all
his harving for that greeger, good onles
else statum a for that deepen profounder humming which two loving hearts can only appreciated. A mere pecuniary consigliration
Caned never Keek me away. I from thome in this
Way. Did Inst feel that I alm laboring to
have been "Cast out, and trooklen under foot
of men" I would relinquish my undertakting &
Moraner retire to a home so fat from the technoil
They heard every the "Some of a Knell nor
I life that its valleys and rocks should never have heard every the "Some of a Knell, nor Smiles when a Sablatte appeared"
of the total
have beclured three times to Crowded Shouses
are how established her had her I fell he
Reading Clubs. and hang traveled on fort in
wisding the nomes of these fugitives not less
Reading Clubs, and hang transled on foot in home of the homes of these fingitives out less than to miles - If I have lecture every evening the labor word have not been greater, since
rethere wer of have remained at (might, m) 1
neighbors have gathered in and the talking hees
been kept up tite midnight frequently account of my every day life, I wish I could. But Since - I left Clindano I have not written a word in
of my every day life, I wish I could. But since -
my found and I don't see as I am going to
get time So long a break has occurred in
my receased that Ilfear I shall have to give
up trying now to remmember, what has I
occurred during the last month, Heavener I will try to get time for this in the future
I do hope you will not fail as I have
this respect, for I made gour fournal brief though it be, with linkiest interest, And now let me say, that if you do not get a
though it be, with linkest interest. and now
lette has my as often as now through I much
to write, don't worry or be anxious about
letter from the as often as you thruth I ought to write, don't worry or be anxious about ne, 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.
Co be settle to leave lomorrow for deves
caries sentement, away waste in the Bush
and I may not have opportunity to send a letter aut to be mailed for Lever Il days. How
must not therefore be surprised if you do
not hear from me until I return again here
There I shall certainly expect a little or



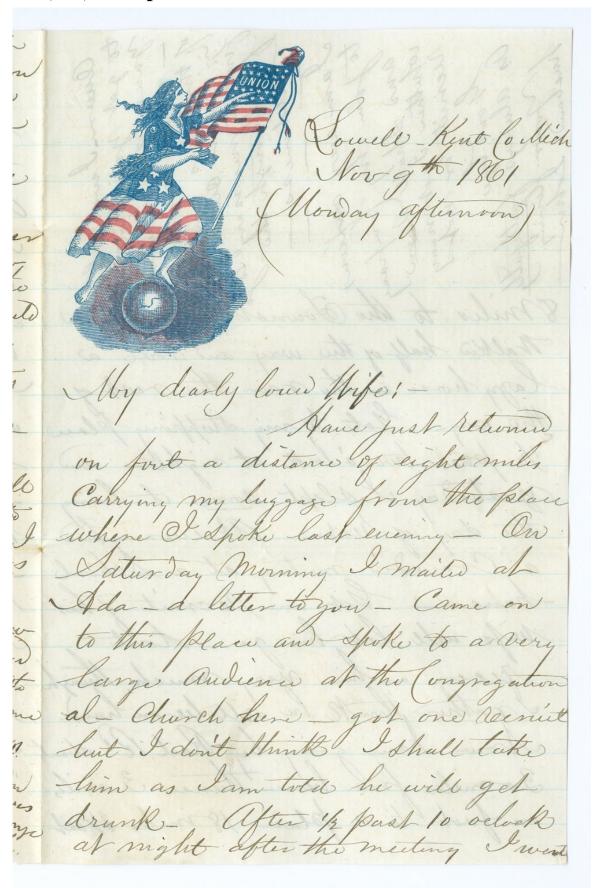
-	two from you when I do get back.
	0
	for fear the Editor of the Free Press will
me	for fran the Caliton of the office Press will
L	Challenge me. Sinder the Detroit Daily
era.	Tribune published the report of the meeting in
	Thindson as Copied from "The I'me Roy aliah"
	My M. Digues from the the first
/:	The Firee Press has int spend its heds, It as
no	now wholly evident that it Can't be Kicked
	into an exhibition of honorable or many resents
	ment. and its is now unable to troll up.
5	Us head among its own hart while him
	into an ofhibition of honorable or many resents ment. and its is now unable to troit up its head among its own harty while per seines an opposite course. So, that gun is pretty fairly silenew.
il	faith life
	pairy miner.
	On the night of the yth chal day you
3675	De la company of the lang you
1	my Journes cheeks got probler of teclular at
3.32	Il a Delrool-house in New can aan Settlement
	Day Johnies cheeks got froster I lectuated at the house was full of people, and though the stone was kept wetty hot. I had to blow my fingers to Rech them warm - I staw all night at the house of a
A	was kept welly tot. I hav to blow my fungers to keep
-4	them warm - I staw all night at the house of a
	Colored man whose family Consisted of himself with
	and three Cato not wild Cato but Ireal domestic.
	Cato They had a great open fine blace the birming
	Colored man whose family Consists of himself wife and three Cato not wild cato, but he all dimestic Cato. They had a great offen fine place the where the logs threw out all the heat they could, and hydrestic to Keep warmy the Cato would get so close the fine as to scoreh their hair. Head it not been for the blankels I brought along I dent know as I could
	to Kell was the Cata want and so also the fine
	to teen warmy the win thouse of the state of the
	as as the state of
	Mantels I brought along I don't know as I could
	- have you to de at all; Us it was my fell lemanie
	So Cald I could not sleep a wink, text morning
	the old lady thankful that I was not progen, San
	the old lady thankful that I was not progen, saw
	all you undertakens, Kase, I don't believe you'l
	As Systhing only what's right In tack I knowns
11	
	they bet that a beautiful a balage.
,	of Juit must be made
/	of Fruith in another. I may I be presented from saver weakening such a faith.
	from wear may such a face.
co	to day, in which he vetos my plan of going out to Hayti this Spring - Says we must get into Hayti at least 100.000 emigrants lesfore we go down, there. The reason that I proposed to go is that, there the Colored people here
100	+ 1 have got a letter from M' Certalh
	to day, in which he wetos they plan of going,
-	out to Nayti this spring - I says we must
	get into Mayte at loast 100.000 emigrants
0	before we go down, there. The reason that I
18 3 3	habbyon to an is that the Colored hubble have
Test li	and a state of the
	most of whom are fugitives, want in testimony of
	What has been returble de the
	when the men were there is and we make
3	What has been actually keen there regand to induce by some one whom they can place full confidence
	in. They are willing to take and I for
	in. They are willing to take my word as to what



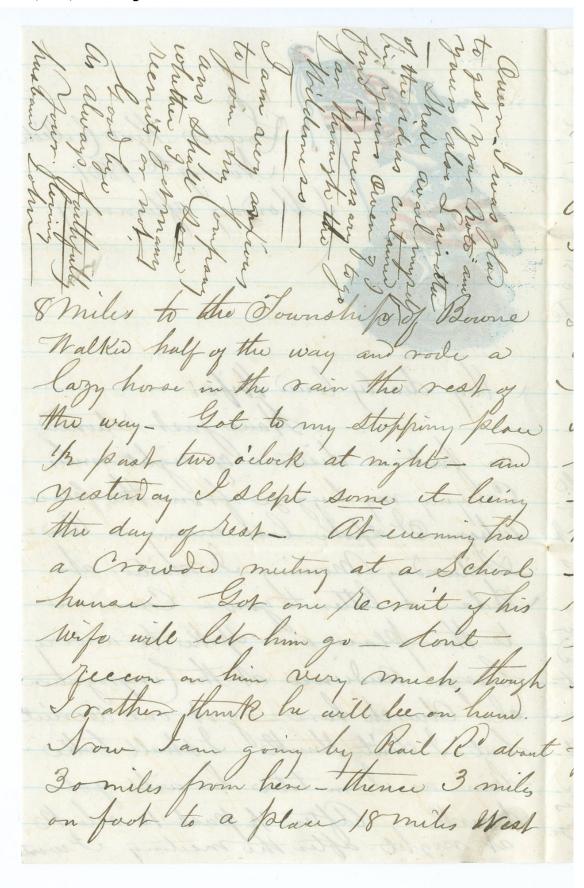
John Brown, Jr., correspondence

be myself see, but are not so ready ake information Lecond hunded. This along with Ime, or I should have no rdea of first making ample provision of you and Johnie . You and Schemes not yet seen the letter which Day David Adams has written me Con wing the oil business - It is true as you that I did not expect they were going to Trumball oil Co's well would occupy their allention intit forth coming united remittance from Hayti for me a short time (if the assessment must I have to pay Eephress and Custom House Charges a Part of Books papiers to from Boston, to morrow, wanting to between \$10 and \$12\$ — +











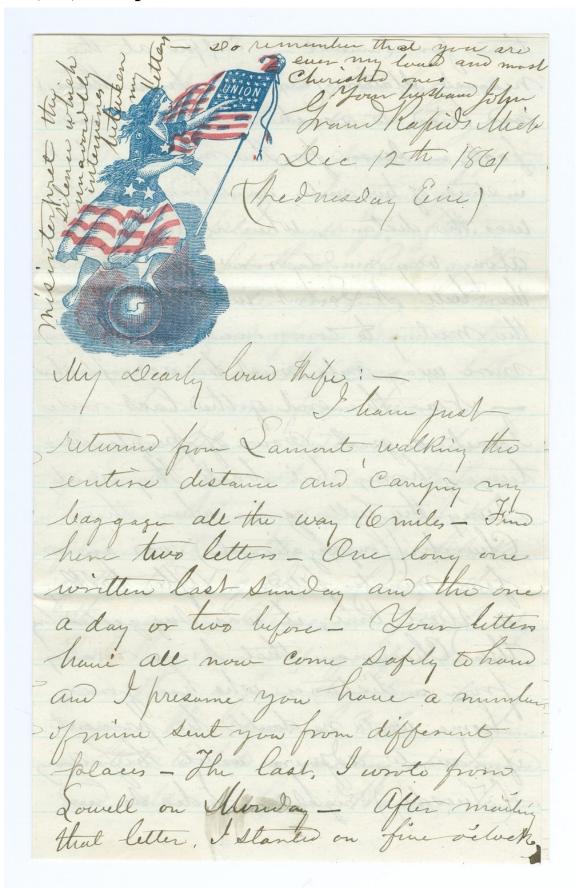
and the same of the same
of Grand Rapids Called Famont
where I am to have a meeting to
night - from there I return to
for the fellow to
Grand Rapids where I hopse to get
another letter from you and where
Thopse to fine Gol Dewis or at least
got pewis or at ceast
a letter from him - Cannot until
fat the sale
I return to Grand Rupids determine
Whether I shall go South into Allegan Country or north to hewaygo
MI A DO III
Allegan founts or North to Newaya
mitte the D.
on the Maskegon River _ Shall
write you again in a day or two
billed and the
- Have finally les the letters from
the long forwarded to my he south
of go for a come with the form well and
- Have finally Rece the letters from the logs forwarded to me from seletions
Makille hill: al the Ill 1
capito by forting of mere, of as not
Soon get the Kind and number
h Isvant here I shall Start on
without further delay - I am
he he had the heart had been been been been been been been bee
at pleased with their forming fermisons
Best it all: " hale to
Regt of all is as represented.
Un glad you have formed Bently's
The state of the s



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Johnno







to be seen
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 mily
the bell at Lament was ringing for
the met of
the meeting to commence and got four
more weary miles must be accomplished
- Near the end of the last mile
I met a great crows of puple rez.
turning home, but back they went
1. Hely in the
Nerry the hell ag and when the
Church (fongregational) was in a
few minutes filled. After talking
a Short time, it was Auggested by
the Chairman that Irino vorany
1 L'it
from a distance who has gone
home would no doubt be present
if Invaile adjourn until Thofollowing
(Tuesday) with the
(Tuesday) night - I die Do, and
that letter I stanted on fine orderly

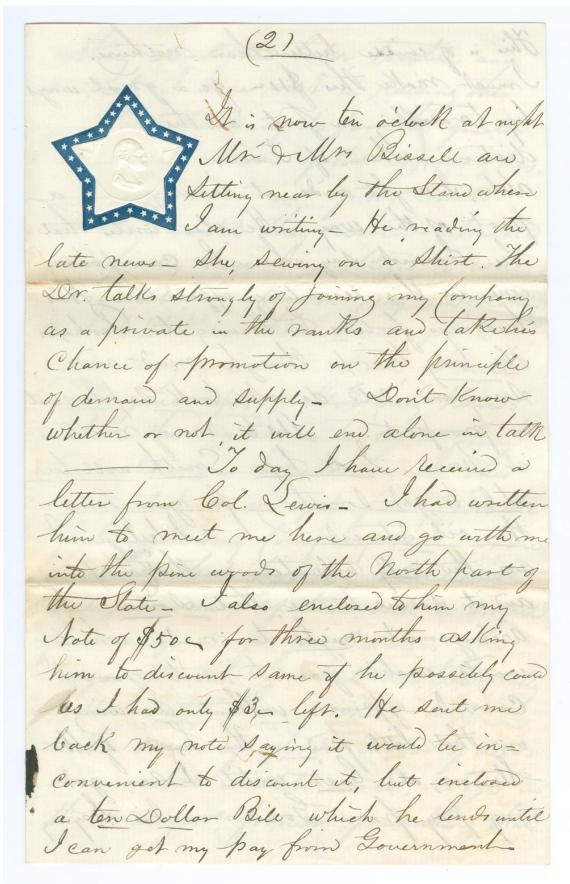


I am how duty property to do I
a) last night had one of the largest
of the cargest has one of the cargest
and most enthusiastic meetings.
A Nad fust enough Secretion Opposition
to 1 1 1 1 m 1 figuration
to to furnish variety. Two fine fellows
a the first of the
to from that place will go, if their
I have the second
ils wines will let them. But of this
of and it are
I am not quite Certain. On
vas my way west from Sowell to
The state of the s
had Samont while on the Cars, a letter
The state of the s
to was handed me from two men of
z Toma a plan Sixteen miles ens s
1 10 10 10
to of Lowell and who Came to hear
me on Saturday luciny at that
a plan - One of the men is blerk
plan _ he of the men is ordered
ing of the Court of Jonia founty- the
by other, an Ex Treasurer of the founty
1 But the
in Both these men will go if I can
gue them a few days time to
t arrange their business to lane, Jan
ing invited to hold a meeting at tonica
and also at trand Haven, but
have so so many men it
torrow as you day any touther "



-	I am now quite resolued to go
()	North to get Some Indians for scouts. about Sifty miles north at a place
(alle ant Maler" pre Deneral M.
1	Indians and I am toto them and
1	many fine men among there who
	but no one would take them - Thus
	far, allhough I have got Deveral
6	your then it has here " Almer
_	Velames recouling - Jaki all
	that I feel at all sure of. I can't count on more than ten new
	results - 1 Dut I shall State
	Bersevere - Course with I must
0	with the heartest sympathy and every detention in the world, but so morning men
/	Man gone already to the wor frond this
/	Ugun that it is freally a very slow busing
7	umber who will carry their Refles with
V	hem wo; Whand fully for any all
-	Joing Misoust Mais
1	tun any unnecessary risk of him over
8	howered by greatly buperior mindies - Thes are other ways of getting to Komsas - City
-	the Courses of getting to Komsas- City
	Via Dauenhort and Jown city to
	reaveniver th =
1	he save I shall not run any foolish! risk of I can avoid it. So do not
1	ush of I can avoid it. So do not
	borrow" as you say, any trouble,







This is of course better than nothing.	
I must make this \$100 go a great ways	,
by tradelling on foot all the	
distance when if Iwere	
able, I might vide at least a	
part of the way. He also writes that	
he Cannot Say when he Can foin	
me in this recruting effection. His	Ŧ
business forbids his leaving it. Verhaps	
The long tramps through mud and.	
Drow and cold do not look to pleasant	-
in prospect. Us to money matter	
at home. I do chope Someth will be	
able to get lomething for you from	
the oil interest. I believe I	1
am the only volunteer in thatformfrang, and it seems to me that some	K
arrangement might be made which	-
would enable you to meet your	-
Current efforms without drawing	
on that little fund in the hands of Mr	
Stearns, at least until I can get	
my pay from Towermment - Saying	
goon dot and had been gooning	

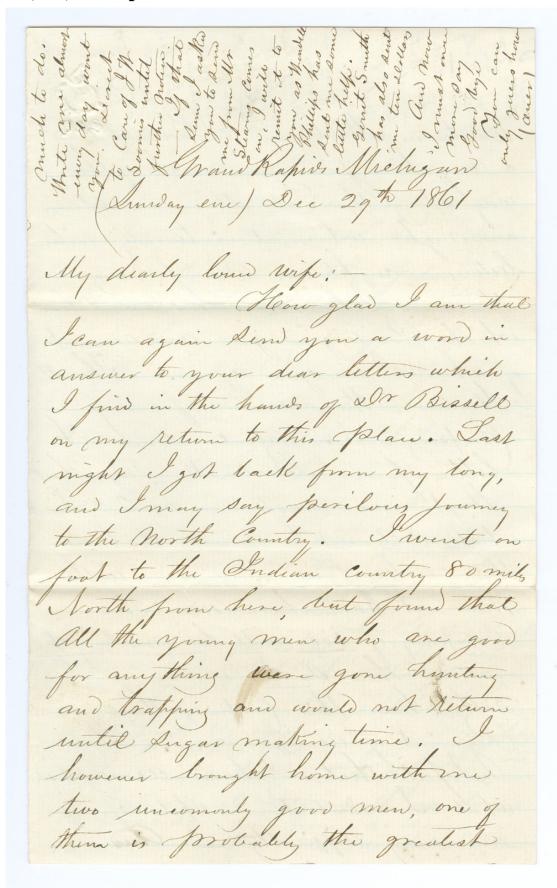


	nothing about the labor trouble and
ys.	antiety I have met in raising this
	Company to far the greater
	Share of the expense has
-	Come out of my limited
t	means - until they were explanated
	and finally have been obliged to Eur
-	into debt or abandon my undertalling
	I don't Know how I am yet to
	get along. Certain I am I will
-	
nt	
-	where the money is to come from
	to enable me to get through this
	undertaking and get fairly into the
2	Lield with my lombany full . Non
	field with my formpany full. None of course best fighting obolilionists will foin me; of these only a small
2	The contract of the contracts
	well foin me, of these only a small
	percentage are fit for Soldiers. The
	larger portion of what are technically
	Called ante Slavery men, are
-	either men of words instead of deeds
The state of the s	to an what! Att
-	or are what is still worse, "dogs in
3	the manger", forever grumbling that
	things in the said



+/	· la · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
M	Lovernment, won't do any
Min	is. Just as of they themselves ween)
mo.	t part of the Government
St	the existence of Government.
1	pended on Luch damid
de	ones the entire machinery
an.	In the entere machinery
1 mg	her fall into reest and realis
for	sught they would do except eat
and	bleek and growl.
	Shunday Morning
	od 13th
	11
De	I have only a few moments to
	I a word or two before The
m	uit leunes - I shall remain
hes	a to day answering letters and
ma	King arrangements for a trip in
	H! I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
an	other direction - Will write you
lut	in I shall
01	on I go. It may be I shall not to
whe	ne I cannot get a letter out to
you	a for a week - Will write as often
//	VA. ,
as	posselile - Dont fail to write to
me	Just as often as you have. I
alon	t Know how I could stand it of it
wer	and for heaving from you often
Th	time. However he will probably be
une!	Towever he will probably he
1	- cours - ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
my	thoughts day on night, you greatly
/	





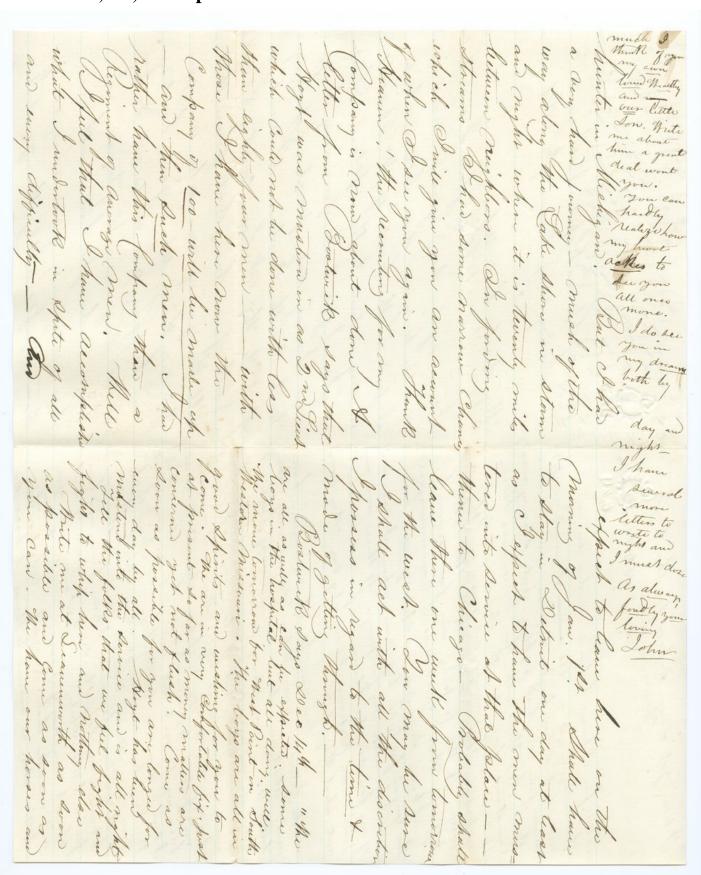


much of much of the state of th	1 3/2 3 1
Solly Bay gas say to a say of	ra ra
25 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 -	ark & w
The state of the s	202 00 20
hunter in Michigan. Que	t I had
a very hard Journey - much	1 11
way along the Take Shore	in storm
and night where it is two	nly miles
between neighbors. In fo	rdine
standal 1	10/
Streams That some marr	ow Muny
which I will give you an	acount.
of when I see you again.	The m
I hen I see you agam.	Oranie
Munen, The recounting for	my,
Aranen, the recounting for fompany is now about do	1 X
() the state of t	
Setter from Tootwick	Days that
Hogh was mustered in as	
	1 1
which Could not be done wit	h les
them eighty four men	with
Those I have here now	
Company of 100 - will be co	made up
and if all me	1/5
- and then Such men.	
rather have this formframy	Than a
Regiment of average men.	Mills
July towards from.	, and
I feel that I have a	Cecomplishe
what I undertook in Spite	
17: 11-	A
and every difficulty -	tus



I have a fame to leave on the
marke bush of the start
a sole of the part of the part of
4 2 harry a for
expect to trave here on the
morning of Jan. 1st Shall have
n to Stay in Detroit one day at least
s as deffect to have The men mus-
tered into Service at that place
uning thenew to Chicago - Probably shall
I leave there one week from tomorrow
R for the west. Low may be sure
I shall act with all the discretion
I possess in regard to the time of
at mode of getting Phrough.
end Dostwell Days Dec 14th_ "The are all as well as ean be expected. Some boys in the hospital but all doing will.
logs in the hospital but all d
the more Comorrow for that I't it
mesida Mussoun. The borrs are all in
good Spirits and westing for you to
h at present So far as money matter
h come. The are in very confortable fix fust at present So far as money matters are concerned yet not flush. Come as
Loon as possible for you are longer for
most to the Service and in the
Loon as possible for you are longer for every day by all. Hoyt has been mustered into the service and is all night Lell the folks that we feel fight and
she fight to whip here and nothing clas
Monto me at Deauenworth as Low
you can. The have our horses and
you can . The have our horses and







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I have got some Dabres for the boys Sient BH. Bostwerk, Thus far I have labored under every dis couragement - as more I would accept none but Dober, temperato men and as none would fain me but fighting anti Slaving men These together with the Governors Proce-lamations forbidding the Arlestment of men to seme 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 immagine I have Queended in Spite of all. the longed for time has come when I can once more be with my formpany. If there are any of my friends who blame me for not sooner Joining my Company, I can only Day "they Know not what they do " You can hardly immagine how much foliasion your letters afforded me - Cenery word about you all - and folianings liste I letters too. Hes Johnny it did make the tears Come in my eyes to see your name written by your own hand, but the tears came becaused I shall send to your bother, described to ma I shall send to your Sohming, desceled to ma my fricture to remember me by. An artist here wanted me to set; and gave me one which I send to you my darking boy. I sow that the time has come to go away still farther from you all my thought, are more than ever with zind bow lonesome I have here, and how I have to day longed to see your again of but for a little while, - I will write you almost every day of I can - Day to Owen and Sauretta that I mush letter also, as answer to their I have do



Supleate to Hannibal Missouri
Duplicate a 1
Cleveland (Marin ! 1 (M. 11.
I Common of mession
Decem 7th 1861
Decem / 18/11
1 001
11. 0. 9 11.
My Own Lower Mije:
_11 1
, (The have all
Sunday the he 1 1
Reached this place in Dafely ling
Mounds viving to the lower land
burned on the Turney and Palmyra
Branch, we have been delayed and sput to much extra expenso
Pranen, al mane ween - age
and put to much extra expenso
1 M 1 M
Tomorrow at youlock
we leave on the Hamilton &
100 100 1 minutes
It Joseph RR for It Joseph
The state of the s
The road is I believe now in
running or der drough net
we are not without apprehension
of twill between this and
Leanenworth - The must
Nomever go voidly forward
1. 1. 10-the light but making
however go boldly forward brokery for the best but prepared
for the worst - I wrote you
for the work - o con - you
at Chienes bush luty
at Chicago fust before leaving
and will to - AN
and will write you again the
tinal ohb t t
forward expeculty on
our arrival II s. It
first opportunity expecially on our arrival at Seavenworth I feel a great deal of
I feel a ment deal of



Responsibility realing on me
and of course am anxious for
Success
pucces -
Dear Wealthy Johnny &
all, my heart is still neaver
and heaver to you all _ Do
Moto me immediately and
wow me immediately and
very often until further order
1: + + 1 1 1 1 2 1
directing to last John From
formframy K, 1st Komsas Cavalry
(Q) 1 / W
Leanenworth Kansas _ I
must write another letter duplicate
(vous work comornes cures oraquients
of this to you at Chuclond Hans
not time to write to any one elso
to night Good lige one more
for a Short time,
Horever your loving
John
The second secon
是一种,我们是一种的一种,我们就是一种的一种的一种,我们就是一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一
是



Saturday Ewig Jany 11th 862
Jan the City King
seavenworm my nansus
Saturday Comia day 11th MA
- was 1 g garny 11 1802
. II. Our Mr. Meeron Wike
My Own my precious Wife
Il Towglas I have been
made this ene, by the Reeath is a
lett 1 A J. I design of a
celler from ferry inclosing hours of this
3th and our frage to
at 1
made this ene, by the Receipt of a letter from formy inclosing yours of the 3th and one from your direct mailed at Colendard on the yth - The last
at Cleveland on the yth - The last
work you was at tome to be
The way dit to
The were detained between Hannibal
and Alt Joseph one day in Consequence
Hill in consequence
of another break in the Man ?
of another break in the road Causing
a xinash up of woo treight to
We Carried Came on from She Jo, and
ame on from It to and
briak - Be fright around the
In on Drught around the
Clarked to
Company as I serve last. Our
a later water can't the
Company as soon as we stepped on
to soon as are stepper on
who was deal (1100 (man)) It was a
on the is I a It I + 11
for Kansas and the Kansas Prigade
for clansas and the Kansas Pongade
D. 1. 0 11
In reaching Leavenworth
we found tol Jennison and Lieut Hoyt
We I work and seem though
They have come up with tolk
to and in att al of Jennison
to assist in getting the Company in
the right shake to far I !!
the right shape to leave here! He
Says Some of the men had had the



Measles, but all were much butter George King has been sick with typhond fuer, when he saw him last a fuer days sinw he was at Kansas lite and was getting better. Joying Jourgee was taking care of him. I shall see him of he is there, in two or three days - I am toto he has been very sick - If he should not likely to be fit for duty. I shall get what is called a slick leave for him and let him come home. You can to his father at one. 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 family. It is astonishing to me to be much of their sick or wounded towards their sick or wounded men God sape me from ever becoming so destitute of heart! I heard that George has got better and come up to the offort meetake for I have been to all the hospitals here and	
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John Brown, Jr., correspondence

may



~	Company It to me, direct to lapt John Brown for formpany
	Cavalry - Seavenworth Cit
	goes from the Regiment to
N	Havenworth every two or three
6	back and forth I shall
	write you very often - If you should
	write you very often - If you should fait of getting letters as frequently as you may wish, it will be no
ں	fault of mine - it will often the that our messenger may fail
	Together through or Some delay
2	and It Joseph 1218 over which
U	the mail is carried, do not be
	Setters very often. You may be
	Sure I shall write as often as
7	a letter ready to send if it is among
	the possible things. You will
	you. How my heart goes



