

Leigh R. Webber to Miss Brown

A letter written by Leigh R. Webber from Gibson County, West Tennessee, addressed to Miss Brown, a daughter of John Stillman Brown, a Unitarian minister who lived west of Lawrence, Kansas. Webber begins with the news that the troops may return to Kansas, though he and the other soldiers particularly wished to avoid Lawrence due to previous negative experience there. He describes camp news as well as local individuals and commerce. The second portion of Webber's letter relates news that the troops would be sent back to Missouri and expresses dread at the prospect of guerrilla warfare.

Creator: Webber, L. R.

Date: August 30, 1862-August 31, 1862

Callnumber: John Stillman Brown Coll. #300, Box 2, Correspondence July-Dec., 1862

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Leigh R. Webber to Miss Brown

Aug 30. 62. X

Gibson Co. Dist. 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 Lawrence, Kansas,
but I hope not, especially to Lawrence. I was never
so tired of staying at any place since I enlisted, as here.
Not because, of the place itself, but because our government
and treatment was mean and tyrannical. Most of the
rest of the men feel just the same saying they had rather
go to hell than to Lawrence, and that it is the
meanest place they were ever in, full of damned
Abolitionists. I could name some of the names of the

writers would remain here the place. But
that we were to ^{the} completely treat which we
received at the hands of our officers. But it always
seemed to me that our boys got a lot 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 darkey, here, as kind as need be.

As usual, we are all in good health. The



X. 30. 06 2006
 weather is very hot, but the apples are just a
 sweet, but I would a barrel of them
 I have some more after breakfast.
 We have many apples & 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 and generous
 treatment of the affair, quenched all ill feeling.
 But I still think I shall show likest God's when
 I am in the world.
 We have a chance to get to the north, a
 good deal, and I am acquainted with the situation
 and hope of the north. It is strange with what
 tenacity they cling to their institution.
 There is nothing that they will do, and can
 do, to get rid of it. They would rather have
 no children, than to let them
 grow up with us. If you take away these
 boys take away their gods, and what have
 they more? There is no genuine love for the



called into the field, and the
of the Government to the
and May them. There is but one of my father
now out of the army, and he is where there are
no enlisted men. It would seem that the
"Sturgis blood", from which our neighbors say
we especially, get our fighting pluck, still
runs in our veins. I hope the
descended, from a different source,
from that blood.

erecting to the
And even in serious things,
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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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. I shiver me from
 going into Missouri, where our men can get whiskey,
 and where we shall have to engage in guerrilla war-
 fare. The only opportunity to put down the guerrillas,
 I believe, is to capture them at Richmond,
 and to break the remainder to pieces. If the
 Union army is exhausted, the cause will fail.
 The great error in the conduct of the war thus far has been
 the failure to beat them in detail. I believe we shall be suc-
 cessful in the matter.
 I don't believe in the success of guerrilla war, only
 if the great armies of the rebels are beaten and
 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