

CAMP JAMES M. BROWN, AUGUST 30, 1862

Dear Frant,

I seat myslef to commune with you through the medium of the pen , & as I think you and th_e pleasant times we have passed together I can hardly realize that I am going to war; but it seems to me as if I should soon be back to enjoy those old times again; but God only knows things look dark at present at least those things which concern our nation, as for myself I feel first rate. I have had the downs a little but -never felt better in my life than at present (that is for health) I have got to stand on guard today. I have stood one night & day. I was taken sick & had to go to bunk in the night. Our victuals are not very good. I saw a plate of butter climbing up a big hemlock this morning & I saw some potatoes playing leap frog out the window the way they cook our potatoes is they put them in a washtub & let the old nigger wench sit down on them. She is blacker than my old boots. I am going to fall in love with her if I can. We go out with our canteens & get milk & have bread and milk. Bill Dell I have bunk together now. We have very nice times; we have a nice straw bed all but the tick. Bill is tough as a bear & all the rest at present, we all got 25 dollars yesterday so now we can have a spree if we wish, we are going to be steady till we get home & we will raise heck; and wake up the folks in camp. Bill has lost his wife. He is the hardest-hearted fellow I every saw. He never shed a tear, but then I guess mine will do for us both. He is real good natured Tell Marie Bill rolls & kicks so I cannot sleep. Tell her to keep her nose clean and go to meeting. Frant I had my likeness taken four times last Saturday I gave one to one to Aunt ___ and one to our folks & if you will give the one that you have got to Marie I will give you the other. Write soon & tell me when you are going to school & write & tell me where to direct write soon. I must go on guard they have started now So goodby and yours truly
Edgar Shannon