

Murfreesboro Tenn. March 23/63
Monday Evening

Cousin

James

Sir received your letter dated the ~~four~~^{seven}teenth and was happy to hear of your health being so good after such a hard spell of fever. This evening, James, I am setting in my shop and it is raining, this a double rain you will perceive in the way I am spelling it. Cousin we have moved our camp since I last wrote to you we have fell back close to the city and are in camp here. We have been camping some two miles south and on Saturday evening we left there at a rather late hour in the night and came to the camp in which we are camping right now. I presume of course you would like to know the reason of our leaving camp at so late an hour. I will just state the fact as near as I can to you. On Friday evening four shells was drove in of to the left of the camp where we was and the Rebs was within one mile of our camp a Friday night so Friday night our boys was ordered out in line of battle and only one mile from our camp at that time and laid there till the next morning in line. Saturday all day was kept in looking and figuring on both sides. The rebels did not fire on us and old General Rosey's crew did not intend to fire on them until they did first for he's not quite ready for a battle yet. Maybe he cannot help it he says he does not intend to attack them just now but he keeps a good look out for them and will meet them with a hantty response if they only wait a few days longer then he will advance on them. All he wants now is to hold his ground good as far as he has gone and when he gets things all ready then he will give them Canasters with his three thousand battery men and sixty twentyfour pounders and one hundred ten pounders and one hundred six pounders and six guns carrying sixty pound shells. Those last guns is hauled by sixteen horses. This has been brought into field lately. I tell you James they are nice guns and have good gunners to handle them. They will make everything thunder before them. I will just say that Saturday night we left camp at a late hour. We had all gone to bed and slept minutes a turn. 6 o'clock there a order came for us to get up and pack up all the things and be ready to march in a half hour. You ought to have heard the boys swear. Them especially the teamster for there was no boys except one and the ones that was left behind sick to pack up all the tents and you can bet here that I did not hurt myself for I had just spent that kind of work but as at it we went and got loaded up and left for the other camps. Some wondered what was up. I thought we was agoing to have personal fights just moving. So we left and by the time dawn began the gunners began and the rebels got on a hill and over shot our boys and intended to shell-out our camp but they missed their scheme that time for we was not there to shell out so they sent alot of mounted infantry and 2 guns to make a charge at our line again our men fell back a little further and then sent out four batallions of mounted infantry and six guns and took half of their force that they had just there. I tell you how Old Rosey came to catch them. He fell back and then of course they advanced and he then swung his right around and caught them in a trap but they fought like a lot of devils and some got away but if they had stayed fifteen minutes longer they all would have been captured as sure as the devil. There is

I think that like for we would not
shed out as they sent a lot of mounted

infantry and 2 guns to make ~~an~~
a team horse line a 8 or 10 hour men
back a little further and then sent
4 battalions of mounted ~~and~~ infantry
and 2 regiments and took back of the force
if they had just there still don't
to now come to Ketchikan then he fell back
d them of course they advanced and
we saw long trip it's to avoid and
killed them in a trap but they fought
to a lot of shells and we got a very
if they had stand fifteen miles long
I would have been captured as they
the death there is a lot of cavalry
killing a row of down's all the mischief
of Cam Jones I expect a big fight down
to us as those troops can get here
on or at Ketchikan and I under stand
that they are on their way up here
as I will send you a middle of the route
for at Ketchikan in the next letter
I wish you as one as I can do it
I think when they do hope out the one
I would and first then they can

Coyne

James

The ...
being ...
This ...
precise ...
have ...
we have ...
Camps ...
miles south and on Saturday being ...
there ...
The Camp ...
Officers ...
of ...
I will ...
on Friday ...
to ...
in one mile of ...

6
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I don't know
I don't know

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I don't know
I don't know

in this morning you
I don't know
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That John White was at home
I don't know
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Friday night some boys was ordered out
in line of battle and only one mile from
Home Center at that time and said that will
be last morning in line Saturday all day was
keep in line and fighting on both
sides the rebels did not fire on us and I did
not fire on them did not fire on them to fire
on them while they did first for his side
and only a couple got unless he sent
them to camp he did not intend to fight
that just now but he wishes a good look out
on them and will meet them with a hot
shot soon to they only wait a few days
longer then he will advance on them all
he wants now is to hold his ground good
as far as he has got and when he get
this all ready then he will give them
fight or banister with his three thousand
but they have and sixty twenty four pounder
and one hundred ten pounder and
and one hundred six pounder and six pounder
having sixty pound shells those last is shells
mine

field battery still you know they are
nice guns and have good gunner
to handle them they will make every thing
thunder because them will just say that
Saturday night we left camp at a late hour
we had all gone to bed and sleep in the column
before there a order came for us to get up
and pack up all the things and be ready
to march in a half hour you ought to have
heard the boys know them especially the
teamster for there are two boys except
one and the ones that was left behind
sick to pack up all the tents and gun
can't be like that I did not hear
help for I have just spent that kind
work but at it even it and got to
up and left for the other camp for
I wonder what was says I that is that
going to have general fight just
so we left and we back how we will
the time down because the guns
has gone and the rebels got one a