

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Dec. 16th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Quartermasters Office Supply Train, 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Nashville, Tenness, *{Friday}* December 16th 1864

Dear Wife,

I am yet at Nashville, Tennessee, under marching orders and not yet drove out of camp. The troops are now about five miles distant and fighting hard. I think that I never before heard so much artillery firing as has been done yesterday and today. I mean so much for the length of time yesterday afternoon and most all day today it has been one continual roar. Our men have been driving the rebels back and have captured considerable many prisoners and several batteries. The rebels do not use much artillery and otherwise are very saving of their ammunition. We have plenty and use it freely. I have not heard from the 23rd Michigan since this fight and can tell you nothing of their casualties. I cannot hear as our losses are very heavy, but we have punished old *{General John Bell}* Hood severely and will continue to do so as long as we can.

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I answered your last letter immediately on the receipt of it and I wrote to Tip the same day telling him what I thought of his conduct and gave him some advice which I hope will be of use to him. I hope he will not trouble you any more. I wrote to Frank Keeler last night telling him of the circumstance and asked him, if he could, to take care of the villain until such times as I could attend to him. I am very sorry that anything of the kind has happened, but it cannot be helped now and as he is the one to blame, he will have it to answer for. I believe that his old mother has had a hand in it and has set Tip up to it to gratify that wild passion so natural in her. I know what she is. I have found men in the army that know her and what kind of a house she kept in Buffalo which I will leave for you to guess for you cannot overestimate it how bad you may think it was. You must keep up good spirits and not get discouraged and as time goes by it will not be long before I can go home to stay. I guess we will stand it until next summer, then I will not have to go back. Take good care of our little one and make a good girl of her. You know that I shall be satisfied; you need not

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fear that Tip will part us for I have as poor opinion of him as you have and I will trust you in preference to anyone, so you must not worry about his threats at all. I am bound to live happy with you again if our lives are spared to do so. We have lived happy together and we are not going to live any other way when I get home.

I have had orders since yesterday morning at 5 o'clock to be in readiness to move at a moments notice. Consequently, I have had my train hitched until after dark last night when I unhitched and fed and went to bed and received the same orders again this morning and now it is after dark and I have just got orders to stay here tonight again and I expect the same order again in the morning. The wagon master has brought me one of the teamsters pretty tight for my blessing which I gave him so I do not think will last him a while. I had a mind to tie him to a wagon wheel until he got sober, but I thought best not to be so severe, for I remember that I got tight myself one night after fire meeting and brought a beer glass home in my pocket from a Dutch Dance. I guess you remember the time. So I only gave the man a good talking to and sent him out to the train.

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Susan, you have no idea of what an amount of patience it requires to keep a good temper here in the army. I have got so that I can stand anything most. I do not let anything trouble me and I get along well. I have learned a few things besides which is worth a lifetime nearly or what time I have lost from home. At any rate, you I know feeling my absence most, for I have so much to occupy my time that I do not have so much thinking to do as you have. However, I think of you and home about as much as I do of anything. And I look for your letters every day. And I write as often as I can to you. Sometimes when on a long march I cannot write so often as I would like and you must not get scared when I leave this place. I do not know when nor where I will next stop nor what time I shall have for writing. I will take good care of myself and will write again as soon as I can. Take good care of Frankie and give my love to Sarah, Mother, and Father. Happy dreams to you while I am away and believe me as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

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Nashville Tenn Dec 16th 1864

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I do of anything, and I look for your letters everyday
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