EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Dec. 22nd.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

(The year is not specified, but was probably 1862 as he was in Bowling Green in December 1862 and January 1862. Also, he mentions his son George who died March 29, 1863.}

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry Bowling Green, KY, Monday Morning, December 22nd

Dear Wife,

I have just come in camp this morning from picket and found a letter for me from you and I was glad to hear from you and the children. I am glad that you are all well and hope you will continue so. I wrote today and yesterday and as I have this forenoon to sleep I thought that I would answer your letter first, and then sleep what time I have to spare afterwards, for I know that you feel anxious to know that I am well. Have not had a fight yet, and I don't believe we will have either for some time yet. You must not worry about me for I am safe yet and guess there is not much danger of our having a fight here. However, we are still at work on the entrenchments and building stockades and a rifle pits. We are stockading both sides of the railroad bridge where I was last night and when that is done a very few men can fight against greater numbers.

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I have been expecting some ??? of some kind from Saginaw and I see by your letter that you just received my letter in time to not send them. Well, the reason that I wrote for you not to send anything then was that we were expecting marching orders to go to Nashville {TN}, so I wrote for you not to send anything for if we had left this place I should have lost them. But since I have wrote for you to sent them along, for we are going to stay here now and I can get it safe. The charges on a box one hundred pounds will be four dollars, so you need not send a very heavy one. Have it directed to me Company B. 23rd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Bowling Green, Kentucky. I think it will come safe for some of our company have already received things by express from home, and as Christmas and New Years are close at hand we want something extra. You say that they think that the war will be over by spring. Well, that seems to be the opinion of some of the officers here, and if it is it won't be long before we will be home. So you must keep up good spirits and wait until we have brought the South to terms. Then we can enjoy the blessings of the same government that we always have. Tell Sarah and Tip that I don't receive any letters from them lately and that I have answered all that I have

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ever received and will write to them again as soo as I can get time and tell them the more that they write the better it suits me, for good long letters are a luxury to a soldier away from home in a camp where he has not got a chance to leave whenever he would like to . Tell George that I will come home after a while and bring him something, maybe a knapsack or a soldier coat and a gun and perhaps a sword and he can be a soldier. I have been promoted to First Orderly Sergeant so I will now get better wages and if the officers keep on resigning I will get another hoist before long. You must excuse me for not filling the sheet for our n----- wants the the table that I am writing on to get dinner on, and I will write more next time. Tell father and mother that I will write to them as soon as I can. Give my love to them and when our cook does not hurry me I will write a full sheet. Remember me to Sant and Lucy and Sarah if you see them.

From Your Affectionate Husband

D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23 Royl of Much Robert Monte Dear Wife Of have just came in camp this morning from lietet and found. a letter for me I from you and of was alad to hear from you and the children I'm glad that you are all well and hole you will continue so Of wrote to day herte yesterday and as of have this fore won to block of thought that I would answer your letter land then steek what want I have to sparl after wards for & know that you feel anctions to know that om ball and have not had a light yet and of don't beleave we will have exthets for some tunget brow must not worry about me for all am date not and do. quel there is not much danger of our haveing a fight here. However we are still it work on the entrenchments and building Stockades and rifle sits on are stockadeing Ath side of the Wall Road Bridge where of was fact night and when that is close a verry lew men can light a amust greath. much here

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