

Camp of the 23 Regt of Mich Vol Infy  
Brookline Green N.Y Jan 10th 1863  
Dear Wife

As I have time to spare I  
thought I could not improve it to please you  
better than to write to you and let you  
know how I am getting along well I am  
well and hope that these few lines will  
find you and the children enjoying the  
same good health that I am, I never  
enjoyed better health than I have this  
winter and I never was so fat either  
I weigh 15 pounds more than I ever did  
before and still keep growing what to  
say it is more than I can tell, for I  
work hard enough and eat the most  
common food such as hard Bread & Bacon  
Fresh Beef and beans and some times soft  
Bread and drink coffee every meal and  
go out and fire <sup>in winter</sup> for while then  
to drill or something else that keeps  
me busy all the time.

Were still in the same camp that we have  
been and will be for some time for all we  
know and we can not be spared from  
here now unless some other Regt comes  
and takes our place. which I dont think  
will be done for we are the only Regt that  
has done the duty that we have to the  
satisfaction of every one as our has  
we have got a good reputation here and  
we have got it by being faithful and  
prompt Day before Yesterday we got orders  
to to march with two days rations immedi-  
ately well we were ready in less than no  
time we were marched from camp after  
dark to the depot and started for some  
place unknown to us but soon found  
that we were to keep were to keep as still  
and silent as possible for the success of  
our expedition depended on our our  
keeping as still as possible We got off with  
being known out side of the street  
we marched through and we stopped  
about one o'clock a Rail Road station  
41 miles from here we then got in line

and started for a little town close or on the  
Tennessee line where it was reported that there  
was three hundred Rebels Cavalry were encamped  
and we were destined to surprise surprise  
them in the night and take them prisoners  
we loaded our guns and started at quick  
time so still that we did not even wake  
the Dogs on the way Company A was thrown  
out as skirmishers and to prevent our being  
caught in ambush. We arrived at our  
destination about 4 o'clock in the morning  
and marched in to town without being  
interrupted or being heard and searched  
all around the place and found only two  
Rebels the rest had been gone two days  
and all we could after patrol the town  
and country around and after dinner  
we started with them for Camp again  
which we reached a 10 o'clock that night  
after being gone 28 hours and marching  
58 miles and back and only 6 prisoners  
only one of any account so ended our  
secret expedition We went with the

hopes of having something to do when we  
got there and we were in the best of spirits  
and ready to have a fight we were three  
hundred strong that is five companies of  
us the other five were left on duty and we  
left half our Regt at home & that is the  
second time that we got fooled out of a fight  
and if we get fooled again we will begin to  
think we will never have a fight. The country  
that we went through was the finest  
that I have seen yet but owned by  
Rebels mostly which have taken the  
oath of allegiance but they dont regard  
it much only when union soldiers are  
around. The mail from here is very irregu-  
lar and I am going to send this by Sert  
Mr Herron who is discharged and on account  
of sickness and is going to start for Birch  
Run tomorrow I will tell him to see you  
if he goes to Saginaw and he can tell you  
more about me and our doings than I  
can write in a week I have not got that  
box of things yet and I do not expect it  
for a week yet until the cars get running  
through to Leosville answer soon and  
give my love to all of the folks and take good  
care of yourself and children till I can help  
you so good night from your

Affectionate Husband D. W. Meder