

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 10th 1863.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
Bowling Green, KY  
March 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife,

I received yours of the first of March last week and have not had time to answer it before. Our regiment is on duty all of the time now, from one thing to another all of the time. I will give you a detail of what we have been doing and you can see how often we come on guard. First, there is two companies absent down the river and that leaves eight companies here to do the work it takes: one company every day for camp guard and one company for depot guard, one company for bridge guard, three companies for to guard trains

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through to Nashville *{TN}* and back, and one company for fatigue duty. So, you see that there is only one company resting at a time when there had ought to be seven. Tonight we got orders to go on picket tomorrow. That will take 4 companies every day to do that and we have not got companies enough in our regiment to do all the duties that our general requires of us. It wants a regiment of 20 companies to do what we have to do. The new general that we have got is going to run the thing in the ground. It was a bad job for us when they sent General *{Henry M.}* Judah to relieve General *{Mahlon Dickerson}* Manson here. General Manson was a good man and everyone liked him, but the one we got now is right to the contrary. I have been on duty, I mean guard,

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two days and nights and was relieved last night. I have rested today and feel pretty well and will be ready for picket tomorrow. I have been to Nashville twice last week and will have to go again this week to guard trains through and back. We would have been attacked yesterday if we had not been ready for the rebels; they got sight of us and rode back out of range of our guns and we could not leave the train to chase them so we got through all safe. Mrs. *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff is here now in camp. I have got my photographs now and I now send you one and one to Sarah Keeler. I will send Sant and Frank one by the next letters I write them. Congress has passed a law to grant furloughs to the soldiers for not to exceed 5 men to one hundred for 30 days for meritorious conduct and so forth.

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And if our colonel will grant us furloughs I will try and get one before long to come home and see you and the rest of the folks. So keep up good spirits and be patient for there are better days coming. We are now absent from each other, but only for a little while and I think the war can't last six months longer, for when we get all them drafted men down here we can walk all over the South in every direction if they will do as well as volunteers. I received them towels by Mrs. Woodruff and I am thankful for them. Write soon and give my love to all inquiring friends and believe me.

Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23<sup>d</sup> Regt of Mich Vol Inf  
 Bowling Green Ky  
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D. D. Alexander