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Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Quartermaster Office Supply Train  
2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Chattanooga, Tennessee, *{Tuesday}* Novembet 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Father,

I suppose you think that I am not the best son in the world as I have not wrote to you as often as I ought, which I admit, but owing to circumstances lately I have been unable to write to anyone from the fact that we have been chasing after old *{General John Bell}* Hood and his rebel army since the last 4<sup>th</sup> of October and we have been on the move every day until ??? in the last four days. Now we of the trains are at Chattanooga while the troops are moving by railroad to western Tennessee. We expect

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to move our trains to Nashville *{TN}* and refit them. It is no use to try to catch a rebel army on foot for it can't be done. When they an move their whole army 22 miles over one road in one day and bring their wagon trains into camp at night there is no use to try to catch them by following them and the only way it can be done is to take the railroad and head them off by going around them. To give you an idea of how an army moves, or the length of *{General William Tecumseh}* Sherman's army, you will see the impracticality of catching them on foot. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps starts in the morning at 6 o'clock and the head of the column moves at the rate of 2 1/2 to 3 miles an hour and it takes until after 11 o'clock for the troops and wagon trains to straighten out on the road. So you see that to move on one road

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the head of the column must be two or three days in advance of the rear as it takes nearly a half of a day for one corps to straighten out in line and we have seven corps in this army. We generally move on several roads when there are roads running parallel to each other and move the wagon trains double where the roads are wide enough. The advance of a corps must camp early to allow the rear to come up with it the same night, which it must do for the wagon trains must be protected by the troops or they would go hungry and get out of ammunition if the trains were left exposed to the rebel cavalry which are continually watching for a chance to dash down and capture in an unguarded moment a train of wagons. The wagons of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps will reach six miles when close up as close as they can be and we have

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not near enough wagons to do the work. However, we get along by hard driving and making more trips. The other corps have more than we and I believe if the all the wagons of General Sherman's army will make a train 50 miles long, exclusive of the wagons used at posts and stations. It is a sight to see a long train move when you can see it for several miles. It is a long string of white covers and looks like a long worm winding along and a person would ask where so many wagons come from. I have seen a continual string of them moving by a single point for three days and then not see the end of them. Well, enough about wagons. I have voted for Mr. Lincoln again today and I hope he is elected again by this time. I am as well as usual and I hope that you are. Give my respects to all and write soon to

Your Affectionate Son,  
D. D. Keeler

I M Office Supply Train  
2nd Div 23<sup>d</sup> A C

Chattanooga Tenn Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Mother

I suppose you think that I am not the best son in the world as I have not wrote to you as often as I ought which I admit but owing to circumstances lately I have been unable to write to anyone from the fact that we have been chasing after old Hood and his rebel King since the last of the of October and we have been on the move every day until both in the last four days, now some of the trains are at Chattanooga while the troops are moving by railroad to western Tennessee. We expect

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Affect Son

D. D. Keeble