

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Oct. 19th 1863.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Headquarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Loudon, Tennessee, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife,

I now acknowledge the receipt of your of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst and glad I was to hear from you and to know that you had received word from me since I came here. By this time you must have received several and before this reaches you I will have another or more on the way to you. I sent the last I wrote by Jerry *{Jeremy H.}* Overton who has been gone a week tomorrow. I was sorry it was not me that was the lucky one to go for drafted men, but I was not this time. However, I shall not mourn about it for there is yet many more here that has not yet been home once, and there may yet be another chance for me to go home, when I will come home to stay. If I get a chance to go home before my time is out I will improve it you may be sure of that. I sent by Jerry to bring me a pair of gloves if you can get Father or Tip to get me a pair. A pair of buckskin would be preferable. There is nothing of the kind to be had here for any price and I am barehanded which is not very comfortable on these cold morning in guiding my horse, which, by the way, is a regular mustang pony and as high-lived and ugly as I can ask.

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I have plenty of clothes now and am very comfortable. I have kept my coat with me all summer and now I am getting the good of my trouble for it is as cold here as in Michigan. I believe some of the officers left their overcoats at Bowling Green *{KY}* for storage and are now needing them bad. I could take most any price for mine if I would sell it, but money will not tempt me to part with it when there is no prospects of getting another. I bought me a dress coat the other day for \$12.00 dollars which cost in Michigan 35 dollars. It has not been worn much and as I needed one, and as the man waits until payday, I thought I could not do better than to buy it for as I am acting as a commissioned officer I must look like one as much as possible. Now I have got one I will not have to buy after I am mustered, which I am in hopes will be as soon as Colonel Spaulding gets back from Michigan with some recruits, which he has gone for, or drafted men, and I do not think he will come back without some men enough to get me mustered anyway. I keep up good spirits and am patient as ever and will have four months pay due me in ten days, which there is yet no signs of getting very soon and for all that we may get paid before long. The reason I am so anxious for some money is to send you some for I know you must be in great need of some and I do not see how you can keep house without some money and I do not think you had better try until you can do so without running in debt. However, you know best but I think you will be more lonesome

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than you are now. If you could get some good man and his wife to live with you you might be contented, but it may not be so. You could have one to suit you or you might not suit them, but you may act your own pleasure about it. And if you do not enjoy yourself any better you can break up housekeeping again and rent the house. You say that Father reading is causing the trade of farms and is going to move this fall and Tip and Sarah will move in the spring. Well, you must not feel as though you were alone in the world and without friends for you will find friends as long as you are live if they do move a few miles away and I am yet alive and well and with good prospects before me and the time will come yet when we can live together once more and enjoy peace as before this war time will roll around and bring peace and happiness again. Then you nor I will be sorry that we were obliged to be apart for a while. So be patient and keep up your spirits and I hope we never will have reason to complain. If I was home now they might draft me and take me anyway, but now I have not that to fear and I now have served over one year of my three and am more likely to return sooner than they if the war should not end by that time. As for that, I do not think it will last half that time for prospects are more encouraging than ever before for the Lord is on our side. He says "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." We knocked at Vicksburg *{MS}* and now the Mississippi River is open and by this time *{Rear Admiral David G.}* Farragut is knocking at Mobile *{AL}*, and Charleston *{SC}* has undoubtedly opened to *{General Quincy Adams}* Gilmore, if not, will be, and we have opened East Tennessee, so you see

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teaching of the Good Book are about right. I do not know what it says about copperheads, but something very severe ought to be done with them. They do not know that by opposing the draft and preventing Negroes from being drafted that for every n----- drafted make one less copperhead to draft. I should think they would like to see all of the n----- drafted and escape it themselves. I wish for every Negro drafted that a copperhead would be drafted fro his file leader, for I don't have much sympathy for the infernal villains. I am glad to hear that you got such a nice present from Mr. Leggett and you must give him my best regards and I hope to be able to return as good a compliment in time. I suppose you are anxious to keep house and try your new stove and spoons. Well, I wish I was there to help you enjoy them, but wishing does not amount to much in the army, so we will have to wait a while. We are now building log cabins for winter quarters and I hope we shall be comfortable this winter as we were last winter and I guess we should be, so you must no worry about me on account of the cold nor about fighting for the prospects are now that the rebels will keep away from us, and we have got a great deal to do before we can move after them from here without more men to hold what we have got and more supplies. As I have a report to make out for some blanks yet tonight I will bring this to a close, so good night and pleasant dreams. My love to all and to you besides from

Your Ever Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler  
Lieutenant & Acting Adjutant  
23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry

1/8  
Quarters 2<sup>d</sup> Michigan Vol & Inftry  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>d</sup> A. C.  
London Tenn Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

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as in Michigan I do believe some of the officers left their  
over coats at Bowling Green for storage and are now needing  
them bad I could take most any price for mine if I would  
sell it but money will not tempt me to part with it  
when there is no prospects of getting another I bought me  
a dress coat the other day for \$2.00 dollars which cost  
in Mich 35 Dollars it has not been worn much and  
as I needed one and as the man waits until pay day  
I thought I could not do better than to buy it for  
as I am acting as a comd officer I must look like one as  
much as possible now I have got one I will not have it to buy  
after I am mustered which I am in hopes will be as soon  
as Col Spaulding gets back from Michigan with some recruits  
which he has gone for or drafted men and I do not think he  
will come back with out some men enough to get me  
mustered any way I keep up good spirits and am  
patient as ever. And will have four months pay due  
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very soon and for all that we may get paid before long  
The reason I am so anxious for some money is to send you  
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From Your ever Affectionate Husband

D. W. Miller

S. & A. Adj. P.  
28th March, V. C.