



Str. Minnehaha
Sunday Oct. 9, 1864
My dear People
Here we are once
more in the land of civiliza-
-tion -- after an absence of three
weeks, -- bound from Cape Girard --
-ean to St. Louis, I think I wrote
you last from Brownsville Ark.
Well we left there on the 17th ult.
and took up the line of march
in a northerly direction, following
the course of Price's force but
about a week behind him, and
after eighteen consecutive days
of hard marching, and some
days short rations, arrived at
the Cape the night of the
4th pretty well tired and having
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rest, and making about as
big time as ever made con-
sidering the force and country.
However the men stood it
much better than any one
would suppose it possible
the greatest trouble being their
shoes wearing out and getting
foot sore - nights they suffered
from cold, having only a rubber
blanket; and the nights were
so cold I slept under two
woolen ones and under a fly and
then was cold. Some of the
time, most of the time the
weather was fine and the
roads good, but nearly one
week it rained all the time
and the mud was awful.
One day I went on ahead to
get the beef ready by the time
our regt, who were in the rear
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on to rain so the train
got stalled in the mud
and the regt. did not get in
so I had to keep guard over
my beef all night, and got
perfectly soaked, and did not
get dry for three days, but felt
no ill effects from it, so I think
I am getting pretty tough. I've gained
a good deal since I left altho I
had to work pretty hard and been
up a good deal nights - when
we left Memphis we expected
to be back in ten or twelve days
so did not go prepared for
such a trip, and such a dirty
ragged lot of humans you
never saw, I am fairly ash-
amed of myself, and compared
with some of the others present
quite a neat appearance, we could
not get clothing at the Cape
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up there, - I expect it will
be a long time ever we see Memphis
again, as there is a big job before
us in Mo. Price is in here with
a big army, and has possession
of most all the Rail Road
and is trying to get the Capitol
& I should not wonder if he
succeeded, his army is continually
growing larger, and he is pressing
every body as he goes, but if he
does get possession he cannot
hold it, for with Genl Smith
and Old Joe Mowin after
him with twenty thousand and
several other little armies
they can clean out all the
force Price can get, but he
can do immense damage by
scattering his forces & bushwhacking
We left the Cape yesterday morn
and at the rate we are getting
along Price can take the whole

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